



**Press Release 8<sup>th</sup> June 2004 Press Release 8<sup>th</sup> June 2004**

## **Rotary International Bestows Prestigious Humanitarian Award on The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust Warrington Peace Centre**

Rotary District 1280 announce today that Rotary's highest honour, the Rotary Award for World Understanding and Peace, has been given to the UK charity the "Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust" for its work in teaching young people peace building and conflict resolution skills. Chairman of the trustees and founder Colin Parry accepted the award on behalf of the trust at the Rotary International Convention in Osaka, Japan. Colin Parry founded the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Trust after his son was killed in the March 1993 Warrington, England IRA bombing.

Since the bombing, Colin and his wife Wendy Parry have been active campaigners for peace and reconciliation between communities in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and the U.K. In March of 2000, on the seventh anniversary of the bombing, the Parry's created a peace centre to help young people from around the world understand the nature, causes, management and resolution of conflict through non-violent means. "The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Young People's Peace Centre" provides residential accommodation, IT facilities, and conference and dining facilities to train young people in peace and conflict resolution. To date, the charity's 'Children for Peace' campaign has trained more than 7000 young people to become 'Ambassadors for Peace.' Programmes are offered to participants free of charge, to ensure equality of access, participation and opportunity.

"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. They will become children for peace," states Parry.

Since 1981, Rotary International has honoured individuals and groups with the Rotary Award for World Understanding. The award is given to an individual whose life or work exemplifies the Rotary ideal of promoting peace, international understanding, goodwill and community service. The award and its accompanying US\$100,000 grant fund a peace-focused project chosen by the award recipient.

Past recipients of the Rotary Award for World Understanding include: Pope John Paul II; Former US President Jimmy Carter; the former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela; the former President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel; former UN 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 united worldwide who provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotary has recently established the Rotary Centres for International Studies at prestigious universities throughout the world in order to advance peace and conflict resolution studies and create a future generation of community and world leaders. [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)*

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### **Rotary District 1280 Contact**

Roy Murphy, Public Relations Officer 01 204 840-643

e-mail [roymurphy6@supanet.com](mailto:roymurphy6@supanet.com)

<http://www.rotary1280.org/>