



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Twenty-one Rapid Valley Elementary School students receive certificates of recognition for the character trait of responsibility**

RAPID CITY, SD – On March 4th, a luncheon celebration was held at Rapid Valley Elementary School. Ms. Rebecca Andrew and Ms. Lin Quah from the Chiesman Center for Democracy presented certificates of recognition and cookies to twenty-one Rapid Valley Elementary School students for demonstrating the character trait of responsibility. The Chiesman Center for Democracy is the designated business partner with Rapid Valley Elementary School for CHARACTER COUNTS!

The students included: Tanner Williamson, Matt Wendelboe, Marcus LeBlanc, Shelby Acre, Justin Banker, Taylor Pourier, Lynnae Etherington, Ethan Moody, Dylan Farrar, Grace Brechtel, AJ Hettich, Kassidy Becton, Kelsea Williams, Alex Mackey, Bailey Stickler, Adrianna Hix, Caydence Biggins, Benjamin Catches, Paige Strachan, Kasen Rice, Cassie Baxter.

Rapid City CHARACTER COUNTS! 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 February, Rapid Valley Elementary focused on the character trait of responsibility. Throughout the month, school principal Mrs. Cher Daniel and school counselor Mrs. Jeane 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:** Rapid Valley Elementary school counselor Mrs. Jeane Divich and principal Mrs. Cher Daniel join sixteen of the twenty-one students presented with certificates of recognition.

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

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