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07/20/2006

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PEARL JAM TEAMS WITH 826 SEATTLE

Proceeds from Band's July 22-23 Gorge Concerts to Benefit Seattle's Only Free Center Dedicated to Helping Youth Improve their Writing Skills

SEATTLE, WA -- 826 Seattle today announced that the Vitalogy Foundation will donate \$2.00 from every ticket sold for Pearl Jam's July 22 and 23 concerts in George, Washington to support 826 Seattle and two other local youth-based organizations, the Vera Project and ArtsCorps. 826 Seattle is the city's only nonprofit entirely dedicated to improving the creative and expository writing skills of Seattle-area youth, and helping teachers inspire their students to write.

The donated proceeds will be used by 826 Seattle to provide students age six to 18 with safe, free access to writing workshops, publishing projects and one-on-one after-school help with homework and English language learning. The gift is made possible by Pearl Jam's agreement to contribute a portion of its ticket sales to the Vitalogy Foundation in support of local charities.

"826 Seattle was founded on a simple premise: If we can help young people learn to write better, they have a greater chance of succeeding in life," said 826 Seattle founder and Executive Director Teri Hein. "There is no way to predict what form that success will take: composing great song lyrics, writing successful college entrance essays, or simply having the requisite tools to fill out a job application. Without mastery of written language, it is difficult, if not impossible, to make it in this world."

"We are grateful that the Vitalogy Foundation has recognized 826 Seattle as an important community asset," Hein said. "Pearl Jam's music plays an important role in the lives of many of the young people we serve, and we're honored by the generosity of the band's support."

"826 Seattle opens an important door for young people looking for inspiration and skills to become writers," said Pearl Jam bassist Jeff Ament. "By helping students discover the power of written language and find their own voice, 826 Seattle encourages a powerful form of self-expression that benefits both the students 826 Seattle serves and the Seattle community as a whole."

For more information on Pearl Jam and their current tour, visit www.pearljam.com.

About 826 Seattle

826 Seattle (826seattle.org) is a nonprofit writing and tutoring center dedicated to helping youth, ages six to 18, improve their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. Its services are structured around the belief that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success. 826 Seattle is one of six 826 National chapters. The original, 826 Valencia, was founded by acclaimed author and philanthropist Dave Eggers and is located in San Francisco's Mission District (826valencia.org). The others are in Ann Arbor (826michigan.org); Brooklyn (826NYC.org); Chicago (826chi.org); and Los Angeles (826la.org).

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