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PRESS RELEASE

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**WELD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZE
PLATTE VALLEY STUDENTS FOR CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION**

WELD COUNTY, CO – During Wednesday’s Board Meeting, the Weld County Commissioners recognized two Platte Valley students for their charitable contributions to Weld County foster children. Chairman William Garcia read two proclamations of appreciation into the record: one for Platte Valley High School student Graciela Sardina Ayala and one for Platte Valley Elementary School student Joshua Yancy.

As a project for the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America group, to which she belongs, Graciela organized a gift and donation drive to collect and provide gifts to Weld County foster children at Christmas. The donations were provided to and distributed by the Weld County Department of Human Services which oversees the county’s foster family program.

Joshua donated \$400 dollars to Graciela’s drive -- \$200 he won after his grandparents entered him into a football pool and \$200 his family matched after learning Joshua wanted to donate his winnings to charity.

“We have several organizations who donate gifts for foster children at Christmas,” said Weld County Director of Human Services Judy Griego, “but the work these children did for other children in our county was particularly touching.”

The Platte Valley school donation drive provided gifts to approximately 80 Weld County foster children last December.

“We appreciate all the donations that are provided during the holidays for our foster children, and we thought the efforts of these students deserved special recognition,” said Chairman William Garcia. “The Board is proud and appreciative of their efforts to make the holidays brighter for other children.”

The Board will officially present the proclamations to the students during a school assembly on Friday, February 22, 2013.

“We wanted to recognize these students in front of their peers,” said Commissioner Mike Freeman, coordinator for the Department of Human Services this year. “It is important for young people to see that the work they do can make a positive difference in their community.”

Small efforts make a huge difference in the lives of children and youth in foster care. You can make a life-long impact on our community’s most vulnerable and hurting children by becoming a Weld County Healing Family. For information on becoming a Healing Family contact the Human Service Department at (970) 352-1551 x6292 or visit our web site: www.weldgov.com/departments/humanservices.

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