



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Calvert Street Elementary School

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4th, 2009

CALVERT STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS SENDING SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO STUDENTS IN IRAQ VIA ROOTS OF PEACE AND OPERATION IRAQI CHILDREN

Friday, November 6th the Calvert Street Elementary School of Woodland Hills, California will celebrate the completion of their Roots of Peace Penny Campaign through which funds were raised to send school supplies through Operation Iraqi Children to be distributed by the U.S. Military to needy Iraqi students. The event will be held on the Calvert school grounds in the Iraqi Garden which was planted last spring in anticipation of developing an Iraqi sister school.

By collecting pennies from friends, family, and the community, the Calvert students raised \$1650. 100% of the donations received by Roots of Peace Penny Campaign and Operation Iraqi Children went to acquiring and shipping the school supplies to U.S. Army Troops for distribution to Iraqi school children. The Calvert School wanted to pursue this project when they learned of a request made by U.S. Army Team Mustang based in the Bi'aj region of Iraq to find U.S. students to be sister schools in their region.

Heidi Kuhn, founder and CEO of Roots of Peace, www.rootsofpeace.org, will present a large check on behalf of the Calvert students to Operation Iraqi Children, www.operationiraqichildren.org. At this media event, Heidi Kuhn will speak to the students about the value of their contribution. Letters of gratitude from the Iraqi school will be read. **Celebrated American violin virtuoso, Elizabeth Pitcairn, www.elizabethpitcairn.com will address the students about sharing gifts and the international language of music and then perform a piece on her violin.** The ceremony will commence at 9:40am and complete by 10:10 am. After which the students will return to class and the visitors will adjourn to the auditorium to provide Q&A to the media.

Roots of Peace was founded in 1997 in San Rafael, California for the purpose of landmine removal and aid to farmers for profitable, sustainable agriculture. On September 11, 2003, the Penny Campaign was co-founded by, then 16 year old Kyleigh Kuhn, and ABC 7 News Anchor Cheryl Jennings, for the purpose of students to raise funds to aid students in war-torn countries to build schools and soccer fields.

Operation Iraqi Children was founded in 2004 by actor Gary Sinise and author Laura Hillenbrand in partnership with People to People International and its President and CEO, Mary Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower with the purpose of sending aid to needy Iraqi children for distribution by members of the U.S. Military.

It is hoped that more schools will be inspired to participate in such efforts to aid students in Iraq and Afghanistan, providing good will and hope for a more promising future.

For Further Information please contact:

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