



Groups combine to bring supplies to stricken elementary schools

Friday September 3, 2010

By Samoa News staff reporters@samoanews.com

Christmas came early this year to five local elementary schools that were victims of the September 2009 tsunami, as they will be receiving donations of school supplies from the combined efforts of the Cambium Learning Group and the Oregon Rotary Club, as well as the Nanakuli Elementary students and parents from Hawaii.

Connie Colbaugh, a Senior Consultant for Education Services with the Cambium Learning Group who also partners with Voyager and Sopris, is on island with her husband, Tupa'i Phil Colbaugh a member of the Oregon Rotary Club, to present the donation to the schools.

Also traveling with them are three members of the Cambium Learning Group, Lou Massicci, Kimberly Stockton and Sherman Tom.

Mrs. Colbaugh is not a stranger to American Samoa as she has been working with the local education department for the last seven years, doing classroom instruction from 10 to 15 days at a time, holding workshops for local teachers, and working with Reading First Coaches and other development programs.

Mrs. Colbaugh also works with the Nanakuli Elementary School in Hawaii and she told Samoa News that when her students there heard about the devastation that was experienced by some of our local elementary schools, the students and parents held a fundraiser and raised about \$1,000 to the noble cause.

The Colbaughs group will be visiting the five elementary schools today to present the donations, which include the majority of supplies needed in a classroom, from pencil erasers to white boards.

School principal of Taputapu and Alataua, Mrs. Ana Voight expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the Cambium Learning Group and its partners, the Nanakuli Elementary School and the Oregon Rotary Club on behalf of the Taputapu and Alataua students, staff and PTA for this wonderful donation.

Taputapu and Alataua, according to Mrs. Voight, are now merged into one school for the new school year 2010-2011.

Mrs. Sima Malele Talo, principal of the Matatula Elementary also expressed her appreciation for the kind donation from the off island organizations. She also thanked the parents of Matatula Elementary for their patience as they try to restore the school to the way it was before the tsunami.

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