

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Sonia Torres

(415) 875-7144

[storres@summersearch.org](mailto:storres@summersearch.org)

**SUMMER  
SEARCH**



**DALAI LAMA HONORS SUMMER SEARCH FOUNDER LINDA MORNELL  
AND 50 OTHER HEROES OF COMPASSION**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, February 21, 2014 – Summer Search Founder, [Linda Mornell](#), will be honored by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as one of the *Unsung Heroes of Compassion 2014*.

Established in 2001 by Wisdom in Action (WIA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of the importance of compassion in action, [Unsung Heroes of Compassion](#) is a special event to acknowledge individuals whose acts of human kindness have made an important difference in the world. The event is hosted every four years with special guest, His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

As an adolescent counselor and psychiatrist, Linda Mornell understood how lack of self-esteem, fueled by poverty and limited opportunities, kept teens in a vicious cycle of lost potential. In 1990, she founded Summer Search to give low-income teens the same chance her own children had to grow into confident and successful adults. Today, Summer Search is a national nonprofit organization that operates in seven major cities, and has helped more than 4,200 young people develop the necessary skills to become college-educated leaders who give back to their communities.

“In Summer Search,” says Mornell, “the quality we look for most in selecting student participants is altruism. I believe that compassion, caring for others, is the essence of a successful life.”

Mornell will join His Holiness the Dalai Lama at a luncheon on Sunday, February 23, to acknowledge and thank all the honorees—24 women and 27 men—ranging in age from 16 to 85, from 18 countries worldwide, and representing many ethnicities, cultures, faiths and backgrounds.

“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.”

This year’s event will be held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in San Francisco, California. Co-hosting the event 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.

**About the Dalai Lama**

The 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

**About Summer Search**

Summer Search is a national youth development nonprofit organization. We work with low-income high school students to transform what they believe is possible for themselves. We help students in seven cities across the country develop the skills and character traits they need to become college-educated leader who give back to their families and communities.

###