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For Immediate Release

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ABYC Foundation Needs Your Support

Anonymous Donor to match giving appeal total gifts up to \$15,000

November 4, 2009, Annapolis, MD: The ABYC Foundation announced the kick-off its year-end giving appeal in support of industry educational projects and programs not typically funded by ABYC's annual budget. This year the Foundation's goal is to raise \$100,000 in six short weeks to support such worthwhile programs as scholarships for industry technicians to attend ABYC certification courses, scholarships for students to attend post-secondary Marine League Schools, to design and build training aids for secondary and post secondary marine labs, support of ABYC sponsored Skills USA competition, and the Westlawn Institute of Marine Technology, to support development of DVD and online certification classes and seminars and important standards development research projects not normally funded in ABYC's annual budget or through Federal grants. Many of these industry supporting works are only possible through the passionate support of ABYC members and industry friends.

“Although this has been an extremely challenging financial year for all of us, the Foundation truly needs industry and friends to respond to this drive. That's why I'm humbly requesting that each of our members, friends and partners respond with a minimum contribution of \$25, said Skip Burdon, the Foundation's Secretary. It's this kind of all-inclusive industry TEAM response that is needed to reach our goal of raising \$100,000 in just six short weeks,” said Burdon. “This is very doable goal, but we need industry-wide support today,” he continued.

Burdon explained that a large response from the industry's workforce can generate the interest of larger donors, foundations, government agencies, and grant-awarding philanthropic organizations to support the efforts of the ABYC Foundation.

“This is the first time we have reached out to the entire industry for financial support,” said Burdon. “While these are challenging financial times for all of us, we must remember that with the recovery there will be strong demand for well trained marine technicians to fill many critical skills-based positions quickly, said Burdon. “We must continue to support training today to be prepared for a better tomorrow,” he concluded

As an added challenge to industry, an anonymous donor has committed to match up to \$15,000 of the total gifts received before December 15th. Any donation of \$1000 or more will receive worldwide recognition with placement of the organization's logo on the Foundation's web page for a year and any donation over \$500 will receive recognition in the Foundation's technical professional quarterly journal, *the Reference Point*.

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Although, the Foundation is working hard to create several other income streams, it remains highly dependent upon donations from ABYC members and friends of the industry. Please dig deep and support the Foundation level that has supported the industry for over 20 years.

All donations to the ABYC Foundation are tax deductible and will be acknowledged by a return thank you letter stating the amount donated. Donations can be sent to:

The ABYC Foundation
613 Third Street
Suite 10
Annapolis, MD 21403

Online donations: <http://www.abycinc.org/foundation/contributing.cfm>

The ABYC Foundation is a not-for-profit, 501©3 organization that was established in 1988 to raise funds and provide support for special projects, education, and training programs, scholarships and other initiatives being undertaken by the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC), that are designed to promote and foster the safe building, maintenance and repair of boats and yachts to industry standards.

ABYC has been developing, writing and updating the safety standards for boat building and repair in the United States for over 50 years. ABYC is actively involved with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) as well as education and certification programs for marine technicians. These standards are available on CD-ROM, online (*Web-STIR*) and in printed form. Membership and general information can be requested by visiting the ABYC web site at www.abycinc.org.

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