



## **COMMUNICATIONS**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Albuquerque Businesses Support Thoreau Community Center**

**A group of Albuquerque businesses and UNM donate equipment and furniture to Thoreau Chapter's newly created Community Center to help Navajo youth.**

Yatahey, NM, November 17, 2010 – A group of Albuquerque-based businesses, along with UNM, participated in a drive to contribute furniture and office equipment for a newly established community center at the Thoreau Chapter of the Navajo Nation in Thoreau, NM. The drive was coordinated by Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. (Sacred Wind), a New Mexico telecommunications company headquartered in Yatahey, NM with an office in Albuquerque.

The Thoreau Community Center will provide an activities and learning environment principally for the surrounding area's youth. Sacred Wind collected dozens of office tables, chairs, desks, sofas, and computers donated from several businesses and is donating computer work stations and three laptop computers as well to add to a computer training corner at the community center. The businesses that participated in the drive were Darrell Julian Construction, TRS, a company serving the hearing and visually impaired, and UNM.

Other donations will be welcomed. On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Thoreau's Community Center will have their grand opening celebration.

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Juliana Ko, the Director of this Community Center, moved to Thoreau two years ago to teach math at the Middle School. When one of her students committed suicide this summer and, upon learning that fifteen children in the eastern Navajo Nation had committed suicide in the past year, Ms. Ko decided to create a Community Center in the Thoreau Chapter. The idea was to create a safe space for children to meet others and occupy themselves in constructive activities.

There was no money available for the Center's supplies, furniture, computers and equipment. Sacred Wind's CEO John Badal heard about this project and wanted the company's nonprofit foundation to support Thoreau's Community Center through the purchase of furniture for the Center and three new laptop computers for Thoreau's children. John stated: "Having a safe place where Thoreau's children can play and complete homework assignments on computers could make a huge difference in the quality of life for these children."

Thoreau is one of the community's within Sacred Wind's territory.

### *About Sacred Wind*

*Sacred Wind Communications, Inc. is a locally owned and operated company committed to serving the underserved and unserved communities in northwest New Mexico and to hiring and developing locals to help stimulate the New Mexico economy. In 2009, Sacred Wind Communications was voted as "The Most Inspiring Small Business in America" through the American Express/NBC Shine A Light contest because of its dedication to making a difference in the communities in its territory. Sacred Wind has completed its broadband network that makes high speed Internet available to 97 percent of the company's current households and to community sites such as the one in Thoreau*

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