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**PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **WEST SIDE SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM RECEIVES \$2075.00 IN FUNDING**

The West Side School in Healdsburg has met and surpassed an initial goal to raise funds for the student lead recycling program that takes place on this semi-rural K-6 campus. Several community sources have provided funds for this dynamic project over the last several weeks.

The recycling program is lead by a parent volunteer that works with the sixth grade class and school. The program is designed to encourage good recycling habits. The school hosts a RecyCool Club, which consists of 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in recycling. Last year's RecyCool Club had ninety members sign-up, out of a student body of approximately 135 students. Club members alternate staffing of a recycling cart at lunch, and track the amounts of materials recycled on a weekly basis. The students also maintain worm bins, and harvest the compost as a fundraiser to further support the program.

A goal was set to raise approximately \$2000 for the 2004-05 school year through funding proposals submitted to Rotary Clubs in the area. The requested funds will allow for the purchase recycling equipment and supplies that expand on the success of the program, develop special events, and attract guest speakers on a variety of subjects related to recycling. To date, \$2075 has been raised.

The groups and entities that recently provided funding include: the Healdsburg Rotary Club- \$500; the Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Club- \$750; a donor advised fund from the Community Foundation - \$750; and a donation from the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center - \$75. Two of the fund sources will go directly to the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, who will then provide all of the funds to the school. The Healdsburg Rotary Club will present their donation to the school on Monday September 27<sup>th</sup>.

The RecyCool Club at West Side continues to raise funds to support annual promotional prizes and special events for the students. The next fund raising event will be held during the first three Saturdays in October, through the sale of worm "castings" at the Healdsburg Farmers Market. Come out and support the school's efforts by purchasing this soil amendment (and/or placing a future order)!

If you are interested in receiving more information about this project, please contact Rick Kaye at (707) 569-1448, or [rickk@sonic.net](mailto:rickk@sonic.net).

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