Pikes Peak United Way and Harrison School District 2 Invite Community to Support Local Families This Holiday Season

Annual Adopt-A-Family program connects donors with families facing financial hardship to provide gifts and everyday essentials.

Colorado Springs, Colo. – Pikes Peak United Way is once again partnering with Harrison School District 2 to help local families celebrate the holidays—and is calling on community members to make the season brighter through its Adopt-A-Family program.

"Adopt-A-Family brings our community together to support local families when they need a little extra help," said Cami Bremer, president and CEO of Pikes Peak United Way. "Through our partnership with Harrison School District 2 and the generosity of our donors and volunteers, we can help meet families' needs and bring joy to children during the holidays. It's a meaningful way to show our neighbors they have a community behind them."

The annual program connects individuals, families and organizations with local families facing financial hardship to provide gifts and everyday essentials tailored to their needs. Donations may include gift cards, clothing, household items, toys and holiday treats. Through the partnership, Pikes Peak United Way and Harrison School District 2 help direct support to families in need, while volunteers play a vital role in bringing the effort to life.

"We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with Pikes Peak United Way and the generous donors who make Adopt a Family possible each year," said Dr. Wendy Birhanzel, superintendent of Harrison School District 2. "As families face growing economic challenges, this program helps ensure they can experience the joy of the holidays, create memories with their children, and enjoy time together as a family. More than gifts, it is a reminder that their community cares, they are not alone, and they are supported. We are thankful to everyone who helps make that possible."

This year's participating families include a wide range of household sizes and circumstances, including 100 single-parent households and 37 families with seven or more members, the largest with 10. Twelve households are grandparents raising grandchildren, and 27 are multigenerational or include extended family members. Many have also faced significant challenges: 16 have experienced the death of an immediate family member, 11 have reported

a major tragedy, 13 have shared a major health issue, and 12 have experienced homelessness this year. Among the children's wishes this year, 55 asked for bicycles.

"During such a difficult time, your compassion has brought us comfort, hope and joy. Your generosity means more to us then words can truly fully express," explained one of last year's receiving family. "Thank you, for reminding us of the true spirit of the season. We will always remember your kindness."

Those interested can learn more about each family, their individual situations, and the items on their wish lists here. Some requests are simple; some lists are longer, based on the family size or their children's age. Donors can drop off their gifts at the Pikes Peak United Way Family Success Center at 1520 Verde Drive on December 9 and 10, 2026.

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. Visit ppunitedway.org for more information.

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