

Children's Friendship  
Project for Northern Ireland, Inc.  
"Promoting Understanding Through Interaction"  
www.cfpni.org

## U.S. Newsletter – Fall 2001

### CFPNI'S 15th Year A Great Success!

This past summer 80 families from across the United States opened their hearts and homes to Catholic-Protestant pairs of teens from Northern Ireland.



*One of the many skits at the 2001 Reunion in N.I.*

Over the years, many Americans have chose to promote peace directly by participating in the Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland, Inc. By hosting or sponsoring a Catholic-Protestant pair of teens, they have been promoting friendship, peace, trust, and understanding in Northern Ireland through person-to-person interactions. The program has touched thousands of teens, their families, their relatives, and their friends. It is making a difference. Thanks to all of you who have hosted and all of you who have contributed generously to this all-volunteer program.

### Sign Up Now To Host In 2002

If you know that you would like to host next summer, please sign up now. There are many teens who have been paired and who are anxiously awaiting hosts and many more being paired at the moment. Call 1-800-786-8788 to get an application form.



Some of us were on Wall Street, others at the White House. Wherever we were on the morning of September 11, we all share in the grief and loss from the tragic events of that day, and honor all the heroes who have served our nation since.

### Anonymous Words from the Internet

*As the soot and dirt and ash rained down,  
we became one color.*

*As we carried each other down the stairs of the  
burning building,  
we became one class.*

*As we lit candles of waiting and hope,  
we became one generation.*

*As the firefighters and police fought their way into  
the inferno,  
we became one gender.*

*As we fell to our knees in prayer for strength,  
we became one faith.*

*As we whispered our shouted words of  
encouragement,  
we spoke one language.*

*As we gave our blood in lines a mile long,  
we became one body.*

*As we mourn together the great loss,  
we became one family.*

*As we cried tears of grief and loss,  
we became one soul.*

*As we retell with pride of the sacrifice of heroes,  
we became one people.*

*We are One color, One class, One generation, One  
gender, One faith, One language, One body, One family,  
One soul. We are The Power of One. We are United. We  
are America.*

## **George Demass, CFPNI President-Elect**

Congratulations to George Demass on his election as CFPNI's first President-elect. George took office this past summer and will work closely with John Chadsey, CFPNI President through the end of 2002, when he is to assume the duties of President for 2003 and 2004. His election by the board took place this past summer after the unanimous recommendation of the U.S. and N.I. members of the nominating committee. Thanks, George, for your willingness to take on the important responsibilities of leading the program!



*George Demass (right) at CFPNI's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion*

George has been associated with the Children's Friendship Project since its beginnings and before that with its predecessor program, Children's Committee Ten. For many years he served as a coordinator, board member, and as Treasurer. He has hosted six pairs of boys from N.I.

George was born and raised on a farm in upstate New York, (Oswego) in 1945. He went to a one-room schoolhouse, graduated from Oswego High, and from the State University of New York at Oswego. Subsequently he received a Masters of Divinity degree from Temple Baptist Theological Seminary in Chattanooga, TN. and did graduate work at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

He served as Associate Pastor at Knox Presbyterian Church in Kenmore, NY and has been Pastor at the Perry Hall Presbyterian Church in Baltimore since 1975.

He is not only a director and officer of CFPNI, but also presently serves as Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of Baltimore with its 73 churches.

George's hobbies include collecting rare autographs (e.g., of First Ladies, as well as of Russian and British royalty) and Native American Artifacts. He is a member of the Titanic Historical Society, Inc.



**VISIT US AT [www.cfpni.org](http://www.cfpni.org)**

## **New Directors**


We are very pleased to announce the election of four new members to the board of directors. They are—

**Bonagh Hinds** (Belfast, N.I.) – Bronagh is Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Director of the Ulster People's College. She is the former Regional Director for Oxfam in Ireland and an information officer with the Combat Poverty Agency in the Republic of Ireland. She is winner of the UK Woman of Europe in 1999, Freedom of the City of Baltimore, and is to receive the Democracy Award from the International Women's Democracy Centre in January 2002.

**John McKinney** (Omagh, Co. Tyrone, N.I.) – John is the Chief Executive of the Special Programmes Body of the European Union. He was the Chief Executive of the Omagh District Council (1988-2001) and of the Strabane District Council (1986-88). In 1999 he received an OBE from HRH Queen Elizabeth II for his leadership in the community, including his leadership after the 1998 Omagh bombing.


**Anthony Earle** (Madison, WI) – Tony is a partner of the Quarles and Brady law firm. From 1983 to 1986 he was Governor of Wisconsin and Secretary for Natural Resources from 1976 to 1980. He has been a member of the governing board of Common Cause and of the board of directors of the Joyce Foundation, Great Lakes Protection Fund, and numerous other organizations.

**George Demass** – (see column one on this page). The board has amended the bylaws for the President-elect and immediate Past-president to be voting directors.

Congratulations and thanks to Derrick and Jim. 

## **2001 National Raffle Winners**

\$500—Robert Philburn, Arnold MD  
\$300—Charles and Christine Barranco, Ewing, NJ  
\$200—Marie Finnegan, Bronx, NY  
Donegal China Clock—Dawn Shaner, Spring City, PA  
Belleek China Vase—Kara O'Keefe, Mountainside, NJ  
Donegal China Vase—Leslie Pell, Skillman, NJ  
Galway Crystal Vase—Bill Hayes, Rochelle, IL  
Royal Tara Vase—Marcy Devlin, Camp Hill, PA  
Irish Cream Coffee Glasses—Katie Kellmer,  
W. Windsor, NJ  
\$25 US Savings Bond – Norita Callahan,  
Albuquerque, NM

Summer 2002 raffle tickets are enclosed. Please send purchase money and requests for additional tickets in the enclosed envelope. 

## Reflections

Over the years, so many changes ....

I remember my first visit to Northern Ireland in 1985. The streets of Belfast were crowded, not with shopper, but with police and soldiers who searched people as they went to shop. Shopping bags were often dumped on the street to reveal their contents. Cars would be stopped and searched without notice.

I visited a Protestant boy that my husband, Jack, and I hosted that year. When I arrived, his father was a nervous wreck, fearing that my Cork accent would reveal to his neighbors that he had a Catholic visitor. When I visited his Catholic partner in a rural area, soldiers were marching on both sides of the street, with their fingers on the triggers of their guns, and with helicopters flew overhead night and day.

In driving through the Falls Road and Shankill areas of Belfast, most of the houses were just burned-out shells. Nearly every street had cars and busses that had been torched.

Upon returning home, I couldn't explain what I saw to my husband Jack. (For those new to the program, Jack, now deceased, was in the US Army for 20 years. So, I was familiar with soldiers, tanks, and uniforms, but not deployed on city streets.) It was like science fiction.

Jack joined me every year after that. Even though he served in both Korea and Vietnam, Jack said he was never so scared as when he was in Northern Ireland.

So, I never thought that I would see in my lifetime the changes that have taken place over the past four to five years. On the other hand, I always knew that CFPNI would make a difference. It has! Thanks to the many Americans who have hosted pairs of Catholic and Protestant teens and who have support the program through donations.

I was just in Northern Ireland for the annual reunion party of the 2001 teens and their parents. Once again it is a sign from God that we are doing his good works, as most of the people would not have said "hello" to one another more than a year ago. "Promoting understanding through interaction" is working across Northern Ireland...:"Not for an hour or a day, but hopefully forever..."

But, this program and your help will be needed for a few more years, as there are still diehards that have yet to reach.

The many people from Northern Ireland attending the reunion extended their great sympathy to we Americans on the disastrous events of September 11.

They understand, as they have lived with terrorism all their lives. I hope and pray that neither the people of Northern Ireland, nor we Americans will have to live with a fear of terrorism much longer. May you all have a peaceful, happy, holiday season.

God Bless,  
Peggy Barrett  
Founder and  
President Emeritus



## Barrett Award Winners

The fourth annual CFPNI Barrett Award was conferred upon Catherine Creighton and Roisin Speight at CFPNI's October reunion. The award honors a pair of teens from the previous year that best exemplify the program's values.

Established by the CFPNI board in 1997 in recognition of the extraordinary contributions of Peggy and Jack Barrett to peace in Northern Ireland through CFPNI, the Barrett Award is the highest honor that is conveyed by the program.

Each year, many deserving teen pairs have been nominated, making the choice of a single pair exceedingly difficult.



*Peggy Barrett presenting plaques to Catherine and Roisin*

The two girls are best friends. They visit nursing homes together to entertain the elderly. Both girls attended a community service program in France together this past summer. Next year they plan to travel together to Africa to work with AIDS patients. And both now attend the same school. In Catherine's words, "...Roisin listens to my problems and I listen to hers and we try to solve them, we go to discos and do silly things together that keep us laughing for hours on end. Roisin and I are two people that are likely to remain friends forever thanks to the Children's Friendship Project..."

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In Roisin's words, "...I can't imagine life without her to talk to, laugh with, and spend time with..."

Both of their families are also now close. Rosin's younger brother and sister look after Catherine's family cats when they are away.



*2001 Barrett Award winners  
Catherine Creighton and Roisin Speight*

In the words of one of the judges, "Reading those letters last night helped rekindle my belief in God and His goodness as I found myself doubting things given the tragedies we all had witnessed earlier this month. Our program is blessed to have so many wonderful children; and this makes choosing among them more difficult. However, reading the letters written about and by Catherine Creighton and Roisin Speight left me filled with joy over the spirit of friendship, understanding, and love our program has created between the girls and their families."

Congratulations to Roisin and Catherine!



### **Promotional Gift for Donations of \$50+**



Help support CFPNI in two ways: by making a generous donation and by wearing our T-shirt. People making donations of \$50 or more before Dec 31, 2001 may request a free 100% cotton CFPNI T-shirt (\$15 value).

Please specify navy or white and size (M, L, or XL).



## **PLEASE USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO PURCHASE 2001 RAFFLE TICKETS!!**

### **How to Reach CFPNI**

New host families should contact:  
Peggy Barrett, President Emeritus  
341 Maple Avenue, Manheim, PA 17545  
Tel.: 800/786-8788 or 717-270-0844  
(FL residents may call the latter collect.)  
E-mail: [cfpni@prolog.net](mailto:cfpni@prolog.net)

John Chadsey, President  
Tel: 540-347-2547  
E-mail: [cfpnijc@earthlink.net](mailto:cfpnijc@earthlink.net)

Beth McCabe, Vice President  
Tel: 570-620-9424  
E-mail: [jmac6@ptd.net](mailto:jmac6@ptd.net)

Roxanne Landis, Secretary  
Tel: 570-324-3531  
E-mail: [landveal@epix.net](mailto:landveal@epix.net)

Glenn Martinsen, Treasurer  
Tel: 603-432-4301  
E-mail: [gmartinsen@bigfoot.com](mailto:gmartinsen@bigfoot.com)

George Demass, President-elect  
Tel: 410-256-5360  
E-mail: [phpresbyterian@juno.com](mailto:phpresbyterian@juno.com)

Kim Bell, Head Transportation Coordinator  
Tel: 610-678-3182  
E-mail: [MsBell396@aol.com](mailto:MsBell396@aol.com)

Repeat host families can download host application forms at CFPNI's website:

[www.cfpni.org](http://www.cfpni.org)

**PLEASE SEND YOUR TAX-  
DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
SUPPORT PEACE AND  
UNDERSTANDING IN THE  
ENCLOSED ENVELOPE!**

**CFPNI is an all-volunteer  
organization**

**For more information, visit**

[www.cfpni.org](http://www.cfpni.org) 