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### Media Release

## **West Union Elementary School to Partner with School in Uganda**

*Generous donations from Ideba Marketing and Chase Bank through Schoolhouse Supplies enable rich cross-cultural experience*

**January 28, 2015, Hillsboro, OR** – West Union Elementary School held an assembly this morning at which students and staff learned about an exciting new partnership between their school and Mpondwe Lhubiriha Secondary School in Uganda.

Throughout the spring, students in each classroom will complete projects that will be delivered to the school this summer by Principal John Allen. Projects will include “my favorite part of me,” in which students describe their favorite feature or attribute; watercolor paintings of the different varieties of trees we have in our area; an ABC Oregon book; a West Union picture book; and more.

In return, Mr. Allen will collect art projects and other gifts that the Ugandan students have prepared for West Union.

“This is a unique opportunity for our students to make a global connection and explore a culture that they otherwise might never be exposed to,” explains Mr. Allen. “Students and staff are excited to share their perspectives, experiences, and messages of friendship with children who are thousands of miles away.”

A wall map of Africa will be posted to give students a point of reference for the work they are doing.

West Union parent and president of Ideba Marketing, David Sly, is spearheading this effort. His company, in partnership with Chase Bank, had previously worked with local non-profit organization Schoolhouse Supplies to provide filled backpacks to students in need in Portland Public Schools. This year, however, he and his counterpart at Chase decided that in addition to continuing their support of students in Portland, they wanted to support both teachers and students in Hillsboro.

At the beginning of the school year, their donations enabled Schoolhouse Supplies to provide boxes of supplies to every classroom at West Union. At today’s assembly, Mr. Sly announced that a second round of supplies would be heading to each classroom, according to teachers’ specific needs. The value of these supplies, in addition to other fundraising support that is available to West Union, exceeds \$12,000.

Similarly, a year’s worth of supplies worth more than \$7,000 will be delivered to Mpondwe Lhubiriha during the summer trip, including solar lanterns that students can use in the evenings to complete their homework.

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