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Kirlin Foundation Names Raj Manhas to Lead New Initiative

SEATTLE – October 19, 2007 – The Kirlin Foundation has named former Seattle Public Schools Superintendent and longtime early childhood education advocate Raj Manhas as Executive Director of Seeds of Compassion, a new grassroots initiative that will bring together the latest visionary thinking and brain research that demonstrates the social and emotional benefits of developing empathy and compassion early and throughout a child’s life.

Manhas, who served as superintendent of Seattle Public Schools from 2003 to 2007, brings his extensive background in education, public service, finance and community building to Seeds of Compassion. At Seattle Public Schools, Manhas’ responsibilities included goal-setting, long-range planning and the day-to-day operations for a diverse school district with nearly 47,000 students, 8,000 employees and a \$437 million budget. He served as Chief Operating Officer for the Seattle Public School District from 2001 until being named Superintendent in 2003.

“I am delighted that Raj Manhas will be joining us to lead Seeds of Compassion,” said Dan Kranzler, co-founder and President of the Kirlin Foundation. “When the Foundation was seeking out an individual who embodies the heart of our foundation and this new initiative, Raj Manhas was the obvious choice. Raj’s deep commitment and passion for helping children and families succeed in life – not only in what they do, but also in whom they are – embodies the very essence of Seeds of Compassion.”

Manhas, a native of India, came to Seattle 30 years ago to study at the University of Washington. After completing his master’s degree in industrial engineering, he began a successful career in the banking industry, working over the next 17 years at Security Pacific Bank Northwest and Rainier National Bank.

The Kirlin Foundation is dedicated to helping children and their families become thoughtfully active and compassionate members of global society. Seeds of Compassion will focus on bringing deeper public awareness to the issues around early social, emotional and cognitive learning.

Seeds of Compassion is partnering with early-childhood-development advocates and organizations, foundations, educators, scientists, business leaders and the greater community to highlight and promote the evidenced-based programs, tools and strategies that greatly assist with the healthy development of children as happy, compassionate members of society.

“This new initiative will play a critical role in reaching out to mothers, fathers, caregivers, educators and all of us who are responsible for raising our children,” said Ron Rabin, Executive Director of the Kirlin Foundation. “There are many wonderful organizations doing great work in the field of social and emotional development; Seeds of Compassion will amplify those existing programs and incubate new initiatives to demonstrate what we can all do to nurture kindness and compassion in the world starting with children and everyone who touches their lives.”

For more information, see www.seedsofcompassion.net.

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