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**Seeds of Compassion Announces Historic Four-day Gathering in
Seattle to Celebrate Children and Compassion**

***His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Attend Four-day Event and Speak to
a Worldwide Audience April 12th from Qwest Field***

SEATTLE – Nov. 14, 2007 – A historic four-day gathering to focus the world's attention on the importance of nurturing kindness and compassion starting with children and all those who touch their lives will take place April 12-15, 2008.

The event organizer, Seeds of Compassion, announced today that His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama will join other global dignitaries in a dynamic exchange with scientists, researchers, public policy leaders, experts in childhood development and the Seattle community on the critical importance of giving children the social and emotional foundation they need to become happy, compassionate adults and positive members of society.

“What we do to nurture our children and youth is essential to preparing them for success in school and life,” said Raj Manhas, executive director of Seeds of Compassion. “Yet 50 percent are not socially or emotionally ready for kindergarten. Many established organizations and programs here in Washington State are engaged in improving the tools and support to help children develop emotionally and cognitively. Seeds of Compassion will serve as the unifying catalyst to amplify this work by bringing the collective heart of the Northwest and the world together during this four-day celebration of hope.

Central to the Seattle event is His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The Organizing Committee and the citizens of Washington State are grateful that His Holiness the Dalai Lama accepted the invitation to come to Seattle. This will be a powerful event that will change our focus on children.



Seeds of Compassion
is an initiative
to nurture kindness
and compassion
in the world
with children and
all those who
touch their lives

"The Dalai Lama is revered around the world as an inspirational speaker advocating peace and compassion," said Daniel Kranzler, President of Kirlin Foundation. "Seeds of Compassion is deeply honored to host this historic four-day event in which His Holiness will sit side by side with scientists, community leaders and children to share real-world everyday examples of how we can successfully build the foundation of learning and compassion in our children and youth. His visit and public talks will inspire thousands to take action toward a more compassionate society for the benefit of our children and our world."

This past week His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in commenting on the gathering in Seattle, said, "As one of six billion human beings in the world, I believe the future of humanity is everyone's responsibility. I believe that to achieve a happy life on an individual, family, national or global level we ultimately need to reach wholeheartedness of compassion. I really feel that this conference can plant positive seeds for a happy future, a happy world, particularly for children. They, the younger generation, are the real basis for our hope."

The 35-member Seeds of Compassion Organizing Committee is led by Honorary Chair, Governor Christine Gregoire. "In Washington, we started the Department of Early Learning because we know that the first five years of a child's life are critical to their development," said Governor Gregoire. "I applaud the efforts of the Dalai Lama and other global leaders who are meeting in Seattle next year to join us in building a strong, compassionate foundation for our children, which will serve all of us well as our kids grow to become contributing members of society."

Seeds of Compassion is also partnering with many civic organizations, early childhood educators and foundations including the Foundation for Early Learning, Thrive by Five Washington, Bridges to Understanding and the Talaris Research Institute.

The four days of teachings, workshops and public talks will take place from April 12-15, 2008. Events will be held at Seattle Center and Qwest Field. The four-day ticketed event will be free to the public. The largest event is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Qwest Field. The Dalai Lama will lead a conversation with fellow luminaries on compassion that will be broadcast worldwide via the internet and satellite. Details about tickets to the event will be posted on the Seeds of Compassion website as they are available.

A wide range of community initiatives and programs benefiting children, families, educators and the general public are being planned before during and after the four-day event.

One example is Roots of Empathy, an award-winning evidence-based classroom program that has shown dramatic success in reducing the levels of aggression and violence among school children while raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. Founded in Canada in 1996, Roots of Empathy was launched this fall in 10 classrooms from grades 1 through 6 in six Seattle and Kent schools, the first in the United States to offer the program.

Seeds of Compassion is an initiative of the Kirlin Charitable Foundation and the Venerable Lama Tenzin Dhonden. The purpose of the initiative is to nurture kindness and compassion in the world, starting with children and all those who touch their lives. 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.

For more information, visit www.seedscompassion.net.