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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Apple Tree Foundation For Woodland Youth awards six grants to area schools**

WOODLAND – More than \$6,000 in grants was awarded Thursday night to six Woodland school programs – helping more than 1,070 students and dozens of teachers.

The Apple Tree Foundation for Woodland Youth Board President Dorothy Minges announced the grant awards at the school board meeting Thursday, and presented a check for \$6,750.

“We are excited to present our first grants to benefit local students and teachers,” said Minges. “These six grants will enhance a variety of school programs and impact all grade levels – kindergarten through twelfth grade.”

The grants were given in honor of Starr and Jeff Barrow, who opened their home, the historic Gable Mansion, for the Foundation’s first fund-raising event in March. The Student Art Auction featured work by Woodland High School Advanced Placement art students, and raised more than \$6,000. A recent donation of \$750 from Creative School Resources and Research in Woodland allowed for an additional grant to be distributed.

“The Barrows graciously opened their beautiful home for our event, and we’re delighted to give these grants in their honor,” Minges said. “And the recent donation from CSRR allowed us to help out one more program. The community support the Foundation has received is remarkable.”

The Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)3, offered grants up to \$1,000 each for projects that enhance student learning and teaching opportunities. Special emphasis was given to projects that encourage interaction with local organizations and respond to community needs.

“The Foundation’s goal is to provide funding to help both students and teachers – such as a field trip to enhance a history lesson or a piece of specialized equipment for use in a classroom,” Minges said. “We received a number of applications – and all were innovative programs deserving of funding.”

Unfortunately, we couldn't fund all the applicants. However, we were able to fully fund four programs, and partially fund two other applicants."

Four grant proposals were fully funded. Those recipients were:

- Maxwell Elementary School – KidPix Deluxe Studio. Every pupil at Maxwell will benefit from the purchase of a site license to a software program designed to enhance learning. Teacher Marcia Goudie will train other fellow teachers on how to integrate the software into everyday lessons. Each child will have access to the kid-friendly software program, which is designed to encourage and excite youngsters to learn by allowing them to create posters, brochures, slide shows, etc. to enhance daily lessons.
- Lee Junior High School – Anger management groups. School nurse Sue Horn will start English and Spanish-speaking anger management groups on campus to promote student safety and decrease violence and resulting suspensions and expulsions. The anger management groups are designed to improve school safety by teaching and having youths practice appropriate responses to anger, while promoting a sense of belonging to the school. The program will serve an estimated 60 seventh- and eighth-grade students.
- Douglass Junior High School – Space Exploration program. Teacher Susan Little will co-supervise an after school club for eighth-grade students interested in science. One element of the program will be a space mission simulation at the Discovery Museum in Sacramento, Challenger Learning Center. During the simulation, students will be "launched" into space, land on Mars and conduct experiments while recording data.
- Woodland High School – Baskets To Go. Ninth- through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students in special education teacher Tricia Decker's classroom will start a small business creating and selling gift baskets. The made-to-order products will give students hands-on experience in organization, purchasing, record keeping, computer, money and social skills. The program will also enhance the skills of the non-severely handicapped students by encouraging participation in the business.

Two proposals received partial funding. They are:

- Ramon S. Tafoya Elementary School – Expanding Opportunities program. A grant was awarded to teachers Karen Dumars, Grace Callaway, Katie Colombani and Jackie Leary toward a program designed to expand sixth-grade students' exposure to the arts by taking them to a performance at the Mondavi Center at UC Davis. The program is designed to enhance

children's understanding and appreciation of the performing arts, while encouraging the development of vocabulary.

- Woodland High School, Arts and Communications PAC – Art program. More than 400 students will benefit from the grant awarded to Chuck Warner and the A&C PAC at WHS. The grant will be used to help fund activities that enhance the visual and performing arts, such as a UCD Presents program and master classes, guest speakers, and tickets to off-campus performances.

“The Apple Tree Foundation Board felt it was appropriate to reward the Arts and Communications PAC at Woodland High with a larger grant because they were instrumental in the initial fund-raising event for the Foundation,” Minges said. “These amazingly talented youth in the A&C program donated more than 40 pieces of art that the Foundation auctioned off in March. And we, as a Board, were happy to help fill some of the budget gaps this program is facing due to state funding cuts.”

“The Foundation also thanks the Barrows, Dr. Cleve Baker, R.H. Phillips, The Daily Democrat and Gretchen Wilxon of Gorman’s,” Minges added. “All played a key part in the success of our event.”

The Apple Tree Foundation is the first of its kind for Woodland, but joins more than 400 such foundations in California in supporting public education by providing grants to enhance programs. For more information about the Foundation, please call 662-0182, or visit the Apple Tree Foundation’s website at: [www.appletreefoundation.org](http://www.appletreefoundation.org).