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**Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Child
to be Honored by Dalai Lama as an Unsung Hero of Compassion**

**Co-creators of cancer-fighting computer game among 48 extraordinary individuals to meet
His Holiness the Dalai Lama on November 6th in San Francisco**

2 November 2005 -- San Francisco: Two local individuals, Ben Duskin and Eric Johnston, will be honored by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in San Francisco on November 6th for creating a cancer fighting video game.

Make-A-Wish grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. When leukemia patient, Ben Duskin was interviewed by Make-A-Wish, he wished to create a video game to help other kids endure their cancer treatments. For several unsuccessful months, Make-A-Wish searched to find someone to help them make Ben's wish come true. Eric Johnston, of the San Francisco-based LucasArts came forward and insisted he work hand-in-hand with Ben to design the game without any financial compensation whatsoever.

"Ben's Game" is a result of over six months of hard work and collaboration. Ben's own oncologist served as the medical advisor for the game, and since the game was released to the public in May 2004, over 200,000 people from all over the world have downloaded Ben's Game. After a whirlwind of press coverage, Ben and Eric were approached by many new friends from around the globe to translate Ben's Game into various languages. Thanks to the generosity of Ben's Game enthusiasts worldwide, players can now enjoy the game in nine languages: English, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish. The game is free for anyone to play, and is easily downloadable in PC and MAC formats at www.makewish.org/ben.

To date, the Make-A-Wish Foundation continues to receive compelling letters and e-mails from fans of Ben's Game who wish to express their gratitude to Ben and Eric for helping them to overcome their cancer and grueling treatment programs.

Wisdom in Action, a St. Helena-based nonprofit, has identified fifty individuals from fourteen countries for special recognition by the Dalai Lama. Honorees were nominated and chosen based on their loving kindness and service to others in an effort to make their communities and our world a better place.

"Eric and Ben achieved the impossible, and we are delighted that they are being recognized by His Holiness," said Patricia Wilson, Executive Director of Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation. "Ben and Eric are truly an amazing duo, who selflessly worked to improve the community around them. Never has a child asked for a wish like Ben's: he chose to use his wish to help other kids battling cancer. Their compassion and generosity is inspiring – and they really are heroes."

About “Ben's Game”:

The object of the game is to destroy all mutated cells and to collect the seven shields, which provide protection from common side effects of chemotherapy. The shields are guarded by a “monster”:

- Colds - Iceman Monster
- Barf – Robarf Monster
- Chicken Pox –Big Chicken Monster
- Fever - Firemonster
- Bleeding – Vamp Monster
- Hair Loss – Qball Monster
- Rash – Tornado Monster

Three health levels serve as ammunition in the game:

- Health you get from the hospital
- Ammo you get from the pharmacy
- Attitude you get from home

About Ben Duskin:

Ben Duskin is an enthusiastic gamer. Early during his treatment, his doctor suggested he find ways to visualize his body healing. Ben and his mother talked about imagining his medicine as a Pac Man video game, eating the cancer cells. This became the catalyst for “Ben’s Game,” which became a reality in June 2004. Ben is eleven years old, and, when he's not busy getting excellent grades in his favorite subjects of reading and math, he spends his free time working on his basketball game with hopes to one day be an NBA player (preferably for his favorite team, the L.A. Lakers) or video game designer. His favorite foods are Chinese and ice cream. Last year Ben and his family moved from California to Texas. In September 2004, Ben and his family discovered that his Leukemia had relapsed. After months of treatment Ben received a bone marrow transplant and is now doing well.

About Eric Johnston:

Eric Johnston is a Senior Software Engineer and Technical Director at LucasArts. He lives in San Francisco and has a degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from U.C. Berkeley. He began writing games for LucasArts in 1989. In addition to computer game programming, he has worked as an engineer at NASA, a stunt man, a television actor, and a flying trapeze instructor. His hobbies include quantum computation, flying trapeze, and spending as much time as possible with his wife Sue.

About the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation® :

In 2005, the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation-celebrates over 21 years of fulfilling magical wishes for children with life-threatening illnesses. One of the largest chapters nationwide, it has granted more than 3,800 wishes in its 17 Northern California counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Marin, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Solano and Sonoma. In August 2005, the Chapter was recognized with a coveted "Best in America Seal of Excellence" award, the first Make-A-Wish Chapter to achieve this distinction for its outstanding management and governance practices. Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000, or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this seal. For more information, please call (800) 464-9474 or visit www.makewish.org

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