

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Local 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Supports Peace Campaign with SMCU's Help**

REDWOOD CITY, CA – San Mateo Credit Union (SMCU) welcomed a fourth grade class from Sandpiper Elementary School to its Redwood City Branch to support Pennies for Peace. On May 7, 2009, Susan Welter took her class on a field trip to the credit union where the students were able to convert their pennies into a check that they could send to their chosen cause.

The students have been collecting pennies since February 1 in support of the Pennies for Peace campaign aimed at building a bridge for peace by offering educational alternatives to 400 mountain villages in remote northern Pakistan and Afghanistan. Along with collecting the pennies, the students learned about the cultures of Afghanistan and Pakistan. “Ms. Welter has done a great job in combining the lessons of philanthropy and saving money.” said Jennifer Srabian, manager of the Redwood City branch location. “The students expressed their knowledge of the region and how their pennies make a difference.”

The field trip to SMCU is part of the learning experience to broaden the horizons of the students’ philanthropic endeavors. “The students came away with a sense of appreciation for their own education,” said Welter. The students have learned that pennies collected can add up to make a difference, providing supplies such as pencils, erasers, notebooks, tuition and scholarships for students who are on a waiting list, hoping to learn in a new school. The supplies empower a child to learn to read and write in areas where terrorist organizations recruit the uneducated and illiterate.

### **About Pennies for Peace**

Pennies for Peace teaches children the rewards of sharing and working together to bring hope and education opportunities to children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Pennies for Peace campaign is a program through the Central Asia Institute (CAI) founded by Greg Mortenson, author of the #1 New York Times best seller, *Three Cups of Tea*. CAI is focuses on providing community-based education and literacy programs to nearly 100 schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Visit [www.penniesforpeace.org](http://www.penniesforpeace.org) for more information.

### **About San Mateo Credit Union (SMCU)**

Founded in 1952, SMCU is a member-owned financial institution that currently serves more than 69,000 members, who live, work or attend school or church in San Mateo County. Managing more than \$611 million in assets, with six San Mateo County branch locations, SMCU provides a full range of financial services to its member-owners. For information or to find the branch nearest you, visit [www.smcu.org](http://www.smcu.org) or call Direct Assist (650) 363-1725 Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and on Saturday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.