



For Immediate Release

NEF ANNOUNCES \$100,000 GOAL FOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Residents Urged to Support Innovation in Needham Public Schools

NEEDHAM, Mass., December 16, 2002 – The Needham Education Foundation (NEF) kicked off its annual capital campaign last week and announced a goal of raising \$100,000 this fiscal year to fund ongoing education grants.

“Especially in tough fiscal times, it’s important to sponsor creative programs that keep stretching our schools to be exciting centers of learning,” said Ruth Bonsignore, NEF co-president. “Each year, we award dozens of grants from \$2,000 to \$15,000 that benefit thousands of Needham schoolchildren by supplementing or enhancing the schools’ curricula. We hope Needham residents will continue their generosity this year so that we can fund a growing number of fresh and exciting programs.”

Last week NEF mailed fundraising letters to all Needham households for its annual campaign, the largest source of funding for NEF. Last year, NEF funded more than \$90,000 in enrichment programs for Needham schools. For example, a pilot program is expanding at the Newman Elementary School to train teachers in new strategies for teaching cooperation, responsibility, self-control and empathy. Meanwhile, the Needham High School physical education program will be able to purchase portable cardio equipment for use in classes. And, a large grant of \$15,000 funded electronic keyboards for the Pollard Middle School Music Department.

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. NEF began when a handful of Needham High School alumni celebrating their 50th class reunion in 1990 started a seed fund to pass on their love of learning by underwriting programs to enhance education.

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.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Please see attached illustration.

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