

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DALAI LAMA HONORS 51 HEROES OF COMPASSION
HONOREES FROM 18 COUNTRIES IN SAN FRANCISCO FOR EVENT**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, February 21, 2014 – His Holiness the Dalai Lama will be the honored guest at a luncheon event at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in San Francisco, California, on Sunday, February 23, 2014. His Holiness will acknowledge and thank the 51 highly compassionate individuals who are the honorees of *Unsung Heroes of Compassion 2014*.

The honorees—24 women and 27 men—range in age from 16 to 85, work in 18 countries worldwide, and represent many ethnicities, cultures, faiths, and backgrounds. Gathered from the far corners of the earth, each demonstrates the timeless and universal human goodness celebrated by every wise culture.

“These individuals have been selected as representatives of the tens of thousands of people worldwide who quietly serve the disenfranchised and work to improve our communities through their personal efforts,” says Dick Grace, founder of Grace Family Vineyards and board chair of Wisdom in Action, the organization hosting the unique celebration. “We don’t see them or hear about them in the daily news, but they exemplify a humanism and heroism to which we must each aspire.”

Among the honorees to be acknowledged is:



- Luc Janssens, who founded Lao Rehabilitation Foundation in 2002 to provide health care and medical services to the poor in the remote areas of Laos. The foundation builds schools, medical facilities and provides support for education, access to clean water and assistance to individuals with special needs.

The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the exiled leader of the Tibetan people and a Buddhist teacher. The 1989 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the Dalai Lama is an outspoken proponent of nonviolence and compassion, and is loved and revered internationally. Wisdom in Action (WIA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of the importance of compassion in action. WIA is hosting *Unsung Heroes of Compassion 2014*, the fourth event of its kind since 2001, to raise awareness that it is each individual’s obligation to help the disenfranchised among us and to acknowledge that each act of compassion makes an important difference to the world.

Co-hosting the event with Dick Grace will be actor, Peter Coyote, founder of Homeboy Industries, Father Greg Boyle, Takelma Indian Elder of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Grandmother Agnes Baker Pilgrim, and Zen priest from Green Gulch Zen Center, Fuyu Schroeder.