

HOPING FOUNDATION KARAOKE EVENING

WITH THE HELP OF OUR FRIENDS, THE HOPING FOUNDATION IS PLANNING AN EVENING OF 'KARAOKE WITH THE STARS' AT RONNIE SCOTT'S ON JUNE 21ST 2007, HOSTED BY RUSSELL BRAND, IN ORDER TO SUPPORT OUR PROJECTS FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN. GUESTS WILL BE ABLE TO BID FOR THEMSELVES OR FOR A FRIEND TO EITHER PERFORM A SONG WITH, OR BE SERENADED BY, ONE OF THE CELEBRITY PERFORMERS. CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS SO FAR INCLUDE CHRISSIE HYNDE, JOOLS HOLLAND, SHARLEEN SPITERI, BRYAN ADAMS, NICK CAVE, LULU, MICK JONES, SHANE MACGOWAN, AND OTHER SURPRISE GUESTS.

LAST MAY HOPING RAISED £230,000 WITH A DINNER AT ANNABEL'S AND AN AUCTION OF PROMISES WHERE PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO BID FOR THE UNIQUE AND DESIRABLE, SUCH AS TEA WITH THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AND RUPERT EVERETT, OR A KISS FROM KATE MOSS. WE WANT YOU TO COME AND GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO MAKE THIS EVENING AS SUCCESSFUL AS LAST YEAR'S EVENT. THE COMMITTEE FORMED TO HELP ORGANISE THE EVENING INCLUDES: JEMIMA KHAN, DAN MACMILLAN, BRYAN ADAMS, TRICIA SIMONON, SAM GAINSBURY, GILLIAN McVEY, JUSTINE PICARDIE, HENRIETTA CONRAD, SHEHERAZADE GOLDSMITH, HANNAH ROTHSCHILD, FRAN CUTLER, LAURA BAILEY, ROLA GORDON, CAROLINE LYNCH, NANCY OAKLEY, KERRY SHAW, AND JAN OLESEN. THE HOPING FOUNDATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN JANUARY 2003, ITS TRUSTEES ARE BELLA FREUD (FASHION DESIGNER) AND KARMA NABULSI (FELLOW IN POLITICS AT ST EDMUND HALL, OXFORD).

HOPING STANDS FOR HOPE AND OPTIMISM FOR PALESTINIANS IN THE NEXT GENERATION. THIS NEXT GENERATION WILL BE THE KEY TO PEACE. PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN NEED THE SIMPLE CHANCES AND ORDINARY POSSIBILITIES THAT CAN OFFER THEM CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO THEIR LIVES. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN DO IS TO HELP GENERATE THESE POSSIBILITIES, AS WELL AS A BELIEF IN THE PROMISE OF A BETTER FUTURE. WE WILL BE SHOWING PALESTINIAN CHILDREN THAT THEIR STRUGGLE TO TRANSFORM THEIR LIVES IS ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED BY PEOPLE IN BRITAIN AND THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD. OUR AIM IS TO ENCOURAGE AND IMPROVE ALL ASPECTS OF THE CHILDREN'S LIVES THROUGH ART, MUSIC, SOCIAL AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES; AND TO HELP WITH THEIR EDUCATION AND HEALTH.

THESE PAST WEEKS WE HAVE BEEN PROVIDING EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR PALESTINIAN CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE HAD TO FLEE NAHR AL-BARED CAMP IN LEBANON DURING THE RECENT FIGHTING THERE. OVER THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING THE YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTRES IN MANY OF THE REFUGEE CAMPS THROUGHOUT THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, GIVING GRANTS FOR SPORTS, CENTRE RENOVATION, AND CHILDREN'S SCHOOL SUPPLIES. OTHER GRANTS HAVE INCLUDED A SUMMER ART CAMP FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN IN SYRIA; TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR NURSERY SUPERVISORS IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN LEBANON; CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR SHAMS BLADNA, A CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE WRITTEN LARGELY BY THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT THE REFUGEE CAMPS OF LEBANON; AND IN SEPTEMBER 2006 SENDING EMERGENCY AID (INCLUDING FOOD, TENTS, AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES) TO PALESTINIAN CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES STRANDED ON THE SYRIAN-IRAQI BORDERS.

WITH THE FUNDS FROM LAST YEAR'S BENEFIT AUCTION AT ANNABEL'S, AND THE THREE MASSIVE ATTACK BENEFIT CONCERTS FOR THE CHILDREN OF PALESTINE THIS FEBRUARY, WE WILL BE PROVIDING 15 HOPING UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUNG PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON.

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