



For Immediate Release

**CALLING ALL SPELLERS! NEEDHAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION SEEKS
SPELLING TEAMS FOR 12TH ANNUAL SPELLING BEE FUNDRAISER**

NEEDHAM, Mass., February 10, 2003 – The Needham Education Foundation wants you! NEF is now seeking three-person spelling teams to compete in its Twelfth Annual Spelling Bee Fundraiser, a favorite community-wide event to raise money to support enrichment programs for all Needham students, to be held **Thursday, April 3, 2003, 7:00 p.m. at the Newman Elementary School.**

With celebrity readers like local TV newscasters Natalie Jacobson, Gary Gillis and Jim Boyd, the Spelling Bee is the largest of its kind in the region. Teams representing all age groups from across the community – schools, businesses, alumni, neighborhoods, Realtors, town committees, athletic and social clubs, etc. – go head-to-head for the coveted trophy.

“Anyone can *BEE* a speller! Get together with your neighbors, your coworkers, or your friends, and form a team!” said Ruth Bonsignore, NEF co-president. “And, by sponsoring a team, your tax-deductible contributions support innovative education programs for our children.”

There are many ways you can support the Annual Spelling Bee Fundraiser and the work of the NEF:

1. **Form or sponsor a team.** Contribute a state and federally tax-deductible minimum entry fee of \$350 per team. Individuals or businesses may sponsor themselves or other teams. To sign up, contact NEF board member Nancy Swartz (781) 449-2231. To download an entry form, visit www.nefneedham.org.
2. **Support the program book.** Place an ad in the Annual Spelling Bee program book – a cost-effective way to reach an educated audience. Each program book includes the history of NEF, Spelling Bee, NEF Grants and much more. Over 1,000 copies are distributed to participants, spectators, and throughout the community. Contact NEF board member Marian Slavin at (781) 444-9076 for more information.
3. **Become an event sponsor.** Corporate sponsorships are available at four levels:
 - Contributor: \$600-\$999
 - Friend: \$1,000-\$1,499
 - Benefactor: \$1,500-\$1,999
 - Patron: \$2,000 and up

Contact NEF board member Judy Safian at (781) 444-0024 for more information on sponsorships.

About NEF

The NEF is an independent, community-based, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to raise and then distribute monies for the enrichment of public school children in Needham, Mass. Its fundraising programs include the Annual Spelling Bee Fundraiser, teacher recognition cards, and a year-end appeal. NEF's purpose is to stimulate innovation and excellence by supporting educational programs that are outside normal public funding and to maintain a permanent fund to implement such programs and activities. For more information about NEF, please visit www.nefneedham.org.

Contact: info@nefneedham.org