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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Altos Educational Foundation Meets \$1.92 Million Fundraising Goal -- Achieves Financial Commitment to Los Altos School District for 2008-2009 --

LOS ALTOS, Calif., April 29, 2009 – Underscoring the vast allegiance the Los Altos community has to its public schools, the Los Altos Educational Foundation (LAEF) announced today that it has raised \$1.92 million, its total financial commitment to the Los Altos School District (LASD) for the 2008 – 2009 school year. In response to an increasingly challenging economic climate, LAEF stepped up its fundraising campaign efforts and many parents in the LASD made additional contributions to the Foundation resulting in the largest contribution in LAEF's history. The \$1.92 million grant will enable the district to pay for teachers and aides to help maintain smaller class sizes and enrichment programs such as technology, science, art, music and physical education for children in grades K-8. LAEF increased its fundraising goal by \$200,200 over the 2007-2008 grant in order to sustain and enhance these important programs. Key programs funded district-wide this year also included a highly successful writing program that teaches a step-by-step approach to the writing process, ongoing science initiatives, and "best practices" training for teachers to better utilize digital technologies. For over 26 years, LAEF has increased its annual fundraising goal 20 fold to meet the growing needs of the LASD in response to declining state funding. Without LAEF funds, these vital district-wide programs would not be possible.

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"This year's financial goal commitment was particularly daunting for LAEF given the current economic crisis. We are grateful to members of the Los Altos community for again demonstrating their commitment to excellence in education through their generous donations," said Teresa Kersten, LAEF president. "LAEF contributions are critical for the LASD to keep class sizes small and provide important enrichment programs that will help enable our students to compete effectively in the 21st century," she added.

For over 26 years, LAEF has raised over \$17.1 million to enhance the district's solid academic program. School administrators and staff rely on and greatly value the additional resources made possible by LAEF funding.

"The deep cuts in state funding for public education this year have had considerable impact on our district as well as many others. Thanks to LAEF's significant financial support, we will be able to maintain key programs that many other districts throughout the state have been forced to eliminate," explained Tim Justus, Superintendent for the LASD. "The annual LAEF contribution to our schools has significant impact on what the LASD can provide to our students next year. With the continued support from LAEF we will be able to maintain a rich and well-rounded educational experience that allows each child to reach his or her potential."

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ABOUT THE LOS ALTOS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (LAEF)

Founded in 1982, the Los Altos Educational Foundation (LAEF) is comprised of all Los Altos elementary and middle school parents who contribute to making the Foundation's fundraising goals. The funds are used to enrich children's education through smaller class sizes, art, music, physical education, and science and technology. Over 95% of the foundation's annual goal is achieved through parents' contributions and matching funds from their employers. LAEF is not endowed by a few large companies or wealthy families; the difference is collectively made one family and one pledge at a time. The Los Altos Educational Foundation (LAEF) is a 501(c3) not-for-profit organization, tax id **94-2862793**. For more information, please call LAEF at 650-559-0445 or donate online at www.laefonline.org.