

## **Partners in Education Sponsors Italian Street Festival Nets Over \$7,000 During the 2006 Palo Alto Festival of the Arts**

August 27, 2006 – Palo Alto, California. Palo Alto Partners in Education brought great art and great chalk artists to the Palo Alto Festival of the Arts with their traditional Italian Street Festival on Tasso Street. Chaired by Palo Alto school parents Cindy Ziebelman and Mary Haverstock, this event drew thousands of onlookers to downtown Palo Alto and netted about \$7,000 for Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE), a non-profit foundation devoted exclusively to raising funds for Palo Alto public schools.

Beautiful renditions of great works by artists like Da Vinci and Picasso were being recreated in chalk by professional and amateur artists. Chalk paintings of Elvis, fanciful renderings of dragons, Peter Rabbit, and the Cheshire Cat sat beside brightly-hued puppies, rainbows, trees, and flowers from the chalked- smudged hands of small children in the "Chalk-A-Lot" area. Middle and high school age students helped with the painting and other chores, often for community service or teacher credit.

"It was rewarding to see how the Italian Street Festival has grown over the past few years -- not just with number of community members visiting and enjoying the art, but also with the number of professional artists (some who hailed from as far away as Santa Barbara), student artists, and children artists," Ziebelman said. "We feel we reach every age group with this event and everyone gets to enjoy it."

Emma Rapperport, a Palo Alto sophomore, and Andrea Panayides, a junior at Palo Alto High School worked with a Jordan art teacher, Leslie Goldman, and Andrea's mom on a logo of the art festival. Rapperport said she enjoyed the Italian music in the background, courtesy of Al Fabrizio and Hugo Wainzinger, and the compliments of passersby. "I felt like I was a real artist, even though it was my first time doing any chalk painting," Rapperport said.

Camille Townsend, a Palo Alto School Board member, said, "I can't tell you how much I enjoyed the experience -- the color and form, the artists, the young artists and the socializing. I really can't imagine a better way to spend a late summer weekend."

PiE is grateful to University Arts in Palo Alto, provider of the chalk, and many sponsors such as Townsend & Townsend, Accent Arts, and Wayne Renshaw Architects - all of whom have been on board since the Italian Street Festival began four years ago.

To find out more about the Italian Street Festival or to sponsor a chalk art square next year, contact Ziebelman at [Cindymail@att.net](mailto:Cindymail@att.net) or Haverstock at [mgh3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mgh3@sbcglobal.net).

### **Partners in Education**

Palo Alto Partners in Education is a nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation dedicated to sustaining extraordinary public education in Palo Alto. In March, the foundation donated

\$1.89 million to the Palo Alto Unified School District to augment its 2006-07 budget. That donation will be allocated directly to the principals at each of the district's 17 schools on a per-student basis. For more information, please visit [www.papie.org](http://www.papie.org) or contact Muneerah Merchant at [mmerchant@papie.org](mailto:mmerchant@papie.org).

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