

Counselor Offers Support To Schools Affected By The Campfire & Launches Fundraiser For Supplies

Rusty May is visiting Paradise and Ponderosa Schools to offer support to students and raise money to help teachers start the new year strong.

PARADISE, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, January 5, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Two months have passed since the deadliest wildfire in California history destroyed Paradise and 8 of its 9 public schools. The students and teachers have been reunited in borrowed classrooms around the county but the conditions are crowded, the supplies are basic and the fabric of these school communities has been stretched thin with all the loss and change.

Paradise & Ponderosa elementary schools have been watching daily videos from <u>SchoolToolsTv.com</u>, featuring <u>Rusty May</u>, a school counselor and teacher educator, who created the show to help teachers around the country build safe and caring communities in their classrooms.

"As soon as I heard about the fire, I contacted my teachers in Paradise and asked what I could do to help. The hardest thing to do after a tragedy is get back some sense of normalcy and we all agreed that a visit in the new year would be a positive step to help the students and staff do that" said May. "We can't change what happened but we can inspire hope with a visit and continue to provide a daily routine that will help them rebuild their schools and their communities."

May has also created a crowdfunding campaign to help teachers rebuild their classroom libraries and replace other educational resources. "Teachers told me they had lost every book, lesson plan, and other special resources that helped bringing the learning alive for the kids in their care. All they collected throughout their careers, some of them for over 20 years, is gone". May added, "Elementary teachers spend an average of \$500 a year out their own pocket to provide additional and necessary resources for their students and our goal is to raise enough money to help them begin again."

May is flying to California from Philadelphia on January 9th and will visit students and teachers from Ponderosa Elementary on January 10th and Paradise Elementary on January 11th. For more information about the <u>GoFundMe Campaign</u> and to offer your support, please visit: <u>https://www.gofundme.com/manage/school-supplies-for-campfire-teachers</u>

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