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**IN CHALLENGING TIMES, PALO ALTO PARTNERS IN EDUCATION
EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS WITH RECORD FUNDRAISING FOR 2009-2010 SCHOOL CAMPAIGN**

**\$2.9 Million Donated To Support PAUSD Staffing for
Classroom Aides, Science, Arts, and Counseling at Local Schools**

PALO ALTO, CA – FEBRUARY 9, 2010 – This week, Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE), the education foundation that raises funds to staff school programs across the Palo Alto Unified School District, announced impressive results from its 2009-2010 fundraising efforts. “This year’s campaign results set new records for PiE, enabling us to donate \$2.9 million to Palo Alto Schools. This overwhelming show of support came from across the community – from parents to local businesses – and represented a 13% increase over last year’s donation,” said Lois Garland, PiE President. “Even in tough economic times, we continue to be inspired by our community’s commitment to educational excellence.”

More dollars coming from more people.

The 2009-2010 PiE Campaign’s \$2.9 million will directly benefit the PAUSD’s staffing needs for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year. The original goal for the campaign was \$2.57 million. In addition to exceeding its dollar goal, other metrics demonstrate the increasing support of PiE. For example, year over year, the number of donors with children attending district schools increased 5% and the average donation per family also increased 5% to over \$750. Additionally, businesses and individuals without children in the PAUSD contributed a total of \$130K to PiE this year, exceeding PiE’s Community Campaign goals by 63% and reflecting a 30% increase in the number of community donors.

“With this year's district budget cuts estimated at \$3.7 million, our efforts to balance our budget have been extremely difficult,” stated Kevin Skelly, Superintendant of Palo Alto Unified School District.

"Support from parents and the community- through contributing to PiE and through other revenue sources such as the parcel tax - is indispensable in plugging the breach created by state funding cuts, slowing local revenues, and rising enrollment. Thanks to the generosity of PiE donors we expect the programs and staffing that PiE funds to continue in the year ahead with minimal impact. Through all our collective efforts, we are confident we can maintain, and build upon, the excellence of Palo Alto schools during this extraordinarily challenging time."

PiE dollars benefit every child in the district.

This year elementary schools will receive \$1.685M for classroom support in the form of teacher aides, reading and math specialists, as well as science enrichment programs and additional staff to teach Spectra Arts and other creative arts curricula.

Middle schools will receive \$530K for academic enrichment through additional courses in video/digital production, creative writing, music and biotechnology. Funds will also go to student support programs, academic guidance, and mentors who assist teachers in applying technology to curriculum.

High schools will receive \$685K for college and career counseling, additional courses in engineering, digital media, technology and performing arts, as well as classroom technology mentors.

ABOUT PALO ALTO 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 over \$12 million to Palo Alto Schools. For more information about PiE, please visit www.papie.org.

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