

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICHESTER MAYOR RAISES LARGEST AMOUNT FOR CHARITY IN 15 YEARS

Reaching the end of his term as Mayor last week Michael Woolley has raised over £15,000 for Chichester based charity Children on the Edge.

Throughout the final year of his term as Mayor, with a wide variety of fundraising events Michael Woolley has been supporting Children on the Edge.

This local charity exists to help the most marginalised children, from providing drop in centres for working children in Bangladesh, to ensuring children in the slums of Haiti have access to sports, they help those who are literally on the edge.

Michael has been specifically raising money to help Burmese refugee children in Umpiem, Thailand. Here Children on the Edge provide boarding houses for 115 unaccompanied children, providing nutrition, care and support.

Through a catalogue of events including a performance of the Renaissance Choir in Chichester Cathedral and a Gala Film Performance at New Park Cinema he has encouraged the Chichester Community to give over £15,000.

Michael is delighted with the response from Chichester citizens saying “Everyone in Chichester has pulled together and done really well”. He presented the final cheque to the charity’s Community Fundraiser, Celena Young at the Mayor making last Thursday who commented “It’s been fantastic being able to work with the mayor this year and we’ve been overwhelmed by the generosity of local people, helping those children most in need”.

To find out more about Children on the Edge just visit www.childrenontheedge.org or call their office on 01243 538 530.

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Notes to Editor:

Children on the Edge exist to help the most marginalised and vulnerable children worldwide, those literally 'on the edge'.

They bring hope, life, colour and fun into these children's lives. They are committed to ensuring their fundamental needs are met and rights realised.

What they provide

The charity's work throughout the world is guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which guarantees every child the same inherent and universal rights.

From setting up safe play and education centres in post-conflict East Timor and post-Tsunami Indonesia, to preventing sex trafficking in Moldova, to working with children fleeing ethnic cleansing in Burma, they innovate and use well proved practices in meeting children's social, emotional and educational needs, helping tackle and prevent the effects of disaster, conflict, loss and poverty.

Their aim is to give those who have been "robbed" of their innocence the childhood they deserve. Because childhood should be a time of innocence and fun, exploration and learning.

Issues they confront

- War
- Disease
- Natural disaster
- Poverty
- Abandonment
- Abuse

All can have a devastating effect on young lives.

Their work help over 5,000 children affected by such issues every day of the year, across 15 projects, 10 countries and three continents.

How they work

Because they work with local partners, they make sure the help they deliver is fast, targeted and effective. Their projects are often used as models of good practice by other agencies.

Where civil society is not strong enough, they will implement themselves utilising skilled staff teams.