

News Release

For Immediate Release

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***Califone*[®] and Recorded Books Form Alliance
to Help Schools Open the World Within Books**

Audio-Enhanced Classroom Grant first joint project for the two companies

SAN FERNANDO, Calif. (Jan. 25, 2006) – *Califone* International, Inc., the premier manufacturer of quality audio technology for the education market, today announces a strategic relationship with Recorded Books, LLC, the world’s premier publisher of unabridged audiobooks. This partnership furthers the goals of both companies to assist schools and libraries in student learning and literacy development through the power of audio.

The Audio-Enhanced Classroom Grant is one of the first collaborative initiatives resulting from the partnership between *Califone* and Recorded Books. Teachers and administrators have the opportunity to apply for a fully equipped audio-enhanced classroom to support literacy development through the use of unabridged audiobooks and state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment. The two companies are co-sponsoring the grant to promote best practices in the use of audio to improve academic achievement among struggling students. Three educators will be awarded an Audio-Enhanced Classroom Kit worth \$5,000 of *Califone* multimedia technology and audiobooks from Recorded Books. Both companies are now accepting entries.

“Our alliance with Recorded Books is a natural fit,” said Roscoe Anthony, president of *Califone*. “Recorded Books understands the benefits of multimedia, the value audio contributes to the learning environment, and the importance of how students’ ability to clearly hear educational material affects their progress.”

"Recorded Books has appreciated for a long time the importance of top quality listening equipment to access the magic of audiobooks for students," shared William DeLamater, director of the school division for Recorded Books. "That's why an alliance with *Califone* makes so much sense. Educators also demand reliability and great customer service, two priorities that *Califone* and Recorded Books share. We look forward to the benefits that our alliance will bring to students across the country."

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The American Academy of Pediatrics states that listening to stories read aloud promotes brain development and emerging literacy. Listening centers and audiobooks provide an efficient way to support aural reading in the classroom or library and provide students with 1:1 learning and differentiated instruction. Through the centers, students have access to material they might not be able to read on their own, offering them the opportunity to easily absorb new information as well as encounter new words, subjects, and a variety of writing genres and styles.

A listening center consists of headphones and a media player, which can play cassette tape, CD, or mp3s or all three. Listening centers can accommodate individual, group or whole class work through wired or wireless audio transmission to one or more headphones. *Califone* listening centers are specifically designed and safety-certified to withstand the rigors of school and library use and provide wireless connectivity, portability and expandability to meet educators' changing needs.

For more information on *Califone* and its products, call 1-800-722-0500 or visit www.califone.com.

About *Califone*

Califone was founded in 1946 and continues to be a leader in the design, development and manufacturing of audiovisual and supplemental curriculum products for use in education, presentation and professional markets. The company offers a complete line of audio solutions, wireless systems and multimedia products for small, medium and large presentation needs. *Califone* serves millions of educators and children in the PreK through higher education school environments and has expanded to serve business and industry, houses of worship, parks and recreation and other presentation markets as well. For more information, visit www.califone.com or phone (800) 722-0500.

About Recorded Books

Recorded Books, a Hights Cross Communications Company, was founded in 1979 and is the world's largest independent publisher of unabridged audiobooks. Recorded Books provides unabridged audiobooks on cassette and CD for consumer markets, libraries, and schools. For more information, visit www.recordedbooks.com.

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