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PALO ALTO PARTNERS IN EDUCATION KICKS-OFF 2009-2010 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN; GOAL TO DONATE \$2.57M FOR STAFFING NEEDS IN PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Funds Add Resources For Science, Arts, Classroom Support And Counseling At Schools

PALO ALTO, CA – AUGUST 17, 2009 – Today Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE), a local foundation raising funds to staff school programs across the Palo Alto Unified School District, officially kicks-off its 2009-2010 fundraising campaign aiming to donate \$2.57 million to local schools. In the midst of state budget shortfalls, PiE's campaign raises dollars to augment Palo Alto Unified Schools' staffing for programs such as science enrichment, expanded art and music programs, classroom aides and on-site counseling. The campaign runs August 25, 2009 through February 5, 2010 and raises funds for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year.

"One of the primary reasons families choose to live in this area is the emphasis on great schools and community," said Lois Garland, President of Palo Alto Partners in Education. "However, over the years, limited public funding has forced schools to stretch staffing thin, making it difficult to deliver the educational excellence we expect across the district. PiE's goal is to raise funds locally to help bridge the gap."

"While schools do have common standards to meet, each also has unique needs where flexible funds can really help," said Eric Goddard, principal at Fairmeadow Elementary. "With the state struggling to meet basic standards, PiE dollars are the only funds principals have to augment staffing for projects and programs specific to their student population needs."

For the 2009-2010 Campaign, PiE aims to donate \$2.57 million for local schools and \$100,000 through its Teacher Grant program. As in previous years, the bulk of the \$2.57 million is expected to come from a combination of school families and community members. For PAUSD families, the requested donation is \$650 per student – the same as last year. The additional \$100,000 that funds the PiE Teacher Grant program, supporting innovation and teaching excellence in the classroom, comes from the realtor campaign, local event sponsorships and the “Honor Your Teacher” campaign.

Working to increase PiE’s community reach and broaden business support, in 2009 PiE established a new leadership body, the Advisory Council, comprised of community members with a wealth of experience in business, education and fundraising. PiE’s Advisory Council will play an important role in the 2009-2010 fundraising campaign.

PiE remains the only non-profit organization devoted exclusively to raising money for all PAUSD schools and the only one whose contributions can pay for additional and much needed PAUSD teachers and staff. Due in large part to dedicated volunteers, PiE’s operating expenses continue to be extremely low, allowing over 92% of donations to go directly to the schools. Below is the list of Partner in Education volunteers:

PiE Advisory Council - 2009-2010:

Sue Allen, Laura Breyfogle, Fran Codispoti, Gary Fazzino, Michael Hall, Julie Jerome, Sally Kadifa, Xin Liu, Julie Lythcott-Haims, Greg Sands, Shilpa Singhal, Joe Simitian, Liz Simons, Chuck Sizemore, Megan Swezey Fogarty, Avie Tevanian, Samir Tuma

PiE Board Members - 2009-2010:

Lois Garland – Board President, Susan Bailey, Marcie Brown, Lori Buecheler, Melinda Christopherson, Abbie Dorosin, Elisabeth Einaudi, Heidi Emberling, Becky Epstein, Belle Griffiths, Elaine Hahn, Xenia Hammer, Erwin Hosono, Judy Logan, Mandy Lowell,

Karen Matthys, Marci McCue, Sigrid Pinsky, Al Russell, Dan Seligson, Nancy Smith,
Linda Verhulp, Diana Walsh, Hazel Watson

ABOUT PARTNERS IN EDUCATION:

Palo Alto Partners in Education is a nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation that enhances educational excellence for every student in the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD). It is the only foundation dedicated exclusively to raising funds for all PAUSD schools, and the only one whose contributions can pay for additional and much needed PAUSD teachers and staff. Since PiE's inception in 2004-2005, it has donated nearly \$11 million to Palo Alto Schools. For more information about PiE, please visit www.papie.org.

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