**MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release

**Rotary Club of Apia kicks off 50th year Anniversary with donation of fully functional Ambulance to the Ministry of Health.**

On Friday the 14th of August 2020, the **Rotary Club of Apia (**RCA) was delighted to hand over its donation of a fully functional Mercedes Benz Ambulance to the Ministry of Health (MOH).

The ambulance was officially received and accepted by MOH-ACEO Gaualofa Matalavea-Saaga on behalf of the Ministry of Health. In attendance to witness this auspicious event were the management and staff of MOH and RCA members at the MOH offices at Motootua.

This project was the brainchild of Rotary Past District Governor (PDG) Mr Stuart Batty who is also the Executive Director for Rotary New Zealand World Community Services (RNZWCS). Mr Batty has been an avid and long-time supporter of the Pacific, especially Samoa.

RCA has purposely increased its efforts in supporting Samoa’s health sector through its Community Health mandate. Thus, when Mr Batty broached the possibility of bringing across an ambulance to Samoa with Rotary-Assistant District Governor (ADG) and RCA member Ms Louise Main, the Club responded with an emphatic ‘YES PLEASE!’ - and so commenced the project with the refurbishment and fit out of the vehicle.

The fully kitted and functional ambulance was generously donated by;

* The Rotary Club Port Nicholson, Wellington
* Rotary New Zealand World Community Services (RNZWCS)

With support from;

* Wellington Free Ambulance
* Jenner’s Worldwide Freight LTD
* Pacific Direct Line
* Wayne Grayson & Associates Insurance Brokers

The project would not have been possible without the support and partnership of the Ministry of Health CEO Leausa Dr Take Naseri; ACEO Gaualofa Matalavea-Saaga; the MOH team; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and NEOC.

The ambulance project has been made extra special, as this year marks the Rotary Club of Apia’s 50th anniversary in Samoa.

“We are extremely grateful to our Rotary friends at the RC Port Nicholson, Wellington and to all their members. Their generosity in initiating this wonderful donation will be absolutely beneficial to the people and communities of Samoa. It could not have come at a better time, especially to assist our Government and our Health Services in its COVID-19 response and preparations,” Joanne Rasmussen, RCA Club President.

RCA is also proud to be working closely with Dr. Glen Fatupaito and RN Natasha Mamea in making ready the hospital’s Isolation Ward with the procurement of various medical equipment and supplies.

RCA’s various projects and initiatives are to assist and support the betterment of Samoa’s community and people.

**DID YOU KNOW** – Rotary Club of Apia has been supporting Health Initiatives within our community for the past 50 years?! Check out our Facebook Page for more information.

**For more information, contact:-**

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