



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Steele Elementary Students Support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library**

### *Students raise funds for additional books*

**Colorado Springs, Colo.** — Students at Steele Elementary raised more than \$1,000 for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to provide books to children in El Paso and Teller counties.

The students learned about the library through teacher Christy Howard, whose lessons plans focused on the library and how the country music superstar started it in honor of her father, who never learned to read. Parton's goal is to give every child the "start they need in education and in life."

Through the Imagination Library, children receive 60 books — one a month — from birth to 5 years old.

At Steele, the goal is for kids to raise \$6 each to fund books for two children.

"Our goal is for students to realize they can make a difference," said Howard.

One student created a series of watercolor paintings to raise money, and then created a video to sell the paintings.

Pikes Peak United Way serves as the local nonprofit for the library, collecting funds and sending them to the organization. The literacy goal matches United Way's mission, said CEO Cindy Aubrey.

"A focus on books and reading in early childhood is vital to future success," she said. "At Pikes Peak United Way, our goal is youth success and family stability. The Imagination Library is part of the solution, providing books to families who might not have the means to buy books for their homes."

Aubrey says that the Imagination Library is one of the least funded programs handled by Pikes Peak United Way. For information on donating, to the library fund, please go to [ppunitedway.org](http://ppunitedway.org).

Steele Elementary will provide a check to United Way on Feb. 13 at 11 a.m.

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**About Pikes Peak United Way:** The mission of Pikes Peak United Way is 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 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. Pikes Peak United Way is celebrating its 100th year and will host a series of celebratory events in 2023. Visit <https://www.ppunitedway.org/> for more information. #LiveUnited