



## New York Library Association

*The Voice of the Library Community*

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For Immediate Release

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### **Coburn Free and MacArthur Elementary School Libraries to Receive Donation from New York Library Association for Flood Damage**

Binghamton & Owego, NY (December 9, 2011) The Coburn Free Library in Owego New York and the MacArthur Elementary School Library will receive a donations of \$1,000 each, to be presented by the New York Library Association (NYLA) on Friday, December 16th.

Both libraries sustained serious damage during the floods caused by Tropical Storm Irene in August. The Coburn Free Library lost thousands of books, as well as their entire computer server, among other utilities. The MacArthur library lost 11,000 books and media.

“My library has been reduced to a pile of rubble. The check-out desk has disappeared, and I have been informed that nothing is salvageable,” stated Lonna Pierce, Librarian at the school.

NYLA Executive Director Michael Borges will be presenting the donation check at both libraries on Friday to Pierce at the MacArthur School and to Karen Bernardo, Director of the Coburn Free Library. The money will be used to aid in the rebuilding of lost collections and sustained structural damage.

Libraries throughout New York State felt the effects of Irene and its aftermath as hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage accompanied with the loss of thousands books, DVD’s and other media forced many libraries to close. NYLA utilized their Disaster Relief Fund to enlist the help of friends of the library community and NYLA members to assist in the rebuilding of the affected libraries.

NYLA created the Disaster Relief Fund in 2007 to provide funding to libraries in New York damaged or destroyed by natural or manmade disasters.

The Coburn Free Library serves the Owego Community, while MacArthur Elementary School’s library serves the MacArthur students at the Binghamton City School District.

Other libraries receiving donations are: Schoharie Free Library, Schoharie; Middleburgh Library & Dr. Christopher Best Medical Exhibit, Middleburgh; Alice Curtis Desmond and Hamilton Fish Library, Putnam; Rye Free Reading Room, Rye; Wells Memorial Library, Upper Jay; Goshen Public Library & Historical Society, Goshen; and Walkkill Public Library, Walkkill.

#### **About NYLA:**

NYLA was established in 1890 by Melvil Dewey and is the oldest state library association in the nation. NYLA represents school, college, special and public libraries, library staff, trustees, and students from around the state.

