



Contact:
Lenora Martin
Interim South Carolina State Director
803-603-3217
lmartin@rfd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
03 September 2008

SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENTS ACHIEVE ACADEMIC SUCCESS
THANKS TO CANTRELL FAMILY GRANT AND NATIONAL NONPROFIT
RECORDING FOR THE BLIND & DYSLEXIC, INC.

03 September 2008 (Columbia, South Carolina) — The Regional Unit of the Upper Southeast of Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic® (RFB&D®), proudly announces the support of a grant from the Cantrell family of Spartanburg, SC. The funding provided Spartanburg Day School in Spartanburg, SC, with access to 100 audio textbooks as well as specialized playback equipment for the entire 2007-2008 school year. RFB&D is the nation's educational library for students of all ages who cannot effectively read standard print because of a learning disability, such as dyslexia, visual impairment or other physical disability.

The students benefiting from this generous grant all have print disabilities and used the audiobooks as part of their overall curriculum. Most participating students saw sizable increases in their reading comprehension scores on the Woodcock-Johnson III Diagnostic Reading Battery. One student increased his reading comprehension score from spring 2007 to spring 2008 by 4.3 grade levels. Moreover, all of the students increased on the Letter Word Identification score, and each of the sixth grade participants exceeded their personal Accelerated Reader goals.

“RFB&D has added one more piece to the intense instruction that the school's Learning Lab and Learning Center receive” said Chrissy Roush, Director of the Day School's Learning Lab. Roush noted one student, who was underperforming and not interested in reading, increased his reading comprehension score up to college level through the program.

The path to student achievement began in August 2007, when RFB&D trained six teachers to operate RFB&D equipment, use the educator website www.learningthroughlistening.org, and track student progress through the Measurable Outcomes Data Collection Form. Throughout the year, five additional onsite visits were made to support the teachers and students.

“These are the reasons RFB&D can make such an impressive impact. We are willing to ensure the best quality services for learners and educators, so students can make significant gains in the classroom that will then translate to right here in our communities,” says Lenora Martin, RFB&D’s Interim South Carolina State Director.

About Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D): RFB&D is a nonprofit organization that relies on the generous contributions of individuals, foundations and corporations to support our programs. RFB&D serves more than 185,000 students from kindergarten through graduate school and beyond with its one-of-a-kind collection of digitally recorded educational titles. In South Carolina alone, more than 5,000 students in 201 schools are using the RFB&D Learning Through Listening[®] program to compliment their curriculum. RFB&D’s AudioPlus[®] digitally recorded textbooks on CD provide unprecedented navigation, ease of use and proven effectiveness as learning tools for students with print disabilities. Students rely on RFB&D’s unique accommodation to access the printed page and to achieve educational success. All of RFB&D’s accessible titles are recorded by volunteers working in 29 RFB&D recording studios nationwide.

For information on RFB&D, volunteering or making a donation, call toll-free **866-RFBD-585 (866-732-3585)** or visit RFB&D’s accessible website at www.rfbd.org.

#