



News from DARIEN BOOK AID PLAN, Inc.

1926 Post Road Darien, Connecticut 06820 USA

Fall, 2010

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Darien Book Aid is grateful to the local community for its generosity in book donations, financial contributions and volunteer hours.



For the past two years, the Darien Library's Erica Bess has organized a Children's Book Drive for Darien Book Aid and Person-to-Person. In March, the library collected over 1,000 books from the Darien Community. The books were in beautiful condition. Many of these books are already on their way to needy com-

munities all over the world.

We have also been the recipient of books from individuals' book drives. Many children are asking that books be donated to Book Aid instead of being gifts at their birthday parties.

Darien Book Aid provides local youth with volunteer opportunities. Many organizations encourage their youth members to gain community service



hours at local charities, including Darien Book Aid. We were lucky enough to have members of the St. Luke's School boys' golf team join us for their annual Day of Service in April. The young men packed orders and sorted books at the workshop.

Without this assistance, we would not have been able to continue our mission of sending free books for over 60 years. If you are interested in having your own book drive or volunteering at Book Aid, please contact us during workshop hours. We would love any assistance you could provide!

Our lobby is always open for book donations. You can also stop in during our regularly-scheduled workshop hours.



Workshop Hours:

Tuesday: 2:00—4:00
Wednesday: 9:30—12:00
Wednesday: 6:00—8:00
Thursday: 9:30—12:00
Saturday: 10:00—12:00
(2nd and 4th Sat. only)

Have Questions?

Contact us:
(203) 655-2777
www.darienbookaid.org

Helping to Build a Library in Samoa



Peace Corps Volunteer Elisa Maelen Law is currently serving in Western Samoa on Savai'i Island in the village Vaipu'a. One of her goals during her service has been to improve English teaching in the rural primary schools in Samoa. In August, she received a box of books from Book

Aid. On her blog, she wrote, "The new library book donations from Darien Book Aid have arrived and I'm excited to add them to our meager stack at Vaipu'a Primary." The package contained reading books for children in grades 3 through 5. In an email, Elisa stated, "The books we got were



fantastic. They loved the stories (mostly fairy tales from around the world) that were in the box we were sent."



The country of Samoa is located east of the international date line and south of the equator, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand in the Polynesian region of the Pacific Ocean.



Above: Dick Constable and Al Palmisano review the size of a book for shipment. Below L: a box arrives in Micronesia . Below R: The books are in excellent condition.

Book Aid's Shipping Team

Dick Constable and Al Palmisano make up our shipping team. Dick has sent out our boxes of books for many years. Al has years of professional experience shipping printed material overseas. His skills became essential as the cost of shipping began to limit Book Aid's ability to perform its mission.

The team works every Thursday morning to check all of the mailing addresses and paperwork on outgoing boxes and to arrange for pickups by our shipping companies. They are constantly optimizing our shipping procedures to get the most for our shipping dollars. The care they give to each shipment has resulted in a much lower number of returned packages. The boxes arrive at their destinations, sometimes battered by rough handling as they worked their way around the world, but the books inside are always in great condition. We are lucky to have such a thoughtful and careful shipping team at Book Aid.

Scenes from our Annual Luncheon Meeting

