

**Partner in Education Meets “Above and Beyond” Challenge and Kicks off New  
“Participation” Challenge  
Participation Challenge Encourages all Parents to Donate at Any Level**

Nov. 6, 2006 – Palo Alto, California – Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE) today announced the successful conclusion of its “Above and Beyond” Challenge Grant, which will bring in an additional \$250,000 from an anonymous foundation. This month PiE has also announced two new initiatives: a \$150,000 Participation Challenge Grant, which aims to encourage high levels of participation from parents in the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD), and a Community Campaign, which will focus on raising funds from the non-parent residential community. PiE has now raised over \$1.2 million of its \$2 million school campaign.

The “Above and Beyond” challenge was funded by a local anonymous foundation. All donations above \$500 per child were matched one for one up to \$125,000. In addition, because the full \$125,000 was raised by November 1, the foundation contributed another \$100,000. PiE is deeply grateful to this foundation for its generous support.

The “Participation” challenge is funded by another local anonymous foundation whose goal is to dramatically increase participation rates of parents. The challenge will double or triple the impact of all gifts up to \$150,000. Contributions from prior donors will be matched one for one, while contributions from new donors will be matched two for one. The Challenge grant will run through February 28, 2007. Last year, 43% of elementary parents and 16% of secondary parents gave to PiE. The goal this year is to encourage over 50% of families at each school to contribute what they can.

The Community Campaign is reflects the vitality of our community's commitment to its schools. Last year PiE raised \$45,000 in this campaign and it hopes to increase that amount by 10-20% this year. PiE's support from its constituents - parents, foundations, community, local merchants and corporations – underscores the powerful connections that have already been forged between school, parents, and community. .

In the 2006-07 calendar year, PiE donated \$1.89 million to Palo Alto public schools, allocated on a per student basis, and provided our teachers with an additional \$95,100 in grant money for curriculum development. Over 85% of PiE funds to PAUSD were used to support essential staffing such as electives instructors, class aides, lab assistants, and math/reading specialists.

Susan Bailey, President of PiE commented that “PiE fundraising is off to a solid start this year. We hope the new challenge grant and the community campaign will further bolster our participation and bring us closer to our fundraising goals”.

Palo Alto Partners in Education is a nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation whose mission is to partner with parents, the Palo Alto school district, and the community to raise funds for achieving educational excellence for every student in the district. PiE focuses its resources on lowering student-to-teacher ratios, enhancing technology, and providing curriculum support. Its initiatives are customized to meet the differing needs of elementary, middle, and high schools. For more information, please visit [www.papie.org](http://www.papie.org) or contact PiE Executive Director Muneerah Merchant at [mmerchant@papie.org](mailto:mmerchant@papie.org) or (650) 329-3990. .

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