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SCHOOL BRIDGE LEAGUE “DEALS” WITH CENTER FOR BRIDGE EDUCATION
Partnership formed to bring bridge to students in Bay Area

January 8, 2009, San Francisco, CA – When it comes to learning, the game of bridge brings a “great deal” to the table. So much so, that the Center for Bridge Education has joined forces with the School Bridge LEAGUE to bring the brain-building card game to students throughout San Francisco.

Studies show that students who play bridge score higher on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills than their non-bridge playing counterparts. What’s more, they score higher in all five subject areas (reading, language, math, science, social studies). Also, bridge is a game that enhances reasoning, communication and social skills.

School Bridge LEAGUE -- a division of The LEAGUE formed with the help of a \$1 million pledge from business leaders and bridge enthusiasts, Bill Gates and Warren Buffett – will use its school-based resources and promotional materials to encourage teachers to bring bridge into their classrooms. The Center for Bridge Education will support this effort by providing bridge teachers who are willing to staff school programs or to educate teachers in teaching bridge.

“School Bridge LEAGUE is pleased to partner with Center for Bridge Education to bring this amazing game to more students,” says **Mickie Rinehart**, Director of Operations, The LEAGUE.

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“Through this partnership, we will work together to expand youth bridge activities in the Bay Area. Using our curriculum-based instructional materials, Center for Bridge Education will serve as a local resource to area schools.”

“The Center for Bridge Education is excited to partner with School Bridge LEAGUE to enable us to extend our outreach to more young people in the San Francisco Bay Area,” says **Lauren Friedman**, Treasurer. “The young people we have taught have told us that they enjoy the challenges of the game which has helped them improve their logical thinking skills. We hope that working with The LEAGUE will enable many more of our future leaders to experience the cognitive benefits the game imparts.”

Based in San Francisco, the Center for Bridge Education focuses on finding more schools to sponsor clubs, and more students to learn to play bridge – helping to teach and support bridge programs in San Francisco high schools. To find out more, visit www.center4bridge.org.

School Bridge LEAGUE is a division of The LEAGUE -- formed to empower young people to “get in the game” of giving and making a positive difference in their community, the nation and the world. With over 1,300 lesson plans on giving, service and civic engagement for use in K-12 classrooms nationwide, it is open to every school in the country and is easy and simple to join. The LEAGUE is helping students develop critical thinking skills that allow them to identify issues in their community as well as solutions to address those issues. Teaching young people bridge in the classroom gives students a tool to connect with their community; playing bridge gives students a common language to communicate and connect with other bridge-playing adults and students in their community. To find out more, visit www.schoolbridgeleague.org or www.theleague.org.

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