

*For Immediate Release*

## **Redwood City Education Foundation Announces New Board of Directors**

*New board expands education-funding goals for  
Redwood City's elementary and middle schools.*

**Redwood City, Calif.—October 10, 2005**—The Redwood City Education Foundation (RCEF) has elected a new board of directors for 2005-2006, and announced a plan to step up its fundraising efforts to help bridge the gap between state funding and the financing of vital school programs.

The new board has outlined three main objectives for this year:

1. Substantially increase funds raised to subsidize more school programs;
2. Expand its volunteer base;
3. Help educate the community about school finance issues.

Over the next two years, RCEF aims to raise \$500,000 to support wellness, academics and art programs for all 8,000 children attending Redwood City's 15 public elementary and middle schools.

“Our outstanding new board members possess the management and fundraising experience required to raise money needed for important school programs that can no longer be funded due to the school district's continuing budget deficits,” said Georgia Solkov Jack, RCEF's new board president. “I want to thank former Board President Barbara Pierce for her years of dedication to the Redwood City Education Foundation. Barbara's perseverance and her ability to seize upon, and lead us through, a critical moment of crisis after the failure of May's parcel tax has brought us to this next level in the foundation's development.”

The newly elected RCEF board of directors officers for 2005-2006 are: Georgia Solkov Jack, president; Adam Borison, vice president; Cherlene Wright, recording secretary; and Liz Olson, treasurer. Other members elected to the RCEF board are Marco Aguirre, Olivia Arana, Reina Barragan, Carlos Calderon, Hernan Epelman, Thea Henry-Hamilton, Shelly Masur, Susie Peyton, Barbara Pierce, and Garry Spanner.

(Note to editors: biographies for the board members can be found below.)

### **RCEF's Emerging Importance**

With the failure of the May 2005 parcel tax, which would have provided an additional \$3.5 million to the Redwood City School District budget, parents and community members who became concerned about the district's impending cutbacks looked to the RCEF to help make up the financial shortfall. Over the past four months, the RCEF, led by Barbara Pierce, organized several community meetings, brought together and

cultivated a strong base of volunteers, and worked with parents on a variety of fundraising projects, raising \$222,000 by July 31, 2005.

Like most other school foundations throughout California, the new board will address the challenge of ongoing district deficits and will need to develop a funding base that enables it to finance the programs that are critical to a great education. The foundation's aim is to make a substantial difference in programs that will provide children with the quality education that they deserve, regardless of their parents' economic status.

### **About RCEF**

The Redwood City Education Foundation is an all-volunteer foundation that is committed to providing quality education for the 8,000 students in 15 schools throughout the Redwood City School District. The children of Redwood City School District come from a wide variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds. Students reside in Redwood City, portions of Atherton, Menlo Park, San Carlos, Woodside, and some unincorporated areas of San Mateo County. 49% of the school district's students are English Language Learners (ELL) and 55% live at or below the poverty level. All of them deserve a quality education. The RCEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information visit <http://www.rcef.org>.

### **Contact**

Georgia Solkov Jack  
(650) 218-7774  
[president@rcef.org](mailto:president@rcef.org)

## **2005 – 2006 RCEF Board of Directors**

### **Board Officers**

#### **Georgia Solkov Jack, President**

Ms. Solkov Jack is the Associate Director of Stewardship at Stanford University. She has more than fifteen years of non-profit management experience, focused on fundraising, stewardship, and program and organizational development. As a district parent for seven years Ms. Solkov Jack has served on school site council for six years, as a PTA officer for three years, and helped inaugurate a program of district-wide PTA/PTO officers meetings. Ms. Solkov Jack will apply her non-profit and fundraising experience to develop opportunities for the foundation.

#### **Adam Borison, Vice President**

Mr. Borison is founder and CEO of Stratelytics, an investment research and consulting firm based in downtown Redwood City. He is an expert in the application of analytic methods to business, and has more than twenty years of experience as a consultant and entrepreneur. He and his wife have lived in the immediate area since the early 1980's and have two daughters in Redwood City schools. He was on the Clifford Site Council, is currently Chair of the North Star Academy Site Council, and is on the education committee of the Redwood City/San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce. He holds a B.S. in biochemistry from Yale, a masters in public policy from Harvard, and a Ph.D. in management science from Stanford. He intends to bring careful and creative thinking to the RCEF Board, and extensive experience with the details of strategy, management, operations, funding, budgets, staffing, infrastructure, and the like.

#### **Cherlene Wright, Recording Secretary**

Ms. Wright graduated from Redwood City schools, then Mills College in Oakland with a bachelor's degree in creative writing and theatre and a minor in early childhood education. She has more than ten years volunteer experience in the community including PTA involvement and presidency, in-class experience and teaching parenting classes. Additionally, Ms. Wright currently is employed as a probation officer assigned to the juvenile division. Ms. Wright helped start a full school program, was a special education advocate, and works very hard to keep kids in our community busy and positively involved. She has participated in the Redwood City Citizen's Academy, the Community Builders Program, and is involved in local politics.

#### **Liz Olson, Treasurer**

Ms. Olson has seven years of volunteer experience with the Clifford School Parents Club, serving terms as president, vice president and volunteer coordinator, Ms. Olson also served on the Clifford School Site Council for five years and was the parent representative on the Yes on Measure V Campaign Committee. She has also served as volunteer bookkeeper for the Epilepsy Foundation of Northern California. In her role as treasurer Ms. Olson will lead the finance committee, ensuring that the organization sets realistic, achievable fundraising goals to fund needed programs.

## **Board Members**

### **Marco Aguirre**

Mr. Aguirre is project manager for VKK Signmakers in Redwood City. He manages projects including event graphics, signage, and awards. He has been involved with the Adelante parent groups for the school's fundraising events and served on the RCEF Board for the past four years. Mr. Aguirre is a first-generation Bay Area native, has a B.S. in graphic design from SJSU and is a local musician.

### **Olivia Arana**

*Biography not available.*

### **Reina Barragan**

Ms. Barragan serves on the library board, chairs the Family and Community Advisory Committee, and is involved with the Family-to-Family Committee. Further Ms. Barragan volunteers with the Children Collaborative Action Team and the San Francisco International Insitute. Ms. Barragan's volunteer work is driven by her passion for working with organizations that provide children with services that support learning and builds stronger families. Ms. Barragan has participated in the Redwood City Citizen's Academy.

### **Carlos Calderon**

Mr. Calderon has been an active community volunteer for the past eighteen years. In addition to his work with RCEF, Mr. Calderon is a volunteer with Police Activities League. Mr. Calderon is the sales manager for Arguello Catering.

### **Hernan Epelman**

Mr. Epelman is a software architect with Tacit Software in Palo Alto. He holds a masters in computer science from Stanford University and has more than ten years of experience in research and software development. Mr. Epelman is devoted to public education and for the past two years has been in charge of Orion School's website, training a large number of volunteers, and turning a stagnant website into a vibrant collaborative effort. Mr. Epelman hopes to use his expertise in Internet technologies to support RCEF's evolution.

### **Thea Henry-Hamilton**

Ms. Henry-Hamilton, a graduate of Harvard University, has spent several years working in the film and children's video game industries. Most recently she worked as a teacher with a focus on drama (Shakespeare) and creative writing. Ms. Henry-Hamilton brings a passion for education, with a particular emphasis on English and language arts.

### **Shelly Masur**

Ms. Masur serves on the Redwood City School District (RCSD) board. She holds a masters in public health and has more than ten years of non-profit experience. She is currently the director of a statewide non-profit, the California Adolescent Health Collaborative. Ms. Masur is a former board member of Mountain View Education Foundation and is an active parent volunteer. As a school board member, she works as a

liaison between RCEF and the RCSD to ensure that RCEF programs are aligned with the district's needs. Ms. Masur also brings extensive experience in fundraising and program planning.

**Susie Peyton**

Ms. Peyton has nine years of volunteer work that include working with the city of Redwood City on two major park renovations over a five-year span (Stulsaft and Stafford Parks). She was also on the board of Redwood Parents' Nursery School for two years, overseeing playground renovations. Ms. Peyton has been a docent for the Art in Action program for the past four years and was a volunteer for the recent parcel tax measure in Redwood City. She currently works as an instructor for San Francisco Center for the Book, teaching bookmaking to children and their families.

**Barbara Pierce**

Ms. Pierce has been involved with RCEF for the past twenty years, starting in 1985, when it was called RESCUE. Her background in social work and psychology has proven helpful for RCEF when establishing new programs. In her leadership capacity at RCEF, Ms. Pierce has had the opportunity to work with staff at all the school sites throughout the years, providing a comprehensive understanding of the different needs and opportunities.

**Garry Spanner**

Mr. Spanner is the president and CEO of Turner Dale Associates Inc, a real estate management firm. He has twelve years of experience in the field of finance and more than twenty years in real estate investing. Mr. Spanner oversees the asset management and investment policies of the company's real estate portfolio. He is an expert at analyzing and evaluating real estate and financial markets, as well as advising on deal structures and strategic investing. Mr. Spanner is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council, Social Venture Network, Pension Real Estate Association, International Council of Shopping Centers, and National Association of Real Estate Investment Managers.