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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Dana Wharf Whale Watching and the Wyland Foundation Announce 2018 “Art Lessons in the Wild” Contest**

DANA WHARF – Dana Wharf Whale Watching and The Wyland Foundation announce the details for the 2018 Wyland Dolphin and Whale Adventures, “Art Lessons in the Wild” program - the most unique and creative experience on the water. The program officially begins January 27, 2018, and continues Saturdays through April 28, 2018. Passengers will learn how marine wildlife continues to inspire Wyland to create some of the most well-known art pieces of our time, while children will receive an art lesson from Wyland himself via a video feed.

“The first time I saw a whale in the wild, it changed my life,” Wyland said. “It inspired me to become an artist and an advocate for marine life conservation. This partnership with Dana Wharf is part of our effort to encourage people to see the marine life off the Orange County coast in entirely new ways and introduce the next generation to this beautiful ecosystem.”

The adventure includes a whale watching art lesson at 9am and each child participating will be entered into a contest to win prizes as well as receive a gift from Wyland just for entering. Children ages 3-12, who take the art lesson aboard the Dana Pride (with a \$5 donation) will attend a free whale watching trip at the end of the session departing at 10 am.

All art submissions will be judged by Wyland himself (in three age categories, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12), with multiple winners and a grand prize winner. The grand prize is a limited edition Wyland giclee on canvas titled “California Coastline” valued at close to \$2000. In this original artwork by Wyland, a pod of gray whales makes its long journey from the Bering Sea in the Arctic to the warm lagoons of Mexico. With the rising sun at their backs, the creatures move ever closer toward their destination. “This piece is a captivating look at these gentle giants,” says Wyland. “I wanted to take the viewer on the journey for an experience they’ll never forget.”

Trips will sell out and advance reservations are required. The entire \$5.00 art lesson fee will benefit Wyland’s Foundation. Gray Whale season runs through the end of April.

“We are so proud to offer this program to kids. By combining Wyland’s art lesson with a whale watching adventure, kids are able to connect the dots between art and nature, seeing the mammals they just drew

out in their natural environment,” said Donna Kalez, general manager of Dana Wharf Whale Watching. “We are thrilled to be exclusively endorsed by Wyland and thrilled to continue our partnership and this program that’s growing every year.”

**Dates:** January 27th – April 28th every Saturday

**Times:** Art Lesson begins at 9 am followed by a 2 hour whale watching trip from 10 am – 12 noon. Participating families receive priority VIP boarding. Art lesson takes place inside the Dana Pride’s spacious salon and is limited to 20 children each week.

**Cost:** \$5 donation includes art lesson and 2-hour whale watching adventure package for children ages 3-12 (a \$29 value).  
(\*Children must be accompanied by a paying adult – with up to 2 children allowed per adult.)

Whale watching is available without art lesson participation at the regular price of \$45 for adults; \$29 for kids 12 and under

For more information or to book call (888) 224-0603.

#### ABOUT THE WYLAND FOUNDATION

Founded by renowned environmental artist Wyland, the Wyland Foundation has helped children and families around the nation to rediscover the importance of healthy oceans and waterways through public art programs, classroom science education, and live events. The foundation gives children the tools they need to become more creative, positive, and solution-oriented. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and has worked directly with more than one million children since its inception in 1993.

UN Environment is encouraging all concerned to make individual pledges to protect the earth’s water resources, through its joint campaign with the Wyland Foundation. The two partners launched the Wyland World Water Pledge at the start of the UN Ocean Conference that took place in New York, US, from 5-9 June 2017. The launch also marked the beginning of their joint partnership to protect marine resources through UN Environment’s Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA).

#### ABOUT DANA WHARF WHALE WATCHING

Dana Wharf Whale Watching (DWWW) is a California Corporation operating out of Dana Point Harbor in Dana Point, CA. Officers are Michael Hansen, president, and Donna Kalez, vice president.

Family owned and operated since 1958, the business model has evolved from founder Don Hansen’s single fishing boat business operated from the San Clemente Pier to a fleet of 14 vessels providing daily whale watching, ocean adventures, sportfishing, charters, harbor and cause cruises, sailing and more. More than 100,000 locals and visitors from around the world experience all that Dana Wharf has to offer each year.

For over four decades, Dana Wharf has successfully provided the public with a variety of ocean adventures as well as serving the needs of those who are looking for a different type of entertainment. With this in mind, Dana Wharf offers its customers a myriad of experiences, including year-round whale watching. For more information, visit [www.danawharf.com](http://www.danawharf.com).