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Redwood City Education Foundation Announces New Board of Directors

New board focuses on taking Redwood City's elementary and middle school students' education from basic to best.

Redwood City, Calif.—September 17, 2007 —The Redwood City Education Foundation (RCEF) has elected a new Board of Directors for 2007-2008 and announced that it is stepping up its fundraising efforts to bridge the gap between the basic education provided by the school district and a well-rounded education that provides music, art, science, and wellness education to all students.

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

- Raise \$350,000 for student programs, up from the nearly \$300,000 raised in 2006-2007.
- Expand the RCEF volunteer base.
- Educate the community about school finance issues.

Over the past two years, the RCEF has raised over \$550,000 to support music, wellness education, and academic support programs, such as Outdoor Education, for the 8,000 children attending Redwood City's 16 public elementary and middle schools.

“Given current budget realities, government funding can only provide a basic education centered on academics, such as mathematics and language arts,” said Adam Borison, RCEF's new President. “Of course, these are critical areas for all students to master. But it is equally important for students to explore learning through science, art, music, and physical activity. In recent years, the RCEF has played an increasingly important role in funding these programs. We are working hard to continue this trend, so that all students in the Redwood City School District receive a high-quality, well-rounded education.”

The new RCEF officers for 2007-2008 are: Adam Borison, President; Hilary Paulson, Vice President; Elaine Park, Recording Secretary; and Liz Olson, Treasurer. Other members elected to the RCEF Board are: Stacy Guthmann, Thea Henry-Hamilton, Barry Schnur, Anna Solorio, Garry Spanner and Donna Collins Williams.

“On behalf of the RCEF Board of Directors, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to outgoing board members moving on to other positions as volunteers and supporters: School Board Trustee Shelly Masur, former RCEF President Georgia Solkov Jack, and Board members Reina Barragan, Hernan Epelman, Naomi Hunter, and Susie Peyton. Thanks to their hard work we are ideally positioned to achieve this year’s ambitious fundraising goals,” continued Borison. “We trust that both parents and members of the Redwood City community as a whole recognize the benefits of a truly great education for the future of our children and our city, and that they will continue to generously support the RCEF.”

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

About RCEF

The Redwood City Education Foundation is an all-volunteer foundation committed to providing the best education possible for the 8,000 students in 16 schools throughout the Redwood City School District. The children of the 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>.

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RCEF Board of Director Biographies

Adam Borison

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 has served on the Clifford Site Council, as 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 Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry from Yale, a Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard, and a Ph.D. in management science from Stanford University. He is a strong supporter of public education, community involvement, and creative but disciplined management. This is Mr. Borison’s third year on the RCEF Board and his first year as President.

Stacy Guthmann

Ms. Guthmann has ten years of volunteer experience within the Redwood City community. Her volunteer work includes working as a mentor for teenage youth, supervising children’s programs at a local homeless shelter, fundraising for Adelante Spanish Immersion School within the Redwood City School District, and as an Art in Action docent for five years. Ms. Guthmann’s professional background is in corporate sales and project management. She has children who attend Adelante Spanish Immersion School and North Star Academy. This is Ms. Guthmann’s second year on the RCEF Board.

Thea Henry-Hamilton

Ms. Henry-Hamilton graduated from Harvard University and spent many years working in the film and children's video game industries. After earning a Master of Fine Arts degree in drama in 2001, she worked as a teacher with a focus on English and drama (Shakespeare). Ms. Henry-Hamilton brings a passion for education, with a particular emphasis on using the dramatic arts to improve English and language arts education. During her second year on the RCEF Board, Ms. Henry-Hamilton chaired the Benefit for a Brighter Future (BBF), which raised a record amount for the organization. In her third year on the Board, Ms. Henry-Hamilton will again focus on the BBF.

Liz Olson

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 RCEF Treasurer, Ms. Olson will lead the Finance Committee, ensuring that the organization sets realistic, achievable fundraising goals to fund needed programs. Ms. Olson provides her skills as Treasurer to the RCEF in her third year on the Board.

Elaine Park

Ms. Park brings more than 15 years of experience as a communications professional to her role on the RCEF Board. For one year prior to joining the RCEF Board, she volunteered her writing services as a member of RCEF's Communications Committee. She served for two years as a PTA officer at John Gill School and also served as Chairperson of the Redwood City Mothers Club. In addition to her RCEF Board role, she is also a current board member of the Special Education PTA of Redwood City (SEPTAR). Ms. Park has lived in Redwood City for nine years and has a son in Redwood City schools. In her first year on the RCEF Board, Ms. Park hopes to communicate successfully the goals and accomplishments of the foundation so that Redwood City community members, local businesses, and charitable foundations understand the importance of joining in to help fully fund the best education possible for our children.

Hilary Paulson

Ms. Paulson is a former litigation attorney and has three children in Redwood City schools. She is an active community volunteer, working with her children's schools and the RCEF. She has also served as past Chair of the Redwood City Planning Commission, past Vice Chair of the Redwood City Housing and Human Concerns Committee, Co-Chair of the Stulsaft-Stafford Park Renovation Committee, and on the Board of Directors of the Redwood Parents Nursery School. Last year, in her first year on the RCEF Board, Ms. Paulson took on the Corporate and Foundation Grants program, which will remain her focus in her second year.

Barry Schnur

Mr. Schnur is a life-long Peninsula resident who became involved with RCEF as a volunteer over two years ago. He joined the RCEF Board so that he could continue to help improve the quality of education for all children in Redwood City schools. Mr. Schnur has four children currently enrolled in Redwood City schools. Mr. Schnur holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science with a minor in business from San Jose State University and is the Vice President of David Schnur Associates, a supplier of engineered components to the medical device industry. Mr. Schnur is also a certified coach and referee for Redwood City AYSO. In his first year on the RCEF Board, Mr. Schnur plans to use his background in corporate sales to increase corporate support of RCEF, through direct merchant programs and event support.

Anna Solorio

Ms. Solorio, a resident of Redwood City for nearly twenty years, brings a wealth of parental school involvement to her role on the RCEF Board, including her six years at Hawes School in volunteer

positions on the Site Council, the PTA, the English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC), and the District English Language Advisory Committee. Ms. Solorio has also served on the Site Council and Parent Club for the McKinley Institute of Technology (MIT). Ms. Solorio has two children in Redwood City schools. Currently, Ms. Solorio is an office manager for a school site and has over eight years experience as a district employee, starting with her first position as a school parent liaison. In her second year on the RCEF Board, Ms. Solorio plans to expand her role as a voice for the Latino parents of children in Redwood City schools and to continue outreach efforts in the Latino community.

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.

Donna Collins Williams

Ms. Collins Williams has served on the Cultural Commission of Redwood City, where she evaluated grant applications for arts and music programs. As a commissioner she also assisted with summer music concerts and community programs. Ms. Collins Williams has also served as a board member of the Redwood City Mother's Club and as a parent volunteer for both the Roy Cloud Elementary School Auction and the Art in Action program. Her two daughters attend Redwood City schools. She holds a degree in nursing and health education from Boston College and a certificate in public health. Currently she works as the Manager of Clinical Operations at CardioDx in Palo Alto. In her first year on the RCEF Board, Ms. Collins Williams focused her passion on working to garner corporate support for public education, which she will continue to pursue in her second year.