



# Redding Education Foundation

*...fostering the fulfillment of learning at every age*

December 2006

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*Thank you Redding!*

The title of the new book, "The Audacity of Hope", speaks so aptly to the great opportunity education provides for everyone in this country. In Redding, we embrace not just the responsibility to provide education but the shared vision that through excellence in education, we will all be well prepared to excel in the responsibilities of global citizenship.

It is clear that our tax dollars alone cannot fulfill Redding's vision for educational excellence. It is also clear the rapidly developing array of intellectual and technological tools will revolutionize and economize how we educate. The Redding Education Foundation (REF), a 501(c)3 not for profit, was created four years ago to strategically invest in innovative tools to promote Redding's vision for educational excellence and the fulfillment of learning for everyone in the community.

REF had the audacity to hope that small grants invested in innovative practices, created from inventive ideas of our teachers, could have a huge, positive impact on our children, our teaching practices, our professional morale, and the ability for our community to attract and retain superior educators. We had the audacity to hope that your generosity would support investments in intellectual and technological innovations to promote greater learning efficiency and efficacy. We had the audacity to challenge convention by engaging the community in conversations on the latest research and work by some of the foremost educational experts in the country in the dynamic quest for educational excellence. Culturally, we hoped to nurture and celebrate artistic expression in Redding.

Hope has turned to reality. Thank you Redding! Since inception, thanks to your generous support, we have invested close to \$150,000 in practices, equipment and technologies to promote innovation and excellence in the schools and the community. This year REF hopes, with your continued support, to raise \$40,000 for SMART Boards at JBHS, grants to educators and the promotion of cultural arts in Redding.

The REF Board promises to utilize your investment to benefit both schools and your community.

Gratefully;

*Kate*

Kathleen Ebbott  
President  
Redding Education Foundation

## Partner to Promote Educational Excellence

*REF will partner with community members, organizations and schools to achieve a shared vision of educational excellence and innovation.*

*REF will invest in community educational and cultural arts initiatives and in programs for our schools that fall beyond the scope of the town and school budgets.*

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR Educational Leaders

The Redding Education Foundation is an exceptional benefactor to the students and teachers of the Redding and Region 9 School Districts. The foundation exemplifies steadfast vision, effective organization, and conscientious work in the interests of the entire school community. It promotes the implementation of preferred practices in instruction, the enhancement of teaching and learning through innovative technology, and the development of creative, standards-based classroom projects. It also hosts public forums on research topics that predict change in policy and practice related to the education of our children.

In its successful and ongoing collaboration with Redding and Region 9 Public Schools, REF has funded many grants that have enriched the education of our students. It financed, for example, the establishment of a new environmental club at the middle school based on the research of Jane Goodall. It funded the purchase of K-4 laboratory kits that facilitate the application of real-life mathematics to the study of pond habitats. Money from REF grants has subsidized the cost of implementing a teacher-lead project that joins Redding and Danbury students in academic and artistic activities. REF grants have also funded the study of authentic historical documents in high school social studies, the installation of interactive software to increase oral proficiency in world languages, and the purchase of an internet-based subscription that provides teachers unprecedented access to diverse academic resources. In addition to the funding of grants, REF inaugurated the use of SMART-Board Technology in all three of our schools by purchasing many SMART-Board units and related software. These units complement the two mobile computer laboratories, each with 24 wireless laptop computers, that REF donated recently to

Redding schools.

When we learned three years ago of REF's desire to promote and to fund excellence in education, we were warmed by its intentions. We are now inspired by its success. In a relatively short period of time, hundreds of students and many teachers in Redding and Region 9 have become beneficiaries of REF's selfless work and impressive donations. The Redding Education Foundation is an extraordinary asset of our school community. We encourage you to support its mission and to respond generously to its fundraising. Your contributions will help our children discover the excitement and the joy of learning.

Sincerely,

Allen Fossbender, Superintendent

Nick Simeonidis, Chairman of the Redding Board of Education

Julia Pemberton, Chairman of the Region 9 Board of Education

*“When we learned three years ago of REF’s desire to promote and to fund excellence in education, we were warmed by its intentions. We now inspired by its success. In a relatively short period of time, hundreds of students and many teachers in Redding and Region 9 have become beneficiaries of REF’s selfless work and impressive donations.”*

*Allen Fossbender, Nick Simeonidis & Julia Pemberton*

## OUR VISION...

### PARTNER IN THE PROMOTION OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION.

REF will partner with the schools, community members, and organizations to achieve a shared vision of educational excellence through innovation. REF will invest in community educational and cultural initiatives that are beyond the scope of the town budget.

INSPIRE THE JOY OF LIFELONG LEARNING. REF investments will inspire learning through the

application of intellectual and technological innovations to promote greater learning efficacy and efficiency. REF investments will celebrate and respect the passion and professional excellence of our educators.

### AN INFORMED AND

RESPONSIBLE STEWARD. REF works diligently to be informed on the best and latest research and educational practices nationwide to responsibly apply funds and resources toward their highest and best use in the community.

### GARNER COMMUNITY TRUST.

Through strong partnerships, responsible and informed investments,

and evidenced benefit to the community, REF seeks to attract the abundant resources and expertise for its community initiatives. REF is an all volunteer board of community members who all give of their time talent and treasury to support REF initiatives.

### A COMMUNITY OF

EXCELLENCE. REF's vision shall enhance Redding's reputation as a preferred place to educate and live.

### SERVE BEYOND OUR BORDERS.

REF endeavors to be a model for other communities seeking to promote educational excellence.

# GRANTS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PRACTICE

To effect change is the essence of teaching. It is a goal and at the same time it is the real source of our fulfillment. Each year the young lives placed in the teacher's care are forever altered as they grow in knowledge and stature. An ever-growing cache of potential tools and methods available are revolutionizing the ability for teachers to create greater efficiencies and depth of learning. The question frequently confronts us. In this sea of instruments, both intellectual and technological, are there some that can lead to more knowledge and better understanding in that precious annual promotion each student realizes? Are there programs that can provide the means to make it possible to realize the depth and beauty of Shakespeare more expeditiously or to solve a high order polynomial equation quickly? Grants for the Enhancement of Educational Practice is designed to encourage such exploration at every grade level.

The Foundation wants to support the teacher in answering these questions. For a modest maximum grant of \$2,000, GEEP promotes innovation in teaching, innovation that leads to excellence. In a real sense, this is for the teacher: a very special exercise of academic freedom.

From 2005 to 2006, REF funded 11 grants totaling \$16,520. Four grants comprised a highly successful SMART Board pilot program at RES that will be replicated at JBHS this year in partnership with the Easton Learning Foundation. **With your generous support we hope to raise \$15,000 for 2006 - 2007 GEEP grants.** For a full description of GEEP grants, visit our website [www.reddingeducationfoundation.org](http://www.reddingeducationfoundation.org). GEEP grants are available to all educators in Redding. Applications may also be found on our website.

## REF GRANTS FOR 2006

- 3 SMART Boards to RES
- 1 SMART Board to JBHS
- SMART Board Professional Training to JBHS
- Art History Elective Course to JBHS
- Comparator Microscope to JBHS
- iPod Project for Humanities Department to JBHS
- Writing Practice Program for JRMS
- Odyssey of the Mind to JRMS
- Interdisciplinary Art/ ILA Project to JRMS

## CULTURAL ARTS CORNER

To deliver on our mission to foster the fulfillment of learning at every age, REF believes the cultural arts are as essential to educational fulfillment as breathing is to life. We believe the arts are an empowering teacher, offering multiple perspectives and ways to interpret the world. Art teaches that problem solving is complex, dynamic and full of unforeseen opportunities and paths toward solutions. Art expresses where words fail.

REF will continue to encourage the expression of Cultural Arts in Redding by investing resources, be they financial or otherwise, to celebrate the arts in all its varied forms in the schools and community. This year, we funded 5 grants totaling \$6,288. With your generous support, we hope to raise \$5,000 for grants to cultural arts projects in the community.

For the last three years REF has invested in a broad range of cultural arts projects that nurture to fruition REF's belief in the power of art for our community. Many grants speak to REF's commitment to invest more than just financial resources to maximize the community's benefit. For example:

"A Georgetown Story", a full length documentary about Georgetown's factory town legacy is currently under the production of capable filmmaker and Redding resident, John Maher. REF granted \$2,000 toward the cost to create a 3-minute trailer necessary to raise the \$70,000 to completion of the documentary. REF will assist Georgetown Village Restoration in applying for a \$10,000 grant from the History Channel to complete the financing of the documentary. The 3 minute trailer may be

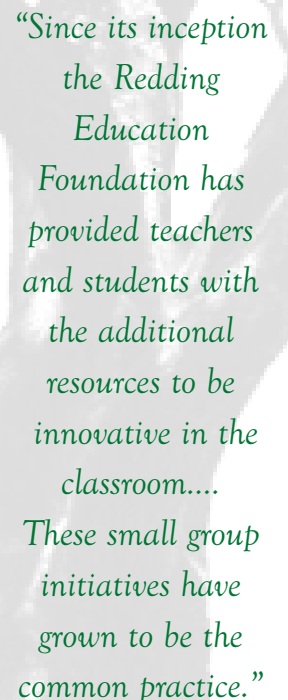
viewed on our website at [www.reddingeducationfoundation.org](http://www.reddingeducationfoundation.org) under the Cultural Arts link.

REF partnered with the JRMS PTA to purchase a \$3,000 Digital Piano for the JRMS music program. Immediately following, a second digital piano was anonymously donated to complete the replacement of badly depreciated pianos. The digital pianos are a significant enhancement over regular pianos in the classroom offering advanced instruction in composition and music theory as well as mobility. They have taken them "on the road" to community coffee house performances by students and teachers.

In partnership with the Mark Twain Library, the Easton Library, and the Easton Learning Foundation, the two town libraries will bring "One Book, One Community" program to Redding and Easton, a region wide book club so to speak. "One Book, One Community" programs can be found in towns throughout the US. The Mark Twain Library will announce the chosen book and program soon. Check our website for updates! Sign up on our Website for updates.

Our website [www.reddingeducationfoundation.org](http://www.reddingeducationfoundation.org) details all the cultural arts grants made over the last three years. You may also find an insightful article by Elliot Eisner and The National Art Education Association on "Ten Lessons the Arts Teach" that guides our grant making in the arts.

Just as we assisted in helping Peter Pan fly in the JRMS production, may your creative aspirations fly as well!



*"Since its inception the Redding Education Foundation has provided teachers and students with the additional resources to be innovative in the classroom.... These small group initiatives have grown to be the common practice."*

*Jennifer Desmarais,  
JBHS Humanities  
Department*

# refQUEST: Wellness

Welcome to the second year of refQUEST, the Redding Education Foundation's effort to evolve "adult ed" into a considered approach to learning in the Information Age. True to our mission, to foster the fulfillment of learning at every age through innovation and creativity, this year our focus is on "Wellness".

In alignment with current State of Connecticut Wellness Policies REF welcomes the opportunity to educate adults, parents and the community about "inputs and resulting outputs". Given the crisis our nation faces regarding the health of our children--early age onset diabetes, rising obesity, reduction in physical activity, the changing food paradigm--less nutrition/more additives--it is clear that changes are necessary.

The Wellness refQUEST series will feature an eight part audio series called "You Are What You Eat", written and narrated by Paul Chek, founder of the Chek Institute in San Diego, California. The events will focus on research and controversy within the food industry. The series will enlighten and provide suggestions in the following related areas: organic vs. commercial foods; cooked vs. raw; food processing; packaging and storage;

genetically modified foods; food irradiation; fiber, detoxification and colon health; the pros and cons of a various food groups and finally, health concerns regarding microwave ovens.

The forums will include listening to the CD followed by an open question and answer session. Discussion will include "how we're doing" with regard to nutrition in our personal lives and in our schools and how we can effect change where necessary. Several sessions will involve topic related specialists.

Supplemental materials will be available at the Mark Twain Library. For more information on the nature of the series, you may visit Paul Chek's website at [www.checkinstitute.com](http://www.checkinstitute.com).

In harmony with the information gleaned from the series, REF will develop for the youth of our community, a "kids eye view" project that stresses life-long nutrition skills associated with the "You Are What You Eat" program. The end objective, to instill and ingrain positive behaviors to promote wellness amongst students and the community will be a benefit to all.

Lecture information will be advertised and posted on the REF website: [www.reddingeducationfoundation.org](http://www.reddingeducationfoundation.org). Please sign up for notices.

All are welcome! Please join us in the educational endeavor.

"We do  
as we know.  
When we  
know better,  
we do better."

*Maya Angelou*

## Just In Time For the Holidays....

### C.O.R.E CELEBRATING OUR REDDING EDUCATORS

We all hold dear that one teacher who inspired and influenced who we are today. For me, I remember moments of inspiration from practically every teacher I had. My children feel the same about their teachers and work earnestly to make the perfect gift to show their respect at holiday time

While I trust all the homemade "goodies" and original art were "treasured" by their teachers, REF offers another meaningful way to add to the holiday gift basket your children give their teachers. Through C.O.R.E., (Celebrating our Redding Educators), your child may donate up to \$25 to REF in the name of the educator they choose to honor. The donation will go toward our Grants for the Enhancement of Educational Practice, GEEP grants that directly and indirectly benefit all the educators in the three schools. Your child will receive a certificate to hand directly to the teacher or "honoree" plus a small token of our appreciation for her/his

thoughtfulness. Honored educators will be listed each year in our newsletter and on our website.

Links to our website make donations a snap. Log onto [www.reddingeducationfoundation.org](http://www.reddingeducationfoundation.org), click onto the C.O.R.E. link and fill out the form. Payment may be made through our secure server by hitting the "donate now" button or sending a check to The Redding Education Foundation, P.O. Box 1329, Redding CT, 06875.

C.O.R.E. for any amount, can also celebrate students or family members on birthdays, anniversaries, religious holidays, etc.

REF wishes your family joy throughout the holiday season.

#### C.O.R.E.

Ms Sallita Ballard  
Mr. Frederick Barna  
Ms. Kelly Blessey  
Mrs. Socha Cohen  
Mr. Walter Czudak  
Dr. Allen Fossbender  
Mrs. Sally Francia  
Ms. Melissa Gaeta  
Mrs. Lena Green  
Ms. Deborah Grockowski  
Mrs. Christine Hannafey  
Mr. Charles Huot  
Ms. Susanne Karl  
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Mrs. Nancy Prather  
Ms. Kate Quinn  
Ms Julie Rosenshein  
Mr. Ward Sader  
Mrs. Alice Smith  
Ms. Lisa Welp



# THE BENEFIT OF INVESTING IN REF

*Local Education Foundations are “a powerful mechanism (to) not only support their local schools, but potentially play a more enduring role in the quality and scope of local education.”*

*Connecticut Policy and Economic Council*

**M**aking donations is such a wonderful thing. Knowing that you are helping to promote educational innovation and excellence through the dollars that you contribute, not only helps the beneficiaries of your donations, but helps you feel good as well. That’s why funneling your contributions and gifts through REF makes so much sense. Why? because the name of the REF game is ensuring that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

It’s all about leverage. For one thing, there is financial leverage. Did you know, for example, that the more participation and support REF receives from Redding residents, the more REF is able to attract corporate sponsorships. For approximately \$16,000 of individual donations to the mobile lab campaign, REF was able to tap the generous support of IBM and others for equipment valued at over \$60,000. For every \$2,100 SMART Board purchased, the schools received a \$600 grant from SMART Technologies thereby reducing REF’s cost per board to \$1,400. Crown House Publishing funded the entire costs of refQUEST last year.

Leverage is not only about the financial benefits. REF spends a great deal of time learning from educational experts nationwide about the innovations that are increasingly making their way into K-12 classrooms. We are networked into the conversation about which technologies are at the cutting edge in the educational arena and about how this technology is being used in other classrooms around the country. Grants approved by REF conform to not only our published criteria, they are also in line with the insights of best educational practices around the country. In several instances, REF has provided funds to help the schools purchase cutting edge technologies as a pilot (Mobile labs, SMART Boards, iPODS). This lets the educators “test drive” the technology to confirm its educational benefit before a significant investment and rollout is recommended, effectively saving taxpayers the research and development risk and cost.

Leverage also comes in the form of follow up to ensure that contributions are being well spent. REF monitors and safeguards the grants made. Every grant recipient is required to submit feedback and recommendations for broader application. Equipment funded by REF contributions include warranty, professional development, and security procedures. REF partners in providing the professional development where needed to maximize the utility of technology investments. Where warranted, REF partners to apply single grants more widely for the benefit of the whole educational community.

All in all, an investment in REF not only makes sound economic sense for each taxpayer and the community as a whole, but it helps to improve the learning opportunity, morale, and culture in the school system and to affirm the commitment to educational excellence of our great Redding community. It is thrilling to bring a better idea into the light of community discourse, see a child truly engaged in the joy of learning, empower teachers to apply their ideas in the pursuit of excellence and know with certainty that a small contribution of family resources can, through REF, make such a huge difference. That is what leverage is all about!

**"The Redding Education Foundation is an extraordinary community partner with the schools as we strive together for educational excellence. The vision, dedication and generosity of REF members and contributors continue to inspire and support our efforts to enrich the education of our students at every level."**

*Nick Simeonidis, Chairman of the Redding Board of Education*

# DIVING INTO THE 21ST CENTURY: SMART BOARDS LEAD THE WAY

When students walked into the computer lab at Redding Elementary School last September, they were greeted by a new computer screen on steroids. The 64 inch screen affixed to the wall behaved like a chalk board and a computer combined. Students and teachers could write, erase or pop up an internet site on the board. Then touch the on-screen keyboard to download the screen shot as a Word, Excel or PowerPoint document. Just as envisioned, the SMART Board proved to be a compelling enhancement to the learning process.

"When we submitted grant applications to the REF for several SmartBoards our goal was to expand the potential for student engagement with the use of this technology. The SmartBoards have far exceeded our goals and expectations. Our entire learning community of students and staff profits from these boards. They create an interactive learning environment for all learners." Elise Glynn, Technology Specialist, Redding Elementary School

REF funded three interactive white boards utilized in a 2nd grade classroom, the Computer Lab for all classes to use, and the third was mounted on wheels to be utilized for the enrichment program.

Based upon the success of the pilot program, the Redding Board of Education has committed to purchase SMART boards for RES and JRMS over the next three years.

REF and ELF are now partnering with educators at JBHS. A SMART Board pilot project was launched at JBHS this fall. REF and the Easton



Learning Foundation along with the Albertelli family purchased three Smartboards placed in ninth grade mathematics, social studies, and art history classrooms as well as the Media Center Seminar room for school wide use and training. In partnership with the Easton Learning Foundation, and your generosity, REF hopes to raise \$20,000 for widespread application of SMART technology at JBHS. "REF has quickly demonstrated its ability to make significant positive contributions to our schools, first at JRMS with the funding drive to purchase laptops and printers for the portable computer labs, then with the mini grant programs, and now with the effort to fund the implementation of SMART Board technology within the Region 9 District and Joel Barlow High School. These are all examples of initiatives with a direct positive benefit to the classroom, that could not have been achieved without the financial support of the Redding Education Foundation. We recognize the Redding Education Foundation as a valuable partner in our quest for educational excellence," Julia Pemberton, Chairman Region 9 Board of Education.

"The use of SMART Board technology is an excellent way to integrate 21st Century technology skills into daily instruction and to allow students exposure and opportunity to current best practices. This cutting edge technology allows teachers and students meaningful opportunities by actively engaging students in the learning process."

*Marie Mas, Director of Curriculum*

## Thank You REF Contributors!

### GOLD \$2,500 and Above:

#### REF BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

David Anderson & Family  
Joseph Dolan & Family  
Sue Dorenbosch & Family  
Kate Ebbott & Family  
Lynn Eichhorn & Family  
Susan Goldman & Family  
Patsy King & Family  
Dr. John Mahony  
Robert Moran & Family  
Cathy Slavin & Family  
Alice Smith & Family  
The Baker Foundation

### SILVER \$1,000 to \$2,499

Frank and Joan DeSalvo

### BRONZE \$500 TO \$999

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Helen Hermes  
The Indiveri Family  
Mavis Elaine Schlappé Kylo & Palmer  
James Kylo  
The Gary Miyashiro Family  
Margaret & Colin Rooney  
The Sullivan Family  
Ronald, Jeanne, & Joren Wendschuh  
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas J. Wood

### SUSTAINER \$250 TO \$499

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Charles & Misia Dudley  
The Goldberg Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lake  
Andy & Lisa Perkins  
Keith and Jennifer Palmer

Pequot Capital  
Matthew & Pamela Robey  
The United Way

### CONTRIBUTOR \$100 TO \$249

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The Stevens Family  
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The Tschudi Family  
The Landau-Yonkers Family  
Joan & Steve Yurman

### ASSOCIATE, up to \$99

June April  
The Churchill Family  
Eugene Connolly  
Joan Ensor  
Gil & Mary Lancaster  
Leslie Latham  
McNeel Kaufman Family  
Arthur & Bea Shilstone

# SURVEY TO REDDING RESIDENTS

*Dear Redding Resident:*

*Please take a moment to complete this survey (one person per household) and return it to us in the postage-paid envelope provided. Your responses will provide valuable input on the direction of the Redding Education Foundation and its investment in the community. Kindly respond by January 31, 2007. We appreciate your time and effort. THANK YOU!*

*The Redding Education Foundation (REF) is a local, non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to mobilizing and enhancing opportunities to promote educational excellence through innovation and creativity. Through your generosity it funds grant requests that are beyond the scope of taxpayer responsibility for our schools and our community.*

**1. Are you aware of the Redding Education Foundation? (Check all that apply)**

Yes       Somewhat       No       Contributor

If yes, where have you heard about the Foundation? (Check all that apply)

REF Board Member     Friend/Neighbor       Redding Pilot       REF Newsletter  
 Website (School, Town, REF, Board of Education)     Event       School/PTO  
 Other (please specify)

**2. A complete list of grants and projects REF has funded may be found at [www.reddingeducationfoundation.org](http://www.reddingeducationfoundation.org).**

**2a. Please check any of the following which describes your contact with REF to date...**

My child(ren) have used technology purchased by REF  
 My child(ren) have benefited from grants to the schools  
 My child(ren)'s teachers have received grants from REF  
 I, or members of my family, have attended an REF sponsored educational event  
 I am affiliated with an organization that has, or I have directly benefited from an REF grant

**2b. Do you think the work of REF provides any value to you, your children, or indirectly to the quality of life in our community or property value? please mark each as: 1 (Strongly agree), 2 (Agree), 3 (Disagree), 4 (Strongly Disagree) 5 (Not Applicable)**

REF grants enhance Redding's ability to attract quality educators  
 Overall the work of REF promotes educational excellence

**Over the long term:**

REF's work will create systemic cost savings to taxpayers  
 REF's work will enhance the quality of life in Redding and have favorable implications for property value

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. The rapid evolution of technologically oriented learning solutions for the schools are often beyond the capacity of the schools' budget to fund major purchase. Once a technology has been successfully piloted in the schools, at the Board's request, REF would then initiate a capital campaign to purchase the technology for widespread application in the schools. Currently, we are preparing a campaign to raise funds to purchase SMART Boards for Joel Barlow High School.**

What information would be necessary to support a SMART Board campaign?

Information letter     Demonstration     Articles     Information links on the website     E-mail     Other



4. REF would like your opinion on what you think it's priorities for the next few years should be.

Please rank as: 1) Highest Priority... 2.) Middle Priority... 3.) Lowest Priority

- Fund programs to pilot cutting edge educational innovations
- Raise funds for significant technology acquisitions requested by the schools or community
- Create more opportunities for professional development of educators by increasing access to existing professional development through communication technologies
- Fund requests from educators and administrators for innovative educational experiences
- Invest in Cultural Arts within Redding
- Increase community educational initiatives and programming.
- Develop programming for Redding's educational access channel

Any suggestions on topics for programs?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Which of the following would you respond to for a contribution or to get more information?

(Check those that apply)

- Mailer       Phone       Event       Article       Request from friend or neighbor
- Go to the website       E-mail       Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. What kind of information would you need to make a financial contribution this year?

(Check those that apply)

- Goals of the foundation     Types and amount of grants given
- Types and amount of future grants     Other, please identify \_\_\_\_\_

7. If you contribute, which of the following means would you use?

- Check       Online (web)       Credit card       Donation of securities

8. If you were willing to contribute your time, what areas of expertise or interest do you have that may be of benefit to any of the Redding Education Foundation projects listed below?

PROJECTS:

- Research community Greenhouse
- Video Production for Channel 79
- Blog Master
- Podcast Development
- Structure Endowment Fund
- Research emerging technologies for educational enhancement

COMMITTEES:

- Information Management
- Development
- Public Relations
- Events
- refQUEST
- Alumni Relations

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

May we contact you? Name: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_