

# \$1K grant aims to get kids to love reading

*By Kelsey Dayton*

Kelsey Ripple wants more for students than just an ability to read.

The youth program director at Teton Literacy Center wants kids to want to read.

Thanks to a "Small Miracles Grant" from St. John's Episcopal Church, students who use Teton Literacy Center's tutoring services will have a chance to start building their own libraries and, it's hoped, foster a lifelong habit of reading.

With the \$1,000 grant, students receiving tutoring at Teton Literacy will have the chance to earn credit at local bookstores, where they will be able to buy books they want to read.

"There is something about taking ownership, having a collection of books that you chose and you own that makes it special and valuable," Ripple said.

Ripple is targeting about 50 students who staff and tutors know don't

read in their spare time. Ripple hopes the program will get students excited about attending their tutoring sessions and reading on their own.

Even a small personal collection of books helps children to view reading as a legitimate fun pastime, he said.

"Perhaps some of them will one day turn to books more than movies or video games," he said.

The grant is the seed money for the program. Ripple hopes additional grants and donations will help keep the program sustainable.

"Small donations toward books go a long way," he said.

Started in June 2010, the "Small Miracles" grants are aimed at helping organizations like Teton Literacy, but also providing ways for church members to participate, Greer Terry, director of development and communications at St. John's, said.

Grant applications can be found at [www.stjohnsjackson.org](http://www.stjohnsjackson.org).