



ROTARY

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rotary International to Present its Highest Humanitarian Award to a British Charitable Trust for Children

OSAKA, JAPAN, 25 May 2004 -- The day Colin and Wendy Parry lost their 12-year-old son Tim to an IRA bombing in the English city of Warrington became the day two parents would begin a personal crusade for peace and reconciliation between communities in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Out of their grief, the couple decided to create a legacy to Tim, and three-year-old Johnathan Ball, who also died in the March 1993 bombing, by helping young people to understand the nature and causes of conflict, and to find non-violent solutions to personal and community discord.

In March 2000, they founded The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Young People's Peace Center in Warrington, U.K., and launched a peace and conflict resolution training program for young people that has trained more than 7,000 youngsters -- ages 11 to 18 -- to become "Ambassadors for Peace."

This week, during the Rotary International Convention in Osaka, Japan, Rotary International will be giving its highest honor -- the Rotary Award for World Understanding and Peace -- to The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust for its work in teaching conflict resolution to young people.

Colin Parry, who gave up full-time employment as a human resources specialist to found the charitable trust and its "Children for Peace" campaign, is scheduled to accept the award on May 25. The Trust will also receive a US\$100,000 grant to fund a peace-focused project of its choice.

"We believe that if we invest in children and young people now, we will be able to persuade them that they can resolve problems of any size or complexity without resorting to violence," says Parry.

The "Children for Peace" campaign focuses on moral and social responsibilities, political literacy and social and community inclusion. The center, which has residential facilities, brings together young people from around the world to learn about the need to work together for the good of their own, and others' communities.

The Trust also runs a program providing support to victims of the Northern Ireland "Troubles" who live in Great Britain, and has begun to develop partnerships across Europe and the Middle East to deliver its programs to a larger international audience.

Since 1981, Rotary International has honored individuals and groups with the Rotary Award for World Understanding and Peace. The award is given to those whose lives or work embody the Rotary ideal of promoting peace, international understanding, goodwill and community service.

A selection committee reviews the qualifications of each nominee and chooses a recipient and a first and

second alternate. The RI president and Trustee chairman confirm the selection on behalf of the Board of Directors and Trustees. The recipient is recognized at the RI convention and receives a cash grant of US\$100,000 from The Rotary Foundation of RI for a project of the recipient's choice.

Past recipients of the Rotary award include Pope John Paul II, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela, the former President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel, former U.N. General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar and Dr. Albert Sabin, developer of the oral polio vaccine.

Rotary is an organization of 1.2 million business and professional leaders from 166 countries worldwide who provide humanitarian service and help to build good will and peace in the world.

Rotary has recently established the Rotary Centers for International Studies at prestigious universities throughout the world to advance peace and conflict resolution studies, and to create a future generation of community and world leaders. See www.rotary.org for more information.

Rotary International, an international humanitarian organization, has 1.2 million members in some 31,000 Rotary clubs in more than 165 countries. The main objective of the organization is service – in the community and throughout the world. As volunteers, members of Rotary implement projects that meet community needs, build goodwill and peace, and encourage high ethical standards in all vocations.