

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Charity Begins at Home

Why a WAN?

EL SEGUNDO, Calif., - December 5, 2000 –The El Segundo Educational Foundation is asking for donations from residents and businesses to help pay for a Wide Area Network (WAN) that will revolutionize the way local school children learn and communicate. This effort will give donors the opportunity to make a tremendous difference in the lives of more than 2000 youngsters in El Segundo. The WAN will connect computers from El Segundo Unified School District's five public schools and the District Office to each other and to the Internet, and will provide the opportunity for students to learn skills they'll need for college and the work force.

When the WAN goes live, teachers will train students on proper research and information gathering techniques and take them on virtual field trips to far away places and times. Students will be able to access their school's Web site for homework assignments, lists of class materials, and upcoming events. School and District administrators will distribute staff memos, plan staff development, and integrate data on test and student information, saving significant amounts of time, money, and paper, and improving efficiency.

The WAN also will provide a timely method of communication between parents and teachers, and eventually will offer parents password-protected access to their children's attendance, grades, and discipline records.

For most working adults, exchanging e-mail and visiting Web sites are as common as getting voice mail messages or using the Yellow Pages. Yet, because the state has not allocated the money to get El Segundo classrooms online, students, teachers, and parents are not able to take advantage of this more convenient form of communication.

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“To exist in the world today, people must learn how to communicate using the Internet and the Web. In fact, well over half of the nation’s classrooms are connected already, so we have some catching up to do,” said El Segundo Middle School Principal Dr. Dan Webb. “Unfortunately, not every student has home access to the Internet. That’s why the Foundation’s gift is so meaningful. It will positively impact every student in our District.”

In February 2000, the Foundation pledged to raise \$300,000 to pay for the WAN and already has donated the first \$100,000 toward the project, which is underway at the schools. Meanwhile, the Foundation continues to solicit donations and plan fund-raisers to generate the remaining \$200,000 and to fund other “Wish List” items for each campus.

The Foundation is urging El Segundo residents and businesses to consider, as their final charitable contributions for the millennium, a gift to the Foundation and a gift to the community. Donations of any amount are welcome, and contributions may be earmarked for the WAN, a gift that will be used daily by El Segundo students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Please mail your tax-deductible donations to El Segundo Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 591, El Segundo, 90245 or call 615-2650, x229 for more information.

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