

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## DareArts Children For Peace Connect With Soldiers and Children in Afghanistan

March 7, 2006

*"We are ordinary children from ordinary schools but we know that, even though we are just specks in this big world, we can make a difference....."* Barbara, 12

Last September during the Headwaters Arts Festival, 3,188 local youth 'dared' to help other kids in Canada and around the world in wartorn areas through their art cards. This original card-making program was initiated in Canada by DareArts' founder, Marilyn Field. They joined one million children around the world who are reaching out to help others as 'Children For Peace'.

Now, as we learn of our Canadian troops stationed in Afghanistan encountering more danger than in the past, our local youth are taking matters into their own hands to help both our Canadian soldiers and the children in Afghanistan. The youth are gathering up to 2,000 of their original cards and stamping messages inside - one in English to the Canadian soldiers and one in Farsi, the traditional language of the Afghan children. The message is: "We love you from Canadian children." Our soldiers will be able to enjoy the cards first and then use them to pass along to the children in the streets of Afghan towns and villages as messages of peace.

DareArts founder, **Marilyn Field**, expressed, *"We are so proud of our own local youth! By their creative actions, they are becoming responsible world citizens by putting their caring into affirmative action."*

Once stamped, DareArts will deliver the cards to our Canadian armed forces, led by **General Rick Hillier**, who will arrange for their transportation to Afghanistan. In the past, General Hillier has praised the children, *"You are changing the world, one card at a time."*

For details, please visit [www.darearts.com](http://www.darearts.com) or call DareArts at 1-888-540-2787.


Backgrounder:

For four years, local schools to adopt the DareArts Children for Peace card project. Children, their teachers and local artists have joined forces to help others. Local schools involved included: Caledon East; Centennial Hylands; Centre Dufferin District; Credit Meadows; East Garafraxa; Grand Valley and District; Hyland Heights; Mayfield; Montgomery Village; Parkinson; Princess Elizabeth; Princess Margaret; R.H. Lagerquist; St. Andrew; St. Benedict; St. Peter and St. Stephen.

By creating an original card, each child becomes part of the international movement 'Centipede Children with love, Children for Peace' that has been recognised by the **Nobel Peace Prize** committee. Numerous heads of state, the pope and United Nations Secretary General, **Kofi Annan** also support the movement. One million children participate yearly around the world, including, through DareArts, 10,000 Canadian youth. In 2001, DareArts Founder, Marilyn Field, conducted an international choir of 'Centipede Children For Peace' from twenty-two countries at the Nobel Peace Prize's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert.

In cooperation with NATO peace keeping forces, the children's cards have previously bought three ambulances for children in Kosovo, rebuilt schools in Bosnia, supplied 1,000 school bags for kids in Afghanistan and helped build a school in Eniwari, Nigeria. The Canadian children have also helped fellow Canadian aboriginal children in northern fly-in-only communities wage their own war on isolation.

You can still support the children by purchasing their beautiful cards with a suggested donation of \$5 per card. DareArts' Canadian Charitable Number is 88691 7764 RR0002.

Media sponsor: The Banner

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For more information, please call:

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