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(Suquamish, Washington) -- *Caring Clowns International* is an all-volunteer, IRS tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization comprised of clowns across the U.S. and several other countries. These clowns donate their time at over 80 events internationally and across the U.S. including orphanages, children's and other hospitals, events for homeless children and adults, residences for abused women and children, schools for the disabled, retirement centers, VA hospitals, events for kids with down syndrome and disabilities, and children whose parents are in prisons and correctional facilities, community events and private parties.

Members have clowned and supported nonprofits operating in Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic, England, Ethiopia, France, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Uganda, the Ukraine, Vietnam, and throughout the United States. Thousands of children and adults have received red clown noses, balloon sculptures, toys and stuffed animals.

According to Jed "Duffy" Selter, president of the board and acting executive director, *Caring Clowns International* helps to fund humanitarian projects through other well-established nonprofits. "We clown to help awaken the human spirit, making people laugh, helping them to heal and connecting people to their individual humanity," he said.

The organization's goal is to raise and responsibly donate \$5,000,000 to help needy children in the world. To date, *Caring Clowns International* has donated over \$255,000 in funds and equipment supporting many nonprofits in the U.S. and developing countries. A partial list:

International

- 2nd Table Ministries (Provide family and community resources in poor areas) – South Africa
- Armonizar (Children's clinic for the poor; assist with dental reconstruction, speech therapy, and family counseling for children with cleft lip/cleft palate disorders) – Arequipa, Lima and Chinchá, Peru
- Black Lion Hospital - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Children of the Nations – The Dominican Republic, Malawi, Sierra Leone, and Uganda
- Christian Life Movement - Peru earthquake relief
- Dream Home Orphanage - Nepal
- Etta Projects – (Assist families and help build communities)- rural Bolivia
- Facing Africa, Noma – (Facial repair for needy children resulting from Noma, a flesh-eating disease) - Ethiopia
- Global Team/Local Initiatives – (Abandoned Children's Fund) - Ethiopia
- Gulu Primary School Blind Child Annex – (Provide beds and linens) - Gulu, Uganda
- Helping and Loving Orphans (HALO) – Afghanistan and Vietnam
- Hospital Del Nino (Children's hospital) – Lima, Peru

- House of Hope – An orphanage in Ukraine
- Interplast (Surgical teams) – Worldwide
- Komedoplast (Perform facial reconstruction for poor children) – Chicago and Peru
- Mobility Builders and the Wheelchair Project (Design and fabricate custom wheelchairs for disadvantaged quadriplegic and paraplegic children) – Lima, Peru, and Seattle, Washington
- Multiple Orphanages and Scholarship Funds - Vietnam
- Peace Trees Vietnam (Aid schools, homes, land mine clearing) - Vietnam
- The Prosthetics Outreach Foundation (Provide prosthetics and related services for children and adults) - Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Vietnam
- Seattle Anesthesia Outreach – Seattle, Washington, and Ethiopia
- World Vision – Tsunami Relief Malaysia (Provide global aid to the needy) - Worldwide

United States

- American Cancer Society - Puget Sound Area, Washington
- American Red Cross – (Haitian earthquake relief)
- Arlington Kids' Klostet (provide new clothes to children in low income families), Snohomish County, Washington
- Boys and Girls Club – Kingston, Washington
- Camp to Belong (Provide an annual camping experience for siblings in different foster families) – Puget Sound Area, Washington
- Candlelighters (Help children with cancer) – Puget Sound Area, Washington
- Caruso Middle School – Deerfield, Illinois
- Children's Regional Hospital – Seattle, Washington
- The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation – Puget Sound Area, Washington
- The Detlef Schrempf Foundation (Help needy children in the Pacific Northwest) – Puget Sound Area, Washington
- Down Syndrome Association of Snohomish County - Washington
- Down Syndrome Guild of Southeast Michigan (Support a clown school for Down Syndrome children) – Royal Oak, Michigan
- Forgotten Children's Foundation (Provide Christmas supplies, decorations, presents, for needy families) - Puget Sound Area, Washington
- Helping from Heaven - The Lexi Kazian Foundation (Provide special needs equipment for the home for families with special needs children) - Suburban Chicago
- M Bar C Ranch (Support therapeutic riding and ranch entertainment park for disabled and ill children) – Whidbey Island, Washington
- Mary Bridge Children's Hospital – Tacoma, Washington
- Muscular Dystrophy Association – National
- National Down Syndrome Foundation - Indianapolis, Indiana
- North Kitsap Fishline (Local food bank and thrift shop; help needy people) –

Kitsap County, Washington

- ShareNet (Local food bank; aid their program to provide back-to-school supplies for poor children) – Poulsbo, Washington
- Tree House (Assist needy families) – Seattle, Washington
- United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard (Welcome, assist members and families) – Puget Sound Area, Washington
- VA Hospitals and Residences - Puget Sound Area, Washington
- Vine Maple Place (Provide transitional housing and life skills education for indigent families) – Maple Valley, Washington
- Vision House (Provide living assistance to battered women and children) - Seattle, Washington

Selter, who spent several years as a U.S. Air Force officer and then years as an executive in the aerospace industry, has been clowning nearly his entire adult life. He is a co-founder of *Caring Clowns International*. He has authored several small books. One is a book of verses based on his travels to Vietnam as a caring clown. It is entitled "*Behind the Grease Paint – a Clown's Chronicle in Vietnam.*"

Caring Clowns International raises money via donations to its website www.caringclownsinternational.org, dinner-auctions and donations from their performances and gigs for private and community events. Organizations to which *Caring Clowns International* donates funds are vetted through a formal grant application process and are approved by *Caring Clowns International's* board of directors.

For further information on the organization and its humanitarian efforts, contact Laurie Brammer at 414-331-7858 or rosetheclown1@gmail.com.