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**HIS HOLINESS THE 14<sup>th</sup> DALAI LAMA TO VISIT LOS ANGELES FOLLOWING D.C. TRIP**

*Dalai Lama in L.A. Feb 21-2 to join Whole Child International as they launch a global initiative to raise awareness on the plight of vulnerable children worldwide*

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 18, 2010 –Following his Washington D.C. visit, His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and one of the world's most beloved spiritual leaders, will visit Los Angeles Feb. 21 and 22. His Holiness spends two days in L.A. supporting Whole Child International, a global NGO that elevates the quality of care for vulnerable children worldwide.

His Holiness joins Whole Child as they launch a new global initiative to raise awareness of the plight of vulnerable, institutionalized, and orphaned children across the globe.

His Holiness will deliver his first large-scale public address in Los Angeles since September 2006 on Sunday Feb. 21, at the Gibson Amphitheatre at Universal City, *Cultivating Compassion and the Needs of Vulnerable Children*. Grammy-winning artist Sheryl Crow will join His Holiness at the event. "I am delighted to be a part of this special weekend with Whole Child International and His Holiness the Dalai Lama," Crow said. Tickets will benefit Whole Child International, and are on sale now at [Live Nation](#) or all [Ticketmaster](#) locations.

"We're honored to have His Holiness come to demonstrate his solidarity with our work," said Karen Gordon, Founder and CEO of Whole Child International. "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."

Throughout the weekend with Whole Child, His Holiness will engage with gatherings of philanthropists, top academics, and government officials to discuss how to serve vulnerable children around the globe.

His Holiness will receive the first Whole Child International Humanitarian Award. The Award honors a visionary global leader driven by a passion to elevate the lives of vulnerable populations.

There are an estimated 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 are unable to fulfill their potential.

His Holiness has had a life-long concern that all children enjoy loving care, maintaining that it is at the core of a child's well-being. His Holiness often speaks on the love and attention we receive as children as the mechanism for us to grow into compassionate adults.

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

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**The announcement of His Holiness's visit and details of the weekend are at [www.wholechild.org](http://www.wholechild.org)**

**For interviews with Karen Gordon call 310.575.9200.**

### **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 [www.wholechild.org](http://www.wholechild.org).

