



Summer of 2004 a Great Success!

There is much to celebrate from CFPNI's summer of 2004. 116 teens from all across Northern Ireland stayed with host families from 10 different states, from New Hampshire to California. This year the teens were paired up earlier than ever before. This made it possible for them to participate in an extensive pre-summer program in Northern Ireland. (See our Principal Northern Ireland Coordinator, Florence Brunt's comments for more information about that part of the program.)

In addition to the main objective of building and cementing new cross-community friendships, teens participated in a variety of community service projects in the United States, and kept journals to reflect on their experiences.

The end of the summer teen and host family evaluations indicate that many friendships were built between the teens that hopefully will last a lifetime. And, as always many host families indicated how hard it was to say goodbye at the end of the four weeks, so strong were the bonds they formed with their teens. The success of the summer was very evident in the spirit and the presentations by the teens at the reunion held in Armagh in October.

Thank you host families! You are the backbone of this program in America. You've made a big difference in the lives of these teens which they may not fully realize for many years. But, you've brought hope to them for their own and their country's future.

Annual U.S. Coordinators' Meeting February 5, 2005 Baltimore MD

Two coordinators from Northern Ireland, and the elected officers will join together with the U.S. coordinators at Perry Hall Presbyterian Church in Baltimore MD, on Saturday February 5th, 2005. Please inform David Reynolds of your interest in attending. The meeting will begin at 11:00 AM, with lunch provided. For all who can stay, we will end with dinner together at a local restaurant. Anyone interested in serving as a local area coordinator here in the U.S., please contact David Reynolds as well at: 540-298-8250 or president@cfpni.org

CFPNI Elected Officers for 2005

President

David Reynolds, Elkton, VA

Tel: 540-298-8250

president@cfpni.org

President-Elect

Christine Robidoux, Temple, NH

Tel: 603-566-5357

ricochetrobidoux@hotmail.com

Vice President

Chuck Keady, Albuquerque, NM

Tel: 505-298-5285

vicepresident@cfpni.org

Secretary

Roxanne Landis, Roaring Branch, PA

Tel: 570-324-3531

secretary@cfpni.org

Treasurer

Glenn Martinsen, Derry, NH

Tel: 603-432-4301

treasurer@cfpni.org

President Emeritus (ongoing)

Peggy Barrett, Manheim, PA

Tel: 888-524-0648

cfpni@prolog.net

Northern Ireland Principal Coordinator's Reflections

We have just completed the 2004 program with our Re-Union held on Saturday 23rd October in Armagh. This was a very successful event with very interesting and varied presentations from each of the groups around the province. The teens were able to present difficult topics with a certain sense of fun thereby showing how it is possible to come to a well-developed understanding of the issues faced here in Northern Ireland. The Coordinators were very proud to be associated with their teens and I know that our American visitors in attendance really enjoyed the day.

The development of the year-long program that we all now use has been a

Continued, page 2

BARRETT AWARD

The 2004 Barrett Award winners are Aisling Reihill of Lisneskea and Leanne Lappin of Enniskillen. They were hosted in 2003 by Skip and Carol Jones of Virginia with whom they still keep in close contact and expect to visit there again in the summer of 2005.

Aisling and Leanne have grown closer in their friendship and have made new ones through their involvement in cross-community activities in the last year.

They received their award and were honored at the October reunion in Armagh. Congratulations Leanne and Aisling!!



Peggy Barrett presenting the 2004 Barrett Award to Aisling and Leanne

Northern Ireland Principal Coordinator's Reflections

from page 1

great asset in giving the teens the opportunity to explore these difficult issues. It helps them to understand why the problems we have here actually exist and how they can work to make a difference. The teens now meet every two weeks from January to June. They also have a two-day conference to give them a better chance to bond as a team and have longer quality time to follow the planned activities. Using this program is giving us the chance to develop the leaders of tomorrow. From August to October the teens work on their presentation for the Re-Union. During the year we also give parents opportunities to take part in the program. At the table-top quiz the parents of each pair of teens form the teams. This gives them the chance to meet in a neutral venue. Parents also come to one of the meetings and take part in some of the activities that the teens have already done. This gives a parents a better chance to understand how the project is working and indeed many parents become firm friends with their child's partner's parents.

When the teens go to America they are able to see how all the different cultures can live together in harmony. I feel that what we are now doing here has enhanced the learning that takes place while in the USA because their minds have been opened to look and see how life really is over there. The journals that the teens worked on while they were visiting the USA this year were a very positive development and most of the teens completed them. Many teens are delighted to have such a good record to keep for the future.

All the Co-ordinators are in the process of recruiting teens for 2005. An information evening is held in each area for the teens and their parents. Teens complete application forms along with writing a letter saying why they would like to be considered for the project. They then have an interview in the presence of a parent/guardian. All groups will have their recruitment completed before Christmas so that they can have a well-earned rest before the meetings begin in January.

One Host Family's Experience

I recently came across the newsletter my parents receive from you and thought I'd send an email detailing our relationship with the girls my parents hosted.

In 1995 my parents, Hugh and Annette Bedford, hosted Joanne Carmichael and Tricia McCloskey, both of Dungiven, Co. L'Derry. My sister, Nicole and I had a great time with the girls that summer. It was an amazing experience – four teenage girls together every day, having a blast! We all became so close that Nicole and I decided to visit them in Northern Ireland. So, in the summer of 1996 we spent two weeks with Joanne and two weeks with Tricia. We were able to meet their families and see how their lives were, back home. We kept in touch over the next few years and always hoped to see each other again. I got married in 1998, and both Tricia and Joanne came to Maryland to be bridesmaids in my wedding. Joanne even brought her mom and sister along for the trip. Again, several years passed during which we sent letters and emails from time to time. Then, in October 2004, my parents, Nicole and her husband, myself and my husband all went to Ireland to attend Joanne's wedding. My husband and I stayed with Tricia's family. Tricia attended the wedding with her mom, and I was asked to do a reading during the service. It was so wonderful to be back in Dungiven and to see everyone again. My parents were thrilled to meet the families they'd heard about for nine years. Plans are in the works for Tricia to visit within the next year, possibly with some of her family as well.

I treasure the time that the four of us girls spent together, and even more, the lifetime friendships that resulted. My son is only 2 years old, but already I'm planning to host CFPNI students when he is a teenager. I know he'll enjoy it just as much as I did.

Thank you for keeping this program working. It's worth every effort.

Sincerely,
Heather Johnson

New Directors

We are pleased to announce the election of three new members to the Board of Directors. They are:

Norman Houston, Principal Officer in the Northern Ireland Department of Finance and Personnel

Charles Arndt, Chiropractor and long-time supporter of CFPNI in Northern Virginia

Laurie MacPherson, from Derry, NH, Executive Producer and Business Manager of Crystal Productions LLC, who are the producers of the musical *A Song For Ireland*, an original rock opera.

Also, newly elected at the Board of Directors' meeting in October: George DeMass as Chair of the Board.

Congratulations and welcome to all these great folks!



CFPNI teens working at Habitat for Humanity site this past summer

Special Thanks

Special thanks go to Mary McCarthy, Gary McGuirk, and Sharon Harroun for their many years of dedicated service to CFPNI as members of the Board of Directors, and in Sharon Harroun's case, as chair of the Board. Their terms on the Board have expired, but their wisdom and leadership is much appreciated.

Remarks from our Chair of the Board

CFPNI is now entering its 18th. season of promoting understanding through interaction. We have come a long way since those early years. The program has touched thousands of people—the teens, their parents, host families and their friends — and all through a VOLUNTEER organization.

I am thankful for all of you who make this experience happen and worthwhile.

The seeds of peace planted 18 years ago by the Barretts and others are now blooming, while still more "peace" seeds are being planted.

I look forward in chairing the board in these days when there are so many fruitful prospects ahead.

George R. Demass
Chairman Jan. 2005

Sign Up Now to Host in 2005

If you know you'd like to host next summer, please sign up now. There are several ways to start the process. If you know a local area coordinator near you, call him or her and they can get you an application. If not, you can call Peggy Barrett at 1(888) 524-0648, or go to our website and begin the process there: www.cfpni.org

Other Ways You Can Help! *Donate money toward teen travel.*

Individuals and companies paying the travel costs for a teen will be invited to meet them during the summer. In the U.S. you can send your tax-deductible donations to:

CFPNI Treasurer
Glenn A. Martinsen
7 Olde Manchester Rd.
Derry, New Hampshire 03038-7312

Or ... you can now donate online by credit card. Just go to <http://www.cfpni.org/canhelp/help.htm> to see the link

Reflections

by Peggy Barrett (Founder)

May I start by thanking you all for your continued support of peace in Northern Ireland through the concept of CFPNI. We are all volunteers, no salaries, no rental fees for office space, etc. 99% of what you donate goes towards the travel expenses of the teens to the U.S. each year. It is all tax-deductible to you, as we are a (501)c(3) organization.

We need more coordinators across this great country of ours to secure more host families and raise funds for teens' travel expenses. And, who is better qualified than former host families? For many of you on this mailing list who may never have hosted teens, you can still help by putting a request for host families in your local newspaper, or church bulletin. President David Reynolds or myself will be glad to help with information or press releases.

I wish I could share with you all the reasons we know how well this program is working to bring the people of Northern Ireland together. Letters from the nominees for the Barrett Award each year prove it in so many ways....telling us of the sleep-overs at each other's homes, borrowing evening gowns for proms, the teens' parents' friendships, those pairs going on to college sharing flats (apts.) together. And, all those extending their friendships with each others' friends.

Since 1987, CFPNI has brought approximately 3,000 teens to the U.S. Just think of what that number has meant to the inter-action and understanding of another way of life for so many people. There are still pockets of mistrust in some parts of N.I. and we need to reach them also. So, we still ask for your help, both through your generosity and through securing more host families. The N.I. coordinators are doing a better job than ever with teen activities before they arrive in the summer, and after they return home, and also with screening for the future leaders of their country.

Once again, may I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support in helping bring peace to a small part of the world. GOD BLESS! HAPPY HOLIDAYS.



Dean Pittman, American Consul General to Northern Ireland at CFPNI reunion in October. Pictured left to right, first row, Sharon Harroun, Chair of the Board, Florence Brunt, Principal N.I. Coordinator, Dean Pittman, David Reynolds, President, with some 2004 CFPNI teens.



One of the teen group presentations at the reunion.

2004 Raffle Winners

1. \$500 — Joe Bracken, Harrisburg, PA
2. \$500 — Joseph McNally, Hampton, NH
3. \$250 — N. Winslow, Albuquerque, NM
4. \$250 — Elaine Hammill, Mt. Laurel, NJ
5. Waterford Crystal Pendant — M. Evans, Centreville, MD
6. Belleek Oakleaf Vase — Brian & Karen Sheehe, Lancaster, PA
7. Belleek Claddagh Plate — Mr. & Mrs. Hansford Hair, Gueydan LA
8. Belleek Millennium Plate — A. Pearce, Alexandria, VA
9. Belleek Vase — Carol Dugan, Dekalb, IL
10. Belleek Daisy Spill Vase — Shelly Morris, L.C., TX