



May 31, 2011

RAFT Receives Acterra's Business Environment Award for Educational Impact and Environmental Stewardship

Non-Profit Organization Partners with the Community to Create Affordable Hands-on Education Materials that Help Students Succeed in School and Keep Materials Out of Landfills

San Jose, CA May 31, 2011 – Resource Area for Teaching, RAFT, is being recognized by Acterra, Solutions for a Healthy Planet, as a recipient of its 2011 Business Environment Awards. This coveted award recognizes Bay Area leaders that make impactful contributions, serve as a collaborative model for the business community, and deliver significant environmental benefits.

RAFT helps to protect the environment and create a brighter future for today's kids by developing innovative, hands-on education materials that are largely fashioned from goods donated by Bay Area businesses. With additional help from thousands of volunteers, donated materials that would end up in the landfill are transformed into affordable hands-on education kits that engage students and increase their subject matter comprehension. This innovative business model makes it possible for all students to receive the benefits of hands-on education, regardless of their school's budget.

RAFT hands-on activities address important concepts in science, math, and other subject areas. RAFT materials are used by more than 10,000 teachers and community educators and benefit 825,000 children each year. "Because of this tremendous impact on the Bay Area's educational community, RAFT is well-deserving of this year's Environmental Project award," said Walt Hays, Chair of the Business Environmental Awards Judging Committee for Acterra.

"We are very proud to receive this award," said Mary Simon, Executive Director of RAFT. "We are a Certified Bay Area Green Organization, and being stewards of the environment is an important aspect of our mission. Thanks to community support, RAFT is able to transform donated materials and students' learning experience in an educationally and environmentally impactful way. This creates a brighter future for our next generation as well as for the planet."

Awardees of Acterra's Business Environment Awards will be honored at a reception on June 2nd in Palo Alto, California. Additional recipients include Symantec Corporation, GreenWaste Recovery, Inc. and the Humane Society of Silicon Valley. For more information and a complete list of award winners, go to www.acterra.org/programs/bea/.

###

About RAFT

RAFT is a non-profit organization that transforms the learning experience by providing educators – inside and outside of the classroom – with the materials, training and support they need to increase student engagement and achievement. RAFT serves over 10,000 members through its San Jose and Redwood City, CA locations, and Sacramento, CA and Denver, CO affiliates. RAFT creates hands-on project idea sheets and activity kits that engage pre-K-12th graders in interactive and collaborative projects with a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). Assembled by volunteers from largely donated materials, RAFT activities impact over 825,000 students. For more information, visit www.raft.net.