



## How you can make a difference

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Giving to the RCEF is the one way you have to raise funds that stay under local control to benefit all our students. We raise money through parent and community contributions, grants from major corporations and foundations, and fundraising events such as the Benefit for a Brighter Future.

You can make a difference in our children's education by:

- Mailing a check to the RCEF
- Donating online at: [www.rcef.org](http://www.rcef.org).
- Using the services of one our many local business partners.
- Making a donation through your employer's matching program
- Volunteering to help us in our fundraising work

For more information please visit: [www.rcef.org](http://www.rcef.org).

## RCEF Board of Directors

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## The Schools of Redwood City

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## Redwood City Education Foundation

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11/05/07

## Redwood City Education Foundation

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The RCEF is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to providing every child in the Redwood City School District with a comprehensive, high-quality education. Since 1983, we have worked in partnership with parent groups and the community to provide programs for music, the arts, PE, and science that our students would not otherwise receive. Our children need these critical programs in their elementary and middle-school years if they are to succeed in high school, college, and life. Their future and ours depends on it.

## Our Goals

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In 2006/07, we raised \$270,000, around \$34 per student, so we could provide these programs during the 2007/08 school year:

- Music for Learning for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Outdoor Education for 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- A Wellness Coordinator to increase nutrition education and physical activity in all schools.

We are now raising funds for the 2008/09 school year, with the aim of strengthening and expanding our activities. Our goal is to raise \$350,000, around \$40 per student, to:

- Provide Music for Learning to kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Expand funding for Outdoor Education.
- Continue the Wellness Coordinator program.
- Provide grants to each school to support top unfunded needs in areas such as art, drama, PE, or teacher excellence.

Our long-term goal is to take our students' education beyond basic to best by restoring music, the arts, science, and PE to every student in every school in the district.

## Our Programs

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### Music for Learning

Multiple studies have shown the value of music instruction in developing critical thinking skills and improving achievement in other subjects, such as math, as well as giving students the opportunity to develop their musical gifts during critical childhood years.

Music for Learning ensures that trained music educators reach 3,000 second through fourth grade students each year. In grades two and three, students learn the fundamentals of rhythm, pitch, and tempo and enjoy a musical workshop, "Peter and the Wolf." In fourth grade, students learn to play the recorder and perform as a group.

This program receives partial support from the Cultural Commission of Redwood City and the Westly Foundation.

### Instrumental Music

Middle school instrumental education is a vital for young music learners, preparing them for participation in high school music programs and community youth orchestras.

The RCEF is committed to seeing every middle school student receive continued music instruction and has provided supplemental funds to help schools buy instruments for the past 15 years.

### Outdoor Education

1,000 Redwood City fifth graders spend an action-filled week at Jones Gulch, near La Honda, exploring the natural environment and developing skills in science, mathematics, and language arts.

The RCEF funds a coordinator who schedules all the fifth grade classrooms in the district and ensures that teachers and campers are ready for hands-on learning. We also provide teacher stipends and pay for transportation.

We are grateful to Abbott Laboratories and the Tim Griffith Memorial Foundation for helping to support this program.

### District Wellness Coordinator

Well-nourished, physically fit children are ready and able to learn and achieve. The Wellness Coordinator works with all our schools to increase standards-based nutrition education and physical activity so students can do their best at school and at home.

The Wellness Coordinator also helps cafeterias provide healthy food choices and brings resources from state and community health-focused organizations into the district. Helping to educate families about nutrition is another important priority.

This unique program is funded by the RCEF through an innovative partnership with Sequoia Hospital Health and Wellness and Kaiser.

### Teacher Excellence

Recent studies show that students taught by highly-qualified and well-trained teachers succeed. Since excellence in the classroom begins with teachers, the RCEF believes strongly in helping our educators improve their professional skills and expertise.

We thank Washington Mutual for helping us to provide funding that enables our teachers to excel.

## Facts about the Redwood City School District

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Approximately 8,000 kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

16 public schools plus one charter school.

56% low-income students, 49% English learners.

District API score in 2006/07 was 759, 32 points higher than the state:

- The highest API score increase since 2000 in San Mateo County.
- 10 schools have scores over 700, including 3 over 800, and 1 at 982 — the 7<sup>th</sup> highest-ranked elementary school in the state.

A revenue-limit district, where government funding covers only the basics, such as language arts and math, with little support for art, music, science, and PE.