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ATLANTA OFFICIALLY BECOMES A COMPASSIONATE CITY

Atlanta, GA, March 10, 2014 – Atlanta joins the International Campaign for Compassionate Cities - and commits towards increasing compassion through local initiatives, policy and projects.

The year 2014 is already proving to be a big year for Compassionate Atlanta, the local expression of The International Campaign for Compassionate Cities that seeks to raise awareness about the benefits of compassionate action in the Greater Atlanta area.

Compassionate Atlanta officially launched last February with a kick-off event at the Carter Presidential Center. Nearly 300 participants explored the question: "What will it take for the Greater Atlanta region to become a more compassionate circle of cities?" and were invited to commit to one of three initiatives during the months of February and March:

1. Work with neighbors in their cities to invite their municipal government to endorse the Charter for Compassion and become Compassionate Cities or,
2. Encourage businesses, schools and other organizations of which they are a part to become Charter Partners or,
3. Host small Community Conversations with neighbors, friends or colleagues to raise awareness about the benefits of compassionate action.

The Atlanta City Council, who had presented its proclamation of support to the Compassionate Atlanta campaign at the launch event, endorsed the Charter for Compassion (Resolution 14-R-3147) and Atlanta officially became a Compassionate City (by the Charter for Compassion International) on February 12th, 2014.

With this endorsement, Atlanta joins 30 other cities across the country in becoming an official Compassionate City. Compassionate Atlanta is now turning its attention to creating awareness among civic and corporate leaders about the need to shift the public conversation from dwelling on what's wrong in Atlanta - to focus on the multitude of ways that a diverse, robust Atlanta is working every day to create new energy and dynamic new possibilities.

On April 3rd, a "*Celebration of Compassion*" will be held at the M.L.King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College to celebrate the action undertaken by hundreds of people. Highly acclaimed author Karen Armstrong, who initiated the International Charter for Compassion with a TED talk in



2008, will give the keynote address and be awarded the highest honor that Morehouse presents for peace, reconciliation and non-violence.

"Karen Armstrong is changing the world and we are proud to be bringing her to the Atlanta community," said Bob Thompson, organizing leader of Compassionate Atlanta. "The ideas she posits, the efforts she launches, the way she engages bring together so many people from such disparate backgrounds. It is quite simply amazing".

A follow-up meeting on April 4th will be held to gather key civic, corporate and government leaders together with Armstrong to discuss how Atlanta can move beyond "A city too busy to hate" to something more appropriate today, like "Compassionate city, dynamic people, kind neighborhoods."

About Compassionate Atlanta

Compassionate Atlanta is a grassroots movement that seeks to raise awareness about the benefits of compassionate action in the Greater Atlanta area. The Compassionate Atlanta Organizing Committee was formed in 2013 with Bob Thompson leading the charge. The group formally launched on Feb. 2nd, 2014 and is an extension of The International Campaign for Compassionate Cities.

For more information about Compassionate Atlanta please visit:

<http://www.compassionateatl.com/>

For more information about "A Celebration of Compassion", please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1426300950947226/>

Other Links

<http://compassionateaction.org/cities>

http://www.ted.com/speakers/karen_armstrong

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