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**HIS HOLINESS THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DALAI LAMA TO VISIT L.A.**

*Spiritual leader announces L.A. visit to support Whole Child International  
and inspire global action on behalf of vulnerable children*

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 15, 2010 – His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, one of the world's beloved spiritual leaders, will visit Los Angeles Feb. 20-21, 2010. During the visit, His Holiness will give his first large-scale public talk in Los Angeles since September 2006.

Lama Tenzin Dhonden, His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Personal Emissary for Peace, announced the visit and discussed the decision of His Holiness to make the trip to support the global work of Los Angeles-based Whole Child International.

Joining Lama Tenzin at the announcement was Whole Child International Founder and CEO Karen Gordon. Gordon discussed the impact the Dalai Lama's support will have on the organization's work on behalf of thousands of vulnerable children institutionalized around the world.

Lama Tenzin said the decision of the Dalai Lama to come to L.A. is to personally participate in the launch a new global initiative to create awareness of the plight of institutionalized children.

"His Holiness the Dalai Lama believes that nurturing children through strong and loving bonds is at the center of a child's emotional health and wellbeing. It is the love and attention we receive as children that enables us to grow into adults who are able to care for others," Lama Tenzin said.

On Sunday, Feb. 21, His Holiness will deliver a public address, "Cultivating Compassion and the Needs of Vulnerable Children," at the Gibson Amphitheatre—an event that will include a musical performance by a special guest. Tickets will be available Friday, Jan. 15, 2010 at 1:00 PM PST through Live Nation at [www.livenation.com](http://www.livenation.com) and at all Ticketmaster locations and online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

While at the gathering, His Holiness will speak to distinguished gatherings of philanthropists, top academics, and government officials to highlight the needs of vulnerable children worldwide.

There are estimated to be 145 million orphaned children worldwide, many of them institutionalized.

Gordon noted that many institutional systems rob children of normal childhoods, and the ability to form healthy relationships as adults. When plagued by substandard institutionalized

care, children who could otherwise thrive end up scoring in the mentally disabled range, often lapsing into lives of crime and abandoning their own children.

She said there is a “powerful nexus” between the Dalai Lama’s focus on the emotional suffering of children and the work of Whole Child International in creating emotionally supportive environments for institutionalized children.

“We’re honored to have His Holiness come to demonstrate his solidarity with our work,” said Gordon. “His compassion and wisdom will inform our efforts, and help us identify new objectives as we strive to ensure that all children receive the loving care they need to fulfill their potential.”

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**For interviews with Lama Tenzin and Karen Gordon call 310.575.9200.**

**The announcement of His Holiness’s visit can be seen at [www.wholechild.org](http://www.wholechild.org)**

### **His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama**

His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is both the temporal and the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people. He frequently states that his life is guided by three major commitments: the promotion of basic human values or secular ethics in the interest of human happiness, the fostering of inter-religious harmony, and the welfare of the Tibetan people, focusing on the survival of their identity, culture, and religion.

### **Whole Child International**

Whole Child International is a global NGO working to elevate the level of childcare for vulnerable children worldwide. It believes that all children, as a matter of human rights, should have the opportunity to fulfill his or her developmental potential. Whole Child International strives to build culturally sensitive solutions that incorporate best practices into the care of institutionalized children. Over the past three years, Whole Child has staged interventions in eight childcare institutions with the support of government organizations in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Learn more at [www.wholechild.org](http://www.wholechild.org).