



*For Immediate Release*

**NEF SAYS ‘THANKS A MILLION’ TO COMMUNITY  
AS SUSTAINING FUND HITS \$1 MILLION MILESTONE**

*NEF Thanks Supporters for 10 Years of Generosity*

NEEDHAM, Mass., March 1, 2001 – The Needham Education Foundation (NEF) today celebrated a major milestone in its 10-year history as the Ralph Leader Sustaining Fund reached the \$1 million mark for the first time. NEF is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the town’s public schools by supporting innovative educational programs that are outside normal public funding.

“Each year, we award dozens of grants from \$2,000 to \$15,000 that benefit thousands of Needham schoolchildren, while steadily building a permanent sustaining fund. Thanks to generous supporters, sound investing, and the dedication of scores of volunteers, we are thrilled to reach our long-awaited \$1 million goal. Our assets – and our impact – are growing,” said Anne Murphy, NEF co-president.

NEF plans to mark the occasion of the million-dollar milestone at the NEF’s Tenth Annual Spelling Bee, to be held Thursday, April, 5 at the Newman Elementary School. The popular Spelling Bee, the largest of its kind in the region, is a major fund-raising event for NEF. The proceeds from last-year’s Bee and other NEF activities went to support over \$70,000 in enrichment programs for Needham schools during the past year.

NEF began when a handful of Needham High School alumni celebrating their 50th class reunion in 1990 wanted to pass on their love of learning. Their \$3,000 gift seeded a fund to underwrite innovative educational programs. Donors and volunteers throughout Needham joined the cause, driving the foundation’s sustaining fund to its \$1 million goal in 10 years. Now in its second decade, NEF strives to build on this legacy through active fundraising and prudent investing.

**About NEF**

The NEF is an independent, community-based, not-for-profit organization raising funds for the enrichment of public school children in Needham, Mass. Its fundraising programs include the annual Spelling Bee, teacher recognition cards, and the year-end appeal, among others. 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](http://www.nefneedham.org).

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