



**Chiesman Center**  
*for* DEMOCRACY, INC.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Fifteen Rapid Valley Elementary School students receive certificates of recognition**

RAPID CITY, SD – On January 14th, a luncheon celebration was held at Rapid Valley Elementary School. Dr. Helen Usera and Mrs. DeVee Dietz from the Chiesman Center for Democracy presented certificates of recognition and cookies to fifteen Rapid Valley Elementary School students for demonstrating the character trait of caring. The Chiesman Center for Democracy is the designated business partner with Rapid Valley Elementary School for CHARACTER COUNTS!

Joining the students were principal Mrs. Cher Daniel, school counselor Mrs. Jeane Divich, and Superintendent Dr. Peter Wharton.

Rapid City CHARACTER COUNTS! (RCCC!) Coalition provides youth a framework for ethical living based on basic values called the Six Pillars of Character. Each month, a specific character trait is emphasized based on the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Business partners are paired with an individual school to support the programming, not only financially, but also through the sharing of other resources, such as knowledge, leadership and positive role-modeling of good character. These Six Pillars of Character benefit our community by developing citizens who understand the value of good character in their lives.

In December, Rapid Valley Elementary focused on the character trait of caring. Throughout the month, Mrs. Daniel and Mrs. Divich visited each classroom to describe the trait and gave examples. Students earn tickets each time they are seen exhibiting that character trait. A container is placed in each classroom, and at the end of the month, a ticket is drawn from the container. The student identified from that classroom is recognized and honored at a luncheon with employees from the Chiesman Center for Democracy.

The Chiesman Center for Democracy is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that serves as a forum to provide greater awareness of the meaning of democracy and the importance of active citizen participation in the democratic process. The Center promotes and supports greater awareness of democratic ideals by citizens and organizations by providing programming for civic participation, education and research.

**Photo Caption:** Dr. Peter Wharton, superintendent, Mrs. Cher Daniel, principal, and Mrs. Jeane Divich, school counselor presented certificates of recognition to students of great character from Rapid Valley Elementary School.

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For more information on the event or about Rapid City CHARACTER COUNTS! please **contact:**

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