

Scholarships awarded to 16 students in FSM

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Sixteen young scholars from the Federated States of Micronesia have been awarded educational aid under the Habele Outer Island Education.

The students — who received a combined \$7,500 in scholarships — were from the islands of Kutu, Ta, and Lekinioch in Chuuk State, and from Ulithi, Woleai, Ifaluk, Eauripik, Satawal and Fais in Yap State, according to a news release from the program.

Habele, meaning “to be” or “to make,” is an all-volunteer, U.S.-based, nonprofit organization that gives students from the outer islands of Micronesia the opportunity to attend prestigious private schools in the district capitals.

According to the release, Habele teams up with traditional leaders, teachers, community organizations and volunteers to build libraries, provide school supplies, and issue tuition scholarships to students.

The recipients’ families also play a role in the scholar’s education.

The program works with each family to design an educational contract for each recipient. And they must provide transportation and boarding costs, and send report cards and progress reports to Habele.

Students also need to maintain a minimum grade point average to stay in the program.

The first scholarship recipient was awarded in 2003 for Bethania High School in Palau.

HOW TO HELP

▲ For more information about how you can support a student or provide school materials to outer island Micronesian classrooms, visit habele.org or e-mail njm@habele.org.

Donations

Interested individuals who want to donate supplies, such as books, to the Habele scholarship organization can contact the program.

Habele will forward donations to the schools or the program will provide a contact for direct mailing.

Habele is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service and donations to the program are tax-deductible.

“They’ve been helping a lot of kids from the Micronesian Islands,” said Louis J. Rama, a senior consul at the Federated States of Micronesia Consulate on Guam.

“They’re helping kids whose parents are not able to send them off to better schools. It’s a pretty good program,” he said.