PRESS RELEASES

May 23, 2006

Ecolab Raises Over $75,000 for the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation

CHICAGO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 23, 2006--In BW5901 issued May 23, 2006: Please replace the caption with the accompanying corrected caption.

The release reads:

ECOLAB RAISES OVER $75,000 FOR THE NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) announced today that Ecolab Inc., the global leader in cleaning, food safety and health protection products and services, raised more than $75,000 for the NRAEF at the Ecolab 2006 Chairman's Reception and Silent Auction on Sunday evening, May 21. Ecolab has contributed nearly $800,000 over the past four years to the NRAEF, making Ecolab one of the organization's largest givers.

More than 660 industry representatives took part in this year's Ecolab silent auction. Up for bids were cruises, resort and restaurant packages, sports and celebrity memorabilia, culinary education and equipment and many other valuable items. At the Ecolab Chairman's Reception, held annually in conjunction with the National Restaurant Association Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show, Doug Baker, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Ecolab, presented the NRAEF with a check for $75,160.

"We are proud to support the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation in its mission to build a solid foundation for the long-term vitality of our industry," said Doug Baker. "We make every effort to support the industry and the NRAEF, and we are pleased to have accomplished another successful fundraiser for the Foundation and the outstanding work they do."

The NRAEF provides high school seniors and college undergraduate students with scholarships to pursue a restaurant and foodservice education. The scholarships are presented to select qualified applicants who have been accepted into an eligible restaurant and/or foodservice management collegiate program. This program helps the NRAEF pursue its goals of attracting, recruiting and retaining the best talent, and the donation is part of the longstanding commitment by Ecolab to support the communities and industries that it serves.

"As the nation's largest private sector employer, we believe the restaurant and foodservice industry is the cornerstone of the American economy, and we strive to develop a highly qualified workforce," says Mary Adolf, president and chief operating officer of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. "Ecolab's commitment to the NRAEF underscores its dedication to supporting education initiatives, and we are extremely appreciative of their generosity."

With 2005 sales of $4.5 billion, Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products and services for the hospitality, foodservice, healthcare and industrial markets. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol ECL. Ecolab news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at www.ecolab.com.

About NRAEF

The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fulfilling the educational mission of the National Restaurant Association. Focusing on three key strategies of risk management, recruitment, and retention, the NRAEF is the premier provider of educational resources, materials, and programs, which address attracting, developing and retaining the industry's workforce. For more information on the NRAEF, visit www.nraef.org.

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