

2008 GRANT AWARDS

Ladera Ranch Education Foundation

Ladera Ranch Education Foundation Passes \$100,000 Milestone

Ladera Ranch, Calif., May 19, 2008 – The Ladera Ranch Education Foundation Board awarded grants totaling approximately \$45,000 to local schools today, bringing the total of amounts granted to local schools by LREF to over \$109,000 since it's inception in July 2004. "This has been an historic year for LREF," said president Sherry Brooks. "This year, our volunteers raised more funds than ever before. It is fitting that in this record year we also granted a record amount of funds and have passed the \$100,000 mark in total grants." The amount of funds granted each year is determined based on the year's fund raising totals, the current financial position of LREF at the time the grants are awarded and the amount and type of grant requests received. Kevin Brooks, LREF Chairman of the Board, commented on the grant process - "We feel very fortunate to be able to provide record grant funds to our schools, especially in light of the current economic environment. Our goal is to directly impact the education of our public school students here in Ladera Ranch."

This year's grants featured a focus on technology. Several grant request submitted include requests for document cameras to aid in instruction while reducing paper consumption on campus' throughout the community. Amounts awarded during this year's grant process are as follows:

Chaparral Elementary School received \$9,552 for document cameras, projectors and related technology for classroom use, school wide math curriculum materials to support math instruction and Junior Great Brooks to promote literacy.

Ladera Ranch Elementary School received \$7,296 for document cameras for classroom use, an audio book library to promote literacy and

subscriptions to National Geographic and Scholastic News magazines for current events studies.

Ladera Ranch Middle School received \$5,462 for document cameras for classroom use and field sports equipment for the physical education department to promote physical fitness.

Oso Grande Elementary School received \$8,727 for additional SRA Reading Lab curriculum materials, Rigby Leveled Guided Reading materials and instructional-leveled novels to promote literacy, math manipulative to support the current math curriculum, technology to support instruction and science materials for hands-on science experiments.

San Juan Hills High School received \$1,400 to establish a Saturday School program. SJHHS is currently the only high school in the district without a Saturday School program.

Additionally, two grants were awarded that benefit multiple Ladera Ranch public schools. A \$2,200 grant was awarded to music teacher Mr. Jerome Healy for technology to be used in music education. Mr. Healy teaches music for grades K-3 at all three Ladera Ranch elementary schools. Finally, a \$10,000 grant was awarded as the request of the principals at Chaparral, Ladera Ranch and Oso Grande Elementary Schools and Ladera Ranch Middle school. The principals at the four schools requested funds to be directed to the district wide effort to reduce class sizes for the 2008/2009 school year.

The purpose of Ladera Ranch Education grant program is to provide funds to enrich the learning environment, motivate students, and enhance instructional effectiveness. The Foundation recommends that principals and teachers submit requests for projects, materials or equipment that directly benefit students and indirectly focuses the attention of our community on the positive results within our schools. There are no categorical restrictions on grants and projects may cover

any subject. Grants are first individually reviewed by the LREF Advisory Board, a non-voting board whose purpose is to provide insight, advice and support to the Board of Directors. The grants are then reviewed on an individual basis and voted on by the LREF Board of Directors. The current year's awards bring the total granted by LREF to over \$109,000 since the foundation was formed in July 2004.

“Because of the current state wide budget crisis, our public schools need our help more than ever.” Sherry Brooks said. “The support from our community has been fabulous this year and that support will directly impact our students.”

The research is overwhelmingly clear: when parents and communities are involved in our children's schools, their education improves. And improved education leads to better test scores, better behavior, increased graduation rates in both high school and college and increased success beyond school.

The Ladera Ranch Education Foundation was created to raise funds to enrich and improve the quality of the educational environment for the public school children of Ladera Ranch. It is designed to strengthen the relationship between the public schools and the community and to support a level of excellence and innovation in the children's educational experience. LREF supports Chaparral, Ladera Ranch and Oso Grande Elementary Schools, Ladera Ranch Middle School and San Juan Hills and Tesoro High Schools.

For more on the foundation, please visit our website at www.lrefonline.org.