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News/Media Release

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“WORD WIZARDS AND THE MAGIC OF BOOKS,” SET FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT IMAGINATION SPACE

-- Imagination Space in The Citadel will host this magical journey! --

Colorado Springs, CO - There once was a world of wizards that ruled the words of the land who told of magic stories and books, enchanting the land's people, young and old alike. This magical land was populated with these word wizards, along with storytellers, song spinners, poets, puppets, authors, artists and actors. The young people of the land looked to their Fairy Godmother to sprinkle the knowledge of reading and the love of books upon them. And in the season of holidays, Mrs. Claus from the North Pole would make special appearances and have storytime with them, helping them make wishes found in books become reality through reading.

A visit to this special land is now planned for the Pikes Peak region on Saturday, December 3 in the Imagination Space at The Citadel Mall. This journey, dubbed “**Once Upon a Time: Word Wizards and the Magic of Stories**” will encompass all of the 20,000 sq. ft. facility operated by Imagination Celebration. To enter this magical world is as easy as arriving at the Imagination Space between the hours of 11:00 am and 4:00 pm on December 3. The visit is free of charge and open to all ages of explorers. Throughout the day, there will be creative hands-on activities and family performances for all ages with dance, music, puppets and more. Even the teen set will be given challenges and quizzical projects from the Word Wizards, many centered on *The Hunger Games* trilogy.

Activities will include:

- write-and-act puppet stories
- performance poetry
- performances targeting those for whom English is a second language;
- beloved internationally-acclaimed illustrator of over 100 published books, Michael Hague

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- collaborative story writing about cultural celebrations at this time of year
- read aloud stories with colorfully-costumed characters such as Mrs. Claus, The Reluctant Dragon, and others
- Photo-booth: free photos of attendees to be emailed after the event
- Fairy Godmother and Dragon Theatre Productions vignettes with director Cyndi Parr
- Short Puppet Art Theater with puppeteer Rachel Shaffer
- Indy Award-winning artist, Rebecca Hyde, creating a “Community Book” with participants
- Songwriting with local musician and *Hopeful Heroine*, Xanthe Alexis
- Stories from Heroic Learners: stories from the PPLD Adult Literacy and ESL
- Food samples from around the globe, plus your chance to identify world flags and design your own flag, from the PPLD Adult Literacy and ESL
- Various activities for teens who are fans of *The Hunger Games* including creating crazy costumed characters from the Capital, decorating cupcakes like *Hunger Games’* Peeta, painting a *Hunger Games* mural, and getting the inside scoop from a talk with Terri Clark, author of “The Girl Who Was on Fire”
- Receive a copy of *Stone Soup – The Magazine by Kids* to be given to the first 100 children that complete three reading activities

This magical journey will be navigated by five community non-profit organizations: Pikes Peak Writers, Pikes Peak library District Foundation, Children’s Literacy Center, UCCS Literacy Outreach Initiative and Imagination Celebration. These five outstanding groups have all been selected as non-profits to participate in the 2011 Give! Initiative, powered by the Colorado Springs Independent and the community. Information and each organization and a special opportunity to make a donation to the Give! Campaign in the name of one of these great groups will be available this day.

Give! 2011 is the Colorado Springs Independent’s year-end multimedia and guerilla marketing campaign designed to generate funds, volunteers and applause for the vital work local non-profits perform. This year’s Give! initiative runs until midnight on December 31, 2011.

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