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**Pikes Peak United Way leads initiative to fund safe spaces for local students to distance learn**

Nov. 20, 2020 — Using federal CARES Act funding allocated by El Paso County and the Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Pikes Peak United Way is supporting five organizations in Colorado Springs that are providing safe spaces for students to distance learn. Pikes Peak United Way led the initiative through one of its programs, Colorado Springs Promise, to identify the spaces.

The funding allows The Salvation Army Colorado Springs Corps, YMCA of the Pikes Peak Region, Boys and Girls Club of the Pikes Peak Region, the City of Colorado Springs' Hillside Community Center and Early Connections Learning Centers to provide free, full-day supervision and care to students in need during November and December.

Without access to affordable, safe childcare, parents can't go to work when schools close down. As the COVID-19 pandemic surges this winter and schools across region return to distance learning, it is essential that families have access to resources.

This initiative, which is a first step to addressing this growing issue among vulnerable youth and their families, closely aligns with Pikes Peak United Way's mission of supporting family stability and youth success by connecting people to resources at the front end of their life journey.

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**Pikes Peak United Way Mission:** To enhance youth success and family stability in the Pikes Peak region by leading and lifting the most vulnerable in our community with mentorship, life resources and real job opportunities. Our signature programs and partner agencies intently focus on connecting youth and their families to resources at the front end of their life journey to ensure access to fundamental needs of food, shelter and learning resources for all.  
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