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SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO
HARRISON
Character Through Diversity, Challenge & Accomplishment

Harrison School District Two

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Pikes Peak United Way Opening Community Focused Family Success Center in Southeast Colorado Springs

Pikes Peak United Way, in partnership with Harrison School District 2, is pleased to announce plans to open a first of its kind family success center in southeast Colorado Springs. The center will be housed at what is now Pikes Peak Elementary, (1520 Verde Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80910) which will officially close in June of 2022. The center will be an excellent “repurposing” of the elementary school and will welcome individuals and families beginning in August of 2022.

“The Family Success Center will be a place of hope, inspiration, exploration and community building,” said Cindy Aubrey President and CEO of Pikes Peak United Way. “We are excited to bring residents together to learn what will make the center effective and life-changing!

“Harrison School District Two was fortunate to partner with Pikes Peak United Way during the pandemic to assist our families with various challenges, and the partnership has only grown,” said Dr. Wendy Birhanzel, HSD2 Superintendent.” We appreciate their willingness to ask families in Southeast what services they want to see close to home and their creativity to bring those services to our community. This is a wonderful way to use our building in the future, while serving our families and community members in Southeast Colorado Springs.”

Pikes Peak United Way has been, and will continue, to work with the community to develop what the residents need and want in this center. So far services identified include: GED classes, employment counseling/career opportunity exploration, a STEM lab, art therapy, a literacy center, financial literacy training, nutrition counseling, mentoring and tutoring. The center will also serve as a meeting place for residents in the neighborhood. Plans are underway for a monthly family dinner and more.

“It’s no secret that access to care and services in Southeast Colorado Springs has lagged behind the rest of our city, and we appreciate Pikes Peak United Way stepping up to operate a center like this in our community and especially in our building,” said Corey Williams, Board of Education President. “This will be a big win for all community members who can access valuable services close to home that can open doors for themselves and their family.”

The center is a collaborative effort, so far partners include: the City of Colorado Springs, Ent Credit Union, Solid Rock Community Development Corporation, El Paso County, El Paso County Public Health, University of Colorado - Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak Community College, Goodwill, Pikes Peak Workforce Center, First Tee of the Pikes Peak Region, The National Cyber Security Center, Tessa, Big Brothers Big Sisters and CPCD giving children a head start.

Funding so far for the center includes:

City of Colorado Springs	\$1.5 million
Ent Credit Union	\$100,000
Colorado Springs Health Foundation	\$90,000
USAA	\$55,000
Weidner Apartment Homes	\$50,000
Mari Wiseman Deminski	\$20,000
Larry H. Miller Charities	\$10,000

Senator Michael Bennet has secured \$250,000 in a Senate Appropriations Bill. The Senate is expected to vote on the bills by the end of the year either individually or as a combined package.

Any media interested in learning more about repurposing Pikes Peak Elementary should reach out to Christine O’Brien. Anyone in interested in more information about the Family Success Center should reach out to Abby Kappel.

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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. #LiveUnited

