



## Northern Ireland Update

From Florence Brunt, Principal Coordinator

### CFPNI Invited to Stormont

Last November the CFPNI Northern Ireland Treasurer, Mr. Ian Young, two teens from Fermanagh, two teens from Roe Valley, and myself had an invitation to meet the Minister of Education, Mr. Barry Gardiner along with the Permanent Secretary, Mr. McGinn, at Stormont Buildings. There were four other groups represented that had been involved in Cross-Community work in the Province that included a travel element. We had a tour of the building before the main event, which the teens felt, was a great privilege to experience. Ian and I were very proud of the presentation that our teens, Danielle Cadden, Melanie Hall, Robert Mullan, and Cathal Archibald had written telling about how being involved in CFPNI had made a difference

to their attitudes to life here in Northern Ireland and had taught them to respect opinions of others because there were not as many differences as there were similarities. I gave an introduction to tell those assembled about the history and structure of our programme. When Mr. Gardiner addressed us he dispensed with his prepared speech and talked to the young people saying how impressed he was at their involvement in the various programmes and as a result he felt that there was a hope for the future of Northern Ireland by the work that they had done to come to a better understanding of how to deal with the issues facing them. After photographs were taken a buffet meal was served which gave us the opportunity to talk with those present.

### 2005 Program Underway

Recruitment is now complete and the program for the 104 teens for the year is well underway. I am delighted to report that we have a new group in Antrim under the leadership of Carol Scott and Joe and Joanne McConville. In Omagh, Dawn Lawther and Michele Martin have got the group up and running again. I admire the time, commitment and dedicated work that all the coordinators give to the program. We were delighted when flights were announced from Belfast to Newark (instead of through Dublin) and that we will be able to avail of those this summer. It means that the teens will have a little longer in bed before they set off to live with their host families.

## A Letter from a 2004 CFPNI Teen

Hello! My name is Stephen Campbell and I am from Northern Ireland. Last year I had the chance to participate in a cross community project called the Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland (C.F.P.N.I) that allowed me to visit the United States of America.

In November of 2003 I was invited to go to an interview to give me the chance to meet someone from a different religion and go to America. I was paired up with a Catholic person called Dermot White. In Northern Ireland we had many meetings leading up to the four week residential in America to prepare us for it.

The 8<sup>th</sup> of July finally came when my partner and I left for America. Leading up to the residential I was really excited, as I had never participated in anything like what was in store for us.

We arrived in Newark airport in New Jersey then were to

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*Dermot White and Stephen Campbell with Host Mom Carol Baer of Candia, NH*

# Words From the President

## On the Continuing Need for CFPNI

In America, when a world problem or concern ceases to be covered in our news media, we tend to assume that the concern no longer exists. Much of the time, of course, this is simply not the case, and it is not the case with the situation in Northern Ireland. At our Strategic Planning Session in Northern Ireland at the end of February, we were again made aware of the continuing need for CFPNI. Some recent research in Northern Ireland makes this all too clear. In a 2004 survey of 16 year olds in Northern Ireland, when asked the question: "Will religion always make a difference in the way people feel about each other in Northern Ireland?" 86% said yes. In another recent study, it was stated that "while the imagery of the two communities predominated, the identity orientation(s) of their members were far from homogenous." As our speaker commented, "We who are working in the voluntary sector need to be very aware of this when we blithely talk about communities wanting this and thinking that – communities are made up of very different individuals who do not think with one mind or speak with one voice in the real world. *Young people need to learn this.*" Perhaps

most alarming is the research done in 2002 into violence in North Belfast, by Dr. Neil Jarman. Dr. Jarman states, "In the not too recent past sectarian division may have been seen as something to be worked against, confronted and challenged, but it is increasingly seen as the inevitable basis for the political future of Northern Ireland, the 'two tribes' thesis copper-fastened within the terms of the Good Friday Agreement and within systems and structures of the Assembly. Among many sections of both communities, the history of violence is widely commemorated, and even celebrated, and all too readily it is held up as something to be emulated."

As you can see, CFPNI's concept of "Promoting Understanding through Interaction", and building lasting friendships between Protestant and Catholic teens and their families puts our program right at the critical juncture of all of these concerns. We are still very much needed. In closing I ask you and thank you for your continuing support of the work of CFPNI.

Sincerely,  
David T. Reynolds, President

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## A Letter from a 2004 CFPNI Teen, *continued*

get a connecting flight to Boston where a bus was arranged to take us to New Hampshire where I was staying. My first real feeling of New Hampshire was that the weather was bad. We arrived and it was raining; not a good way to start off the residential.

When I got off the bus in New Hampshire I met my host mother Carol Baer who took me and Dermot to their home in Candia, New Hampshire. The Baer family are one of the kindest and most generous people I have ever met. I really enjoyed staying with them. My

partner and I had such a great experience with them. My host family took us to their camp, which was close to a lake where we went swimming and had much fun. The family also took us to an amusement park and also out for several meals, but their home cooking was even better.

I really enjoyed my experience with C.F.P.N.I and would recommend it to every teen in Northern Ireland to bridge the gap between Catholics and Protestants.

## Welcome New Coordinators!

CFPNI is pleased to have several new coordinators both in the US and in Northern Ireland.

In **California**, we have **Brenda Miller** in Rancho Cucamonga and **Risa Bernstein** in Yorba Linda. **Sandy Calhoun** is spreading the word about the program in Fort Smith, **Arkansas**. **Jim Ferguson** joins us in Carlisle, **Pennsylvania**. Last year **Pam Horton** came on board in Blue Ridge, **Virginia**.

In **Northern Ireland**, **Carol Scott** and **Joe** and **Joanne McConville** are working with a group in **Antrim**. **Dawn Lawther** and **Michele Martin** have gotten a great group of teens together in **Omagh**.

**Would you like to volunteer for CFPNI? Please contact David Reynolds at [president@cfpni.org](mailto:president@cfpni.org).**

## Raffle Reminder:

Raffle Tickets are still available! This year's raffle, to be held June 15, 2005, includes four cash prizes of \$500 and many beautiful Belleek items. Please contact Peggy Barrett at (888) 524-0648 for your tickets.

## Other ways you can help!

Donate money toward teen travel. 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://cfpni.org/help/htm> to see the link.

Newsletter contributions can be emailed to [newsletter@cfpni.org](mailto:newsletter@cfpni.org).

# Spotlight on our Volunteers

## Northern Ireland

June McMullin lost her first husband to the IRA in 1981 when her boys were only babies. Adrian, her eldest was 21 months and her second, Johnnie was only 5 days old. The gunmen waited outside the hospital and shot her husband 17 times in the back.

“I raised my boys not to be bitter and hate. It was hard with two babies and no father. My days were long and lonely. My family were all with me helping me in the early days.”

June met Tony a year later and they married the following year. They had a daughter. Their family was complete but the troubles in Northern Ireland

still continued. In 1998 June was approached by Fiona McFarlane, CFPNI Coordinator, to volunteer with the program. Her two sons had participated in the program, Adrian went to Pennsylvania and Johnnie went to Montana.

“It was a wonderful programme and Tony and I wanted to help it grow.” So they became assistants in the programme. Later, their daughter par-



*June and Tony McMullin  
Upperlands, Co. L'Derry, Northern Ireland*

ticipated in the program as well, going to Pennsylvania.

Thank you June and Tony for your continued support and dedication!

## Beverly and Wil Cassel. Yardley, Pennsylvania

Beverly Cassel learned about CFPNI in 1997 after reading a few lines in the newspaper asking for host families for Northern Ireland teens and gave an “800” number to call. She was at the time trying to trace her family roots to Ireland. Previously, Beverly and her husband Wil had been hosts to some French teens so she called the “800” number. Peggy Barrett informed Beverly, among other things, that the program was six weeks in duration and the host family was responsible to find funds for the teens airfares. The cost of the airfares and seeking funds from others made Beverly uneasy so she said she would have to talk it over with Wil. What excited them was the goals of the program; being catalysts to help bring about friendship, reconciliation and lasting peace to Northern Ireland, two teenagers at a time. “I then also realized by asking others for funds I wasn’t asking for myself but for the teens, so they could have the opportunity to participate. Wil asked me if I really wanted to host and I said, “yes!” so he said, “Let’s do it.”

Beverly and Wil first became hosts



in 1997. She was asked to be a coordinator in 1998. They hosted again in 1999, 2001 and 2002. “Hosting and coordinating has been a wonderful, interesting, educational experience. We have met some great people who have given their time and talent in benefits and on a more personal level we’ve gained some good friends here and across the pond. It gave us great joy to see ‘our’ teens profiting from their CFPNI experience when we stayed with them and their families while visiting Northern Ireland, and by communicating with one another via snail and email.”

They are empty nesters for quite sometime now. Wil is 69 and Beverly is 70. They have three grown children; two daughters and a son. The oldest is 46 and the youngest 38. They have five

grand children.

In addition to their work with CFPNI, Beverly is a registered nurse but has not worked in nursing for many years. Wil is a mechanical engineer and worked as such until four years ago. He wasn’t ready for retirement and is now working as an engineering drafter and documenter for a company where the stress is not so great. Beverly is a Self Help for the Hard of Hearing (SHHH) advocate. A breast cancer survivor of ten years, she is also involved in the Race for the Cure ( for breast cancer), an annual race/event in Princeton, NJ held in October every year.

And of course Beverly is very involved in CFPNI as a coordinator trying to recruit host families and seeking funding through the news media, writing letters, giving talks and having benefits. Each summer she organizes a two-day mission seminar for the teens in the Yardley, PA area, where she sees first hand the building of their self-esteem, understanding and trust of the other’s tradition. This year their local Peace

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# To all 2004 Host Families: Barrett Award

In 1997, the Board of Directors of the Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland, Inc. created the annual Barrett Award to honor the tireless efforts of Peggy and Jack Barrett in bringing hope and understanding to the Catholic and Protestant teens of Northern Ireland and in guiding CFPNI since its inception in 1987.

The Barrett Award will recognize each year the pair of teens that best exemplifies the spirit of CFPNI a year after they return from a summer in the U.S. Each winning pair will be acknowledged at the annual CFPNI reunion a year after their summer in America.

All pairs participating in CFPNI's summer four-week program are eligible for the award. The evaluation criteria include:

- Maintaining and furthering the friendship of the pair
- Extending their friendship to make other cross-community links, by bringing other friends and family members together

- Attending CFPNI follow-up activities
- Encouraging others to participate in CFPNI
- Keeping in close contact with their American host family, and
- Participating in other cross-community activities

The Award will include individual plaques, inclusion on a Master plaque, and dinner together for the two teens and their parents. Winners will be featured in the CFPNI Newsletter and a press release.

The initial nomination for a pair may be made by anyone. Nominations should clearly articulate what the teens have done to promote the ideals of CFPNI and how they meet the evaluation criteria. Letters of support should come from the U.S. host family and Northern Ireland Coordinator. The teens themselves need to summarize their friendship and activities together apart from the summer in the U.S.

Nominations should be made after

July 1 and before August 15, for teens from the previous year. All nominating materials should be sent to George DeMass, CFPNI Chair of the Board of Directors, 8848 Belair Rd, Baltimore, MD 21236 USA, or email: [chairman@cfpni.org](mailto:chairman@cfpni.org).

If you know of a qualifying pair, please nominate them for this special recognition.

## Where are they now?

- Lynsey Cathcart, NI Coordinator, is at present taking a year out of work to travel and is in Australia.

- Lisa Campbell has been sent to India from her work to do training and hopes to be back in March.

- Melanie Faulkner (CFPNI 1997), a Protestant, married Ronan McElhinney, a Catholic, last July and they are excitedly expecting their first child in April.

- Richard Boyd and Peter O'Kane, (CFPNI 2004), joined together with their parents while their American host family (Mark & Linda Eichhorn) visited them in Northern Ireland and they all went to a church service together. The mothers and the teens have turned out to be very good friends and both families see each other about once a week. The boys each said that coming to the USA and participating in CFPNI has changed their lives.

Would you like to make a contribution to "Where are they now"? Please send an e-mail to [newsletter@cfpni.org](mailto:newsletter@cfpni.org).

## Spotlight on our Volunteers

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Center will be giving a full day of presentation workshops and interactive activities in the areas of conflict resolution and respecting one another's differences all geared towards building bridges and bridging the gaps in their relationships. Half of the second day will be hands-on community service possibly at a soup kitchen, American Red Cross homeless shelter, an Inter-faith housing project or the like. The second half of the day we will be celebrating our cultures with the Children's Home Society KIKS pro-

gram (Kids Intervention with Kids in School) with American youth participants combating prejudice. Beverly is quite proud of the teens for accepting many invitations to speak at various churches and organizations, sharing themselves as CFPNI Ambassadors.

Incidentally, their 1997 Protestant teen married a Catholic young man last July and they are expecting their 1st child the end of April. "They are so excited and claim they will call us as soon as the 'wee' one arrives."

## Are You moving?

Please send your new address to Glenn Martinsen at [webmaster@cfpni.org](mailto:webmaster@cfpni.org) so that we can keep our mailing list up to date.

# Fundraising News

Fundraising for CFPNI goes on year round. Here are just a few of this year's fundraising highlights.

CFPNI New Mexico, US, once again provided the food at the Irish-American Society (IAS) of New Mexico's annual St. Patrick's Day party on March 13. They offered corned beef sandwiches OR "Irish" stew (made with beef, not lamb), with a choice of coleslaw or potato salad, roll, pickle for only \$5 (which included desserts). "Just desserts" were \$2.

CFPNI buys the food ingredients from places around town that offer the best deals and ask IAS members to bring various desserts, including soda breads. This year's bread was donated by Entemann's bakery. Last year's event had a great turnout—nearly 300 people!

CFPNI New Mexico has been doing this event every year with the IAS

for the last five or six years.

CFPNI's own John McCabe (Effort, PA) played the bagpipes with The Celtic United Pipes & Drums the weekend of March 12-13th at a Fundraiser for The AOH Carbon County PA St Patrick's Day Parade Dinner in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. The band will lead the parade off this year, which is a Big Honor for a new band. John is an active member in the AOH and has assisted with many other charitable functions that they are involved with. In March the AOH presented John with a check for \$1000.00 at the Grand Marshall's Dinner.

The AOH has helped John and CFPNI Coordinator **Pat Guzewicz** over the years by providing funding and host families. The parade was March 13, 2005 and John, Pat and a few others assisted with parking cars at the beginning of the parade. All monies collected went into an account that has been set



*In Maghera, Co. L'Derry, Northern Ireland, the 2005 teens received a generous gift from their local law enforcement agency, PSNI. Northern Ireland Coordinator June McMullin was pleased to accept the £1350 donation.*

up for CFPNI. The last few years they have collected a little over \$1000.00 each parade!

The New Hampshire group is pleased to be kicking off a new fundraiser for the program! CFPNI Coffee is now available through the CFPNI website. A&E Custom Coffee Roastery of Amherst, NH has created an Irish Breakfast Blend of organic and Fair Trade coffee especially for the Children's Friendship Project for Northern Ireland! The Peru Swiss Water Process Decaf, also organic/Fair Trade certified, is offered for those limiting caffeine intake. Either blend is available for \$10 per 12 oz. bag (plus shipping when applicable). Go to our website, [www.cfpni.org](http://www.cfpni.org) and click on CFPNI Gifts for more information or to place an order.

The Fermanagh, Northern Ireland group held the Table Quiz with their families on Tuesday March 8, 2005.† It was a great success. All the pairs of families seem to get along well together and they raised £220.



## CFPNI Northern Virginia – Auction News

The 2005 St. Patrick's Day Auction, Dinner & Dance was a success thanks to all who participated. This was a splendid opportunity for host families and supporters to come together and celebrate this worthy, workable project. The event included a special video presentation of CFPNI teens, auction items from small to grand, a live band and Irish dancing. A special thank you goes to our guest speakers, Tim Losty of the Northern Ireland Bureau and Alison Kelly of the Irish Embassy.

# Thanks to our Major Contributors in 2004!

## \$10,000 and above:

DC Ireland (Washington , DC)  
Gary McGuirk  
James Rooney

Diocese of Central Pennsylvania  
Fred Graul  
Scott and Rosemary Hamel  
Herndon Rotary Club  
Isaiah 58 Outreach Fund

St. Paul's Roman Catholic Congre-  
gation  
St. Stephen's Cathedral  
Vienna Rotary Club  
Billie Lee and Eric Wells

## \$5,000 - \$9,999:

Thomas Shaefer  
St. Brigid of Kildare (Dublin, OH)

Tim Losty  
Laurie & Stuart MacPherson  
Mary McCarthy

## \$500 - \$999:

Linda and Dominick Carducci  
Robert and Marie Cecil  
Church of the Resurrection  
Clinical Trial Services  
Elkton United Methodist Church  
Father Corby and Alice Hamill  
M.J. Hogan  
Barry and Bonnie McCabe  
Optimist Club of Vienna  
Rotary Club of Newtown  
The Savannah Foundation  
Warrenton Rotary Club

## \$1,000 – \$4,999:

David Allison  
Jonathan and Judith Bryan  
Ancient Order of Hibernians (PA)  
Ancient Order of Hibernians (MD)  
Ancient Order of Hibernians – (Sean  
McBride Division, PA)  
Ancient Order of Hibernians – (An-  
napolis MD)  
Raymond Breuninger  
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St. Aidans Episcopal Church  
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