

## **NMCB ONE Brings The Christmas Cheer**

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“Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!” rang throughout Harry S. Truman Elementary School as US Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE (NMCB ONE) brought the Christmas cheer, and nearly 200 gifts, to the children.

NMCB ONE adopted the Harry S. Truman Elementary School when the battalion arrived to the island of Guam back in late September. Mentors from NMCB ONE have been traveling to and from the school since the middle of October to tutor students in their Math and English studies.

“We’re very grateful for anything that the Seabees can do for them,” stated Mrs. Aurora Lowe, principal of the school. “It is a very big sacrifice for them to give so freely of their time, knowledge and like today, their generosity.”

The Seabees went to the school laden with gifts donated by the members of the battalion through a program called “The Angel Tree”. The Angel Tree was set up for members of the battalion to donate gifts for the less fortunate students in the school. “In the past, battalions that have donated averaged about twenty gifts for the children,” said LT Ben George, NMCB ONE’s command chaplain. “This year, our battalion gave over 175 gifts to the children of the school.”

NMCB ONE even provided it’s very own Santa Clause. ITC (SW) Robert Baker answered the call to be the jolly old elf. “The joy I see on these children’s faces, makes me feel like a kid again,” said Baker. “I wish I could do more.”

One of the parents stated, “This is the first real Christmas these kids have had since the typhoon last year. Their parents had to fix homes and get their lives back together with the money they were going to use for gifts. This is great for the Seabees to do this for them.”

Quoted from the Principals message of the *Golden Eagle Gazette*, Harry S. Truman Elementary School’s newsletter, “My deepest appreciation also goes out to our community partners, NMCB-1, for the countless hours they have volunteered, their gifts to our children, quite a number of times have graciously and unselfishly come from your own pockets. We will never forget you. Our Christmas prayer for you, especially these days, is that God keep you out of harm’s way and get you back home safely to your real families real soon.”

