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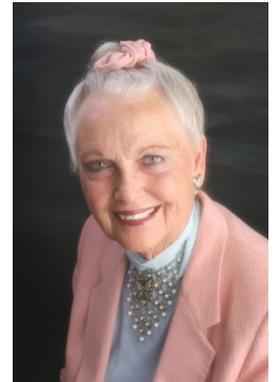
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LITERACY CENTER CO-FOUNDER PASSES AWAY

Hesther Rippy Legacy lives on at Rippy Literacy Center

Lehi, Utah | February 13, 2014– Hesther Rippy, philanthropist and co-founder of Lehi Rippy Literacy Center, passed away on Monday, February 10, just four days shy of her 87 birthday.

In 1997, Rippy learned that nearly 30 percent off Lehi City elementary school children were reading below grade level. Inspired by the notion of helping young people achieve their full potential, Rippy and her late husband, Bill, envisioned a center where children and their parents could come for free assistance in learning to read. After years and thousands of hours of volunteer work by Rippy, the Rippy Literacy Center stands as a monument to her vision.



The Literacy Center is now a Division of Lehi City and is housed in the city library building. The Center is state of the art with educational software and reading materials. Approximately 300 children are enrolled in Literacy Center programs at any time. The Center is still heavily dependent on volunteers and has about 200 tutors serving year round.



In consequence of her work at the Literacy Center, Rippy received significant recognition and numerous awards, including the Huntsman Excellence in Education Award, Utah National Guard Minuteman Award, Community Family Award from the Utah Coalition for Families, U.S. Presidential Lifetime Volunteer Service Award, Woman of Worth Award by L’Oreal, Utah’s Treasure Award by Utah County, and Grand Marshall of the Lehi Parade.



Rippy’s work touched so many people’s lives. As a way to honor her, Lehi City was asked to create a donation fund for the Rippy Literacy Center Fund. Donations can be made online at <http://www.lehi-ut.gov/discover/literacy-center>.

You can also donate to the Literacy Center by attending the annual Green Eggs and Ham fundraising event on Monday, February 17, from 8a.m. to 11a.m. at the Lehi Legacy Center. All proceeds from the event benefit the Literacy Center.

More information about Rippy’s life and her funeral arrangements can be found at WingMortuary.com under obituaries.

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Lehi City is committed to transparency and keeping the community informed. All media communications should be directed to the Public Information Office. The Lehi City Public Information Officer, Robert Ranc, can be reached at (801) 814-0602, or email Robert at rranc@lehi-ut.gov. Follow us on Facebook or our Twitter handle, @LehiCity.