



THE ANDREW GOODMAN FOUNDATION
PO BOX 99, DUMONT, NJ 07628
www.andrewgoodman.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Melissa Brady, Administrative Director
The Andrew Goodman Foundation
(201) 995-1808 ext. 11
Melissa.brady@andrewgoodman.org

Andrew Goodman Foundation Announces FIRST Hidden Heroes Awards

Dumont, NJ, July 15, 2009 - The Andrew Goodman Foundation (www.andrewgoodman.org) is honored to announce the recipients of the 2009 Hidden Heroes Awards. The Hidden Heroes program, which is being launched with these awards, is part of a new initiative that aims to inspire, educate and reward people who take personal responsibility for healing the world - carrying on the spirit and the love that inspired Andrew Goodman to travel to Mississippi in 1964. Hidden Heroes are ordinary people who are doing extraordinary things to change the world for the better. Our award honors and supports social activism that gets results.

The Hidden Heroes Award is presented each year to as many as five individuals whose work exemplifies the Foundation's origins and mission: promoting human dignity, civil rights and social justice through actions characterized by great personal initiative, selflessness, fearlessness, compassion, imagination, and achievement. This year's winners are: Frances Beinecke, President, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); Toni Maloney, Chairperson, Business Council for Peace (BPeace); Gwenn Levine, Founder, Paterson Youth Photography Project, (PYPP) and Tashi Dolma, Founder, Tibetan Home of Hope. For details about this year's award winners go to www.andrewgoodman.org and click on the Hidden Heroes button on the lower left.

Andrew Goodman, a 20 year old college student, was murdered in 1964 while participating in "Freedom Summer" – a voter registration project in Mississippi to expand black voting in the South. The Andrew Goodman Foundation was created in 1966 by Robert and Carolyn Goodman to honor the spirit and the purpose of their son Andy's life. Carolyn Goodman led the foundation until her death in 2007 at the age of 90. Today, Andy's brother, David, and other family members continue to bring the story of Andy's life and death into public view with the intention of inspiring and supporting the kind of change that brings peace and justice to all.

The Natural Resources Defense Council is a national, nonprofit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. The award recognizes the importance of environmental justice and the protection of low-income communities from the harmful effects of environmental destruction by industry and/or government. www.nrdc.org

The Paterson Youth Photography Project is a local, grassroots initiative that gives disadvantaged youth in Paterson, NJ an opportunity to acquire values and skills through the art of photography that will empower and support them. www.pypp.org

The Business Council for Peace creates opportunities for ordinary citizens to take action to further human rights and civil liberties through commerce in countries recovering from war like Afghanistan and Rwanda. www.bpeace.org

The Tibetan Home of Hope provides Tibetan children with a safe-haven and culturally sensitive education in their native land. www.tibetanhomeofhope.org

Award recipients will be honored at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, NY on November 22, 2009, Andrew Goodman's 66th Birthday. Details will be available in September. More information about the awards is available at http://www.andrewgoodman.org/our_agf_award.html

END -