



For Immediate Release

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden to speak At Friends of the Children – Portland Awards Ceremony

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden will be delivering the keynote address at the Friends of the Children - Portland Awards and Graduation Ceremony to be held on Sunday, June 4th at 2pm. The Ceremony will take place at the Friends of the Children offices located at 44 NE Morris Street in NE Portland. Senator Wyden will speak during this very important event because of his strong belief in the impact Friends of the Children-Portland is making on vulnerable youth in the area, along with his own his passion for mentoring.

The Friends of the Children-Portland Awards Ceremony serves many purposes; acknowledging the outstanding achievement of youth who overcome many obstacles in life, encouraging youth to continue to work hard in school and give back to their community and inspiring youth to reach their potential. The 2006 graduates will also be recognized along with this year's Friends of the Children Legacy Scholarship recipients.

A great example of the success at Friends of the Children – Portland is Chaquetta, is a program youth who has overcome many obstacles and challenges in her young life. Chaquetta began high school with 0.79 grade point average, failing the majority of her classes. This spring Chaquetta will graduate from high school as an honor roll student with 3.75 grade point average and will be attending college this fall. She is the first person in her family to graduate from high school in four generations! This is just one success story amongst the 270 students in the Friends of the Children-Portland program.

Friends of the Children – Portland is an exceptional early intervention/prevention organization, founded in 1993 by Portland native Duncan Campbell, which focuses on selecting the community's most vulnerable kindergartners and providing them with professionally trained, paid mentors, called Friends. These mentors guide and stay with the children until completion of high school (approx. 12 1/2 years), helping our community's children develop the relationships, goals and skills necessary to break cycles of poverty, abuse and violence and become successful in life!

Changing children's lives for the better... *one child at a time.*

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If you would like more information, or would like to schedule an interview, please call Terri Sorensen, Executive Director at Friends of the Children-Portland at 503-281-6633 or e-mail at tsorensen@friendsofthechildren.org