



Caterpillar, Inc. Supports Educational Web-Site

'Provider Pals Announces Caterpillar, Inc. Support of PROVIDER WORLD Interactive Web Site'

(Libby, Montana) - Provider Pals, a Presidential Award winning urban/rural cultural exchange program, announced Friday, October 5th, that Peoria, Illinois, based Caterpillar, Inc. (CAT) will be the initiating sponsor of their soon to be released student oriented website, 'Provider World.' Caterpillar's multi-year commitment includes a \$238,000 donation in 2006 to underwrite the costs of constructing this exciting, educational web site.

Provider Pals was piloted in rural Montana and in 2002 a 1.5 million dollar donation from Ford Motor Company enabled the program to broaden into cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Detroit and Washington, DC. Ford Motor and others continue to provide support for the program as it has grown to include over 10,000 students per year in over 25 cities in the United States and Canada. The *Wall Street Journal* has called the program 'the most exciting educational initiative in decades.'

The new web site, *Provider World*, will allow students and guests to visit farms, forests, ranches, mines and fishing operations and cultures in an interactive educational gaming format. The pilot site for *Provider World* was launched in late 2005 and has since enjoyed over 2,000,000 registered visitors.

Caterpillar, in announcing the donation to underwrite the start-up of *Provider World*, noted that over the last several decades there has been an erosion of understanding between those who live and work in rural areas and their urban counterparts. "This division between urban and rural areas continues to grow worldwide," said John Carpenter, President of Cat Forestry. He went on to say that "CAT is committed to assist in building a constructive urban and rural dialogue that enables the sharing of similarities and the understanding of the differences between consumers and the stewards that produce products by managing the environment." Carpenter said, "Provider Pals is a great example of this necessary bridge building and CAT is proud to share their vision and provide monetary support to help accomplish their objectives."

Henry Hollings, CAT Foundation President, noted that "Provider Pals is unique in that it provides consumers and producers with a simple, important and often life changing forum in which to simply say 'Hi' and to learn about the very different social, economic and environmental realities we enjoy."

Bruce Vincent, Executive Director of Provider Pals, is excited about the CAT donation. "Our programming is now enjoyed by students and teachers in hundreds of classrooms," said Vincent, "but this donation will enable us to facilitate cultural understanding and respect between hundreds of thousands of youth each year." "CAT has seen the need for the resource managing customer base to reach out to their urban peers and shares with us the desire to use cutting edge technologies to accomplish this worthy task, he said.

Provider Pals programming facilitates urban classroom 'adoptions' of rural resource workers in the fields of farming, ranching, mining, logging and fishing. In addition, students from rural areas travel to urban centers to visit schools of their city peers and participating urban schools travel to Libby, Montana, and join rural students for a week of fun and learning at the Presidential Award Winning Historic Raven Natural Resource Learning Center.

About Provider Pals™

Provider Pals® is a 501c(3) Non-Profit Education Organization that is in its fourth year of full time operation. The mission of this Presidential award winning program is to build bridges of cultural understanding and respect between rural youth, urban youth, and their natural resource providers.

**For more information on Provider Pals, please contact Bruce at (406)293-8822 or bruce@providerpals.com.
You can also visit them on the web at www.providerpals.com.**