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### **Ed Blackburn honored by Dalai Lama at “Unsung Heroes of Compassion” Event**

**Portland, OR** – Central City Concern’s Executive Director, Ed Blackburn was among 49 individuals honored by the Dalai Lama in the “Unsung Heroes of Compassion” ceremony held in San Francisco, CA on April 26, 2009. The honorees – 25 women and 24 men ranging in age from 12 to 77, came from 13 countries and a variety of ethnicity, cultures, religions and backgrounds. Each person was honored for his/her service to the disenfranchised of the world and his/her work to improve communities through their personal efforts.

“I was privileged to meet the other honorees who came from all over the world, from Katmandu, Israel, Palestine, the desert region of South Africa, to Thailand and other places in the U.S. In my conversations with these amazing people, they emphasized that their efforts depended on so many colleagues, allies, supporters and teachers. That is certainly also the case for me with my work at Central City Concern,” said Blackburn

Central City Concern’s mission is to provide pathways to self-sufficiency through active intervention in poverty and homelessness. CCC operates more than 1,400 units of affordable housing and provides health, recovery and employment services to more than 13,000 of individuals in the Portland metro area every year.

The Unsung Heroes event, the third such ceremony since 2001, was organized by Wisdom in Action, a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of the

importance of compassion in action. Renowned author Isabel Allende and actor Peter Coyote (2001 Unsung Hero) were co-hosts with Dick Grace, business owner and philanthropist.

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