

## Air Pacific 'Wings of Hope' Gives \$30,000 to FRIEND Fiji for Children's Education Relief

Fiji's national carrier Air Pacific, through its Wings of Hope community program, today donated F\$30,000 to Lautoka-based non – government organization, FRIEND (Foundation for Rural Integrated Enterprises and Development) for education relief to children affected by the recent floods in Fiji.

Wings of Hope is the charity arm of Air Pacific and funded through various means, including staff fundraising initiatives, corporate contributions and 'Cash for Kids' – Air Pacific's program that allows passengers to contribute unused foreign currency on its flights. It is focused primarily on assisting the children of Fiji through various forms of assistance.

The money donated by Air Pacific will be used by FRIEND to help Fijian children affected by the recent flood stay in school.

"As Fiji's national airline, we view it as one of our responsibilities to assist local communities – especially in their time of need following the recent floods in Western and Northern Fiji," said Air Pacific Managing Director and CEO Dave Pflieger today during the ceremony to mark the donation. "It is an honour and a privilege for the employees of Air Pacific to provide this funding to FRIEND. FRIEND is an outstanding charity organization that does superb work supporting Fijian children. They are highly deserving of our support, and we want to applaud them for their efforts in assisting children who live in communities that suffered as a result of the recent flooding."

Mr. Pflieger thanked Air Pacific staff and airline customers for their contributions to the Wings of Hope charity chest. "Our passengers' compassion and generosity has made the size of this contribution possible. We hear over and over again from them that after experiencing the warmth and friendliness of the Fijian people, they are pleased to lend their support to Fiji, Fijian children and Fijian communities."

FRIEND Founder and Director Sashi Kiran thanked Air Pacific for the donation upon receiving the cheque today from Mr. Pflieger at the airline's Head Office in Nadi.

"It is great that the National airline, the Air Pacific and its Wings of Hope program have stepped forward in these difficult times to support the flood affected children", said Ms Kiran. "We have had a scholarship program for children in need from some of the poorest communities in the country for some time, but the need this year is greater than ever because so many communities were flooded, children lost their books, and parents' livelihoods were affected. As a result, this kind donation from Air Pacific will allow us to work with affected communities, parents, and schools, to continue the critical education of those children most in need by providing school fees, books or stationery."

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