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June 1, 2010  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Rocky Mountain Power Foundation grants support health and education organizations**

CASPER, Wyo. — The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation has awarded \$14,000 in grants to Casper area nonprofit groups that are providing health and education opportunities for residents.

The **Sue Jorgensen Library Foundation** received \$5,000 for its fifth annual “Wyoming Reads” literacy celebration held at 35 locations around the state. In an effort to help raise life-long readers and successful students, organizers invite 7,500 first grade children in the state to attend a free picnic lunch and take home their own hardcover book and library card if they need one.

The **Central Wyoming Hospice Program** will use its \$5,000 grant to recruit and train additional volunteer staff for its Transitions program. Transitions provides support for “pre-hospice” individuals, enabling them to remain as independent as possible for as long as is safely possible. Funding will help meet increased demand for these free volunteer-based services.

**Special Olympics Wyoming** received \$2,000 for its Global Messenger training workshops. This training helps athletes find their own voice to advocate the value of the Special Olympics experience. Athletes gain basic knowledge about the organization and presentation skills that will benefit them in other areas of their lives as well. Foundation funding supports the training sessions plus travel expenses for the athletes.

**Solutions for Life** in Douglas received \$2,000 to recruit youth for advanced leadership training regarding substance abuse prevention. These young leaders learn effective community advocacy skills they put to work within their own communities, raising awareness and working to change local ordinances and policies regarding alcohol use. The foundation grant helps with training session expenses.

“It’s rewarding to support organizations that are reaching out in ways that empower others to lead more fulfilling lives,” said Leslie Blythe, Rocky Mountain Power customer and community manager. “Each in their own way, these groups are providing resources and tools for a range of people, from children to those facing end-of-life care. By supporting individuals, we are working together to create stronger communities.”

“These organizations are dedicated to improving the quality of life of residents,” said Lilisa Hall, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation. “They rely on contributions from local businesses and individuals and we are pleased to be a part of that support.”

**About the Sue Jorgensen Library Foundation**

The Sue Jorgensen Library Foundation was formed in 1996 to benefit libraries and advance the cause of childhood literacy in Wyoming. The foundation created the “Casper Cares, Casper Reads” project to provide a book to every first grader in Casper. That project has now evolved into the statewide version called “Wyoming Reads.” For more information visit <http://www.natronacountylibrary.org/wyreads.html>.

**About the Central Wyoming Hospice Program**

Founded in 1981, Central Wyoming Hospice Program is Natrona County and Glenrock's only community supported nonprofit hospice devoted solely to end-of-life care. We offer outpatient care, inpatient care, as well as bereavement counseling to patients and their families. Transitions supports individuals as they make choices about the quality of their lives. For more information visit <http://www.cwhp.org/transitions>.

**About Special Olympics Wyoming**

The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all children and adults with mental disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. For more information visit <http://www.sowyo.org/>.

**About Solutions for Life**

Solutions For Life is a private, nonprofit community mental health and substance abuse treatment center. The organization, run by local lay governing boards and staffed by professionally trained personnel, serves all clients regardless of their ability to pay. For more information visit <http://www.wysfl.com/>.

**About the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation**

The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation is part of the PacifiCorp Foundation, one of the largest utility-endowed foundations in the United States. The foundation was created in 1988 by PacifiCorp, an electric utility serving 1.7 million customers in six Western states as Rocky Mountain Power (Utah, Wyoming and Idaho) and Pacific Power (Oregon, Washington and California). The foundation’s mission, through charitable investments, is to support the growth and vitality of the communities served by Pacific Power and Rocky Mountain Power. For more information visit, [www.rockymountainpower.net/rmpfoundation](http://www.rockymountainpower.net/rmpfoundation).