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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Abbott Laboratories Acts to Support Science Education In Redwood City Schools

October 30, 2007, 2007 – A significant investment of \$20,000 by Abbott Laboratories in support of science education in the Redwood City School District (RCSD) was recently received by the Redwood City Education Foundation (RCEF). This impressive gift, along with other contributions from parents, community members, businesses, and foundations, helped the RCEF raise close to \$300,000 last year, a new record for the Foundation.

The Abbott Laboratories grant makes up half of the \$40,000 funded provided by the RCEF for transportation costs and coordinator and teacher salaries for the Outdoor Education program. This important public-private partnership will help approximately 1,000 5th graders benefit from an intense one-week science education program at Jones Gulch in La Honda. The Outdoor Education program lets students explore the natural environment through observation and hands-on projects, while developing their skills in science, math, and language arts, and also laying the groundwork for their studies in middle school.

“Outdoor Education makes our science curriculum come alive for many students and we hope it will spark a lifelong curiosity in scientific exploration and appreciation of nature,” said RCSD Superintendent Jan Christensen. “We are so pleased that Abbott Laboratories has decided to support it through a grant to the Redwood City Education Foundation.”

During the past year, the RCEF made a concerted effort to reach out to the Bay Area’s corporate world to build partnerships in support of programs the district can no longer provide. “As someone who has worked for many years within the scientific community, and as the RCEF Board lead on this grant, I know how important a strong science education is to the businesses and future workforce of our region,” said Donna Collins Williams, RCEF Board member, “In light of that and the work done this year to build support with the corporate sector, I am delighted to connect a significant multi-national corporation with a science focus to the students in Redwood City.”

The RCEF is an all-volunteer foundation committed to providing the best education possible for the RCSD’s 8,000 students. These children come from a wide variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds and reside in Redwood City, portions of Atherton, Menlo Park, San Carlos, Woodside, and some unincorporated areas of San Mateo County. Roughly 50% of the students are English Language Learners (ELL), and over 50% live at or below the poverty level. All of them deserve a top quality education. The RCEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information visit <http://www.rcef.org> or contact Hilary Paulson, RCEF Vice President, 568-9427.

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