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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rocky Mountain Power Foundation grant supports Books for Preschoolers

RICHFIELD, Utah — The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation has awarded a \$2,000 grant to Sevier School District to help support the district's Ready to Read Program.

The Ready to Read Program enlists parents as partners in their children's early literacy readiness. As children turn 1 year old, parents are encouraged to stop by their neighborhood schools and receive free books for their children. Included with the books are brochures and bookmarks highlighting simple tips parents can use to help develop strong readers. Parents are their children's first and most important teachers.

"Reading is an essential skill for children to learn. Their ability to read will have a direct impact on their future academic success, which also will impact the type of future they have as adults," said Mark Cox, Rocky Mountain Power customer and community manager. "This grant will help several area children by giving them a boost that will hopefully give them a head start on life."

"Research analysis of students nationwide shows a six-year gap in reading achievement in second grade," said Brent Thorne, superintendent of Sevier School District. "When it comes to learning to read, students who begin school with a variety of literacy activities start ahead and stay ahead. Those who start behind, stay behind unless intensive interventions are provided."

"We hope to help prevent the gap from occurring by supporting early literacy before students enter school. No time is more important than the 20 minutes parents spend reading each day with their children."

The grant provided by the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation will be used to purchase sturdy, age-appropriate, educational board books, which will be given to parents to read to their children in their homes. Training sessions for parents on how to raise readers, as well as strategies they can use to help their children become "ready to read" will be provided at Sevier School District's elementary schools.

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About the Sevier School District

The Sevier School District is a rural school district located in Sevier County, Utah, serving approximately 4,500 students in 12 schools in the communities of Richfield, Salina and Monroe. The school district's objective is to provide excellence in teaching and learning. Its mission is to enliven the mind, create a passion for learning and educate for success in life.

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.