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## **News Release: Invitation to Cover**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Feb. 18, 2009

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### **Author of *A Child Called "It"* Speaks at Friends of Youth's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fundraising Luncheon on March 19**

**Redmond, Wash.** — Friends of Youth, a Redmond-based non-profit agency, presents Dave Pelzer as the keynote speaker for its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual fundraising luncheon – Celebration of Youth – on Thursday, Mar. 19, 2009.

Dave Pelzer, the author of *A Child Called "It,"* was abused by his mentally-disturbed alcoholic mother when he was a child. When he was 12 years old, he was finally saved from his troubled mother and placed in foster care. All these experiences did not discourage Pelzer; in fact, they propelled him to be a stronger individual.

Pelzer is the author of seven inspirational books. His first book, *A Child Called "It,"* has been on *The New York Times'* best sellers list for more than six years. In addition to writing, Pelzer makes time to contribute to the community and his efforts have been recognized through numerous awards. In 1993, Pelzer was honored as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans, and in the following year, he was the only American to be honored as The Outstanding Young Persons of the World. Pelzer also received the National Jefferson Award in 2005.

Celebration of Youth will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Hilton Bellevue Hotel. Registration is free; there is a suggested donation of \$150. For reservations or more information, contact the Donor Relations Coordinator, Shui Ching Mo, at Shui@friendsofyouth.org, or (425) 869-6490, ext. 326.

Sponsors for this event include Swedish Medical Center, ATS Automation, Drugstore.com, Columbia Bank, Citi Private Bank, Kibble & Prentice, Kid's Club/ Sole Food, Rogers & Norman, bSQUARE Corporation, Extra Mile Marketing, and Point B.

#### **About Friends of Youth:**

Friends of Youth is a non-profit agency dedicated to supporting youth and their families in King and Snohomish counties. Friends of Youth provides a broad range of services to improve its clients' emotional stability and self-sufficiency, including homeless shelters, transitional housing, outreach, mental health counseling, and substance abuse prevention and treatment. For more information, visit [www.FriendsofYouth.org](http://www.FriendsofYouth.org), or phone (425) 869-6490.



*Reigniting spirit, passion, and possibility.*

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