

RUSSIAN RIVER VALLEY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
SECOND ANNUAL ART & WINE BENEFIT TOUR

Creating a better future through art and music, the Russian River Valley Foundation – a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to enriching children’s education – announces its second annual “Little Yellow School Bus Art and Wine Tour” taking place on October 23, 2004 from 11am to 7pm. This day-long benefit begins at Fife’s Guest Ranch in Guerneville, CA and includes a choice of two bus tours to wineries and art galleries. Patrons return to the ranch for dinner, dancing and a live auction. Tickets cost \$75 per person and can be purchased online at www.russianrivervalleyfoundation.org or by calling 707-524-9846. The majority of net proceeds are donated to art and music programs in Russian River Valley schools.

The Foundation provides assistance to schools where 30% of students in the area are living at or below the poverty level. Last year’s bus tour met with great success, raising over \$24,000. By donating 90% of net proceeds, the Foundation helped fund grant requests like Guerneville School’s classical music program for kindergarten to fifth-grade students. After-school arts programs also benefited from Foundation sponsorships.

While the impact of the benefit tour was felt in some schools, only half of the grant requests received in 2003 could be funded. “These teachers have hit the streets looking for more funding to keep the programs going next year,” said RRVF President Russel Thompson. With the State of California budget crisis requiring school districts to cut programs like fine arts and music, the goal for 2004 is to raise even more money through silent auction bids and ticket sales. The Foundation is offering a choice of two bus tours with a greater number of wineries (Roshambo, Foppiano, Iron Horse) , galleries and sponsorship opportunities. Community involvement is the fuel that will drive learning in Russian River Valley. This year’s event will feature the winning artwork from a district school art contest for several class levels in Russian River. Children were asked to illustrate their view of life in the Russian River.

To become a sponsor, donate auction items, buy tickets or volunteer, call 707-524-9846.

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Support Russian River Valley schools on October 23, 2004 by purchasing tickets to the second annual “Little Yellow School Bus Art and Wine Tour.” Participants will enjoy a tour of wineries and galleries, followed by dinner, dancing and a live auction at Fife’s Guest Ranch in Guerneville, CA. Proceeds from the event help raise money to subsidize local art and music programs, countering California state budget cuts. The Russian River Valley Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing cultural enrichment programs and increased park and recreational facilities for youth in low income areas. For tickets and information on how to sponsor, donate or volunteer for the event, call 707-524-9846. Or, visit www.russianrivervalleyfoundation.org to learn more.