

Tickets on sale: Miss Saigon, Pot O' Gold celebration

Tickets are on sale now for *Miss Saigon* and the second annual Pot O' Gold celebration.

CPNI has 100 tickets for *Miss Saigon* at 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16, at the Orpheum Theater in Minneapolis. Cost is \$85, including a \$28 donation to CPNI.

Pot O' Gold will be Saturday, March 12, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on the West Side of St. Paul. The celebration, which netted about \$10,000 in its first year, includes a 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. dinner and 8 p.m. program. A silent auction of fine Irish crystal, linens, quilts and other contributed items will be held. Tickets are \$50, including a \$40 donation to CPNI.

Tickets for either event can be obtained by calling 920-3520 or returning the registration form on this page. If you wish to contribute (past items also have included gift certificates, books, free piano lessons and use of vacation homes), please call Nancy Brennan at (612) 922-0740. ❖

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____

Please reserve tickets for the following events:

		# of tickets
Jan. 16	_____ <i>Miss Saigon</i> (\$85 each)	_____
March 12	_____ Pot O' Gold (\$50 each)	_____

Enclosed is my check of \$_____

Tickets will be mailed two weeks in advance. For more information, call Karol Baumeister, (612) 452-4679, on *Miss Saigon*, and Nancy Brennan, (612) 922-0740, on Pot O' Gold.

Please return this form to Baumeister at 2025 Centre Pointe #270, Mendota Heights, MN 55120.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM OF NORTHERN IRELAND
P.O. Box 2098
St. Paul, Minnesota
USA 55102-0098

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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CPNI plans to bring 125 children again in 1994

The Children's Program of Northern Ireland hopes to bring 100 "new" children and 25 "repeat" youths to Minnesota in June as part of its 21st year.

Children will arrive June 28 and 29 for their six-week visit and will return to Northern Ireland Aug. 9 and 10.

The cost for host families will be the same as in 1993 - \$875 for new children or repeat children who are 11 or younger and \$975 for repeat children who are 12 or older. Their fee will be higher because they will have an adult airfare.

The program also hopes to provide medical insurance at minimal - if any - cost to host families. There was no charge last year for insurance, which previously cost between \$50 and \$75.

Negotiations are under way to have the children fly from Belfast via London to the Twin Cities instead of the Dublin-London-Twin Cities flight, which also involved a lengthy early-morning bus trip from Belfast to Dublin.

The CPNI board decided not to increase the 1994 fee because fares are expected to remain stable and the program had a 1992-93 fund surplus as a result of several successful fund-raising events (see article on Page 2 for an explanation of CPNI finances).

Applications will be accepted until March 31, but President Pat Leahy urged families to submit them as soon as possible to ensure a smoother and quicker review. Applications should include a \$100 deposit, and the balance is due before the children arrive.

Board members will interview new families and former host families that have not been in the program for three years. Families and children will be matched by the end of May, and an orientation session will be scheduled for spring.

Families can defray their costs by selling CPNI raffle tickets, and this year will receive a higher percentage of the proceeds. They can keep 75 percent and will return the remaining 25 percent to CPNI. Tickets will be mailed to families with their application forms, and additional tickets are available from Dorothy Miller at (612) 690-2355.

If you have questions about the 1994 program, please call CPNI at (612) 920-3520 and leave a message. A board member will return the call as soon as possible. ❖

Fund drive aims for \$200,000 to reduce program fee, add high school exchange

The Children's Program of Northern Ireland has launched "Hope for the Future," a fund drive with ambitious goals of lowering the cost of the summer program and beginning a new high school exchange effort.

Materials for the \$200,000 fund drive were mailed in November to nearly 3,500 CPNI "alumni" and friends who were asked to earmark contributions or pledges over a three-year period to these initiatives:

- To raise \$150,000 to reduce and cap the cost of the six-week summer program in which 10- and 11-year-old children are brought to the United States. The cost has more

than tripled to \$875 (\$975 for repeat children) in the past decade.

- To raise \$50,000 to fund a new exchange program for high school students from the Upper Midwest and Northern Ireland. Funds also will be sought from corporations and foundations for the program, which could begin as early as fall 1994.

Colleen Needles, news anchor for WCCO-TV, agreed to serve as honorary chair for the fund drive. She was in Northern Ireland in 1992 to prepare a week-long "Dimension" series about "The Troubles."

Hope for the Future

"I came away convinced that all of us must make an extra effort to assist in securing peace in Northern Ireland," she wrote. "Efforts such as CPNI may seem small at such a distance, but they

Continued on Page 2

Where does a CPNI dollar go?

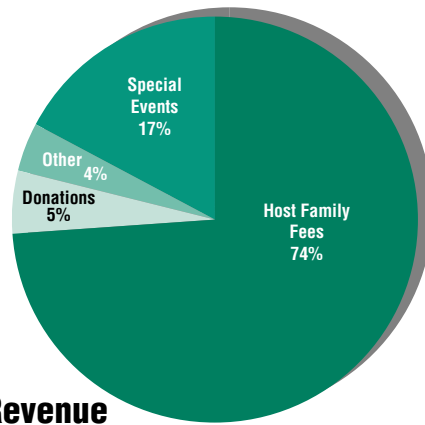
A frequently asked question of the Children's Program of Northern Ireland is, "What happens to the \$875 paid by host families as well as donations and funds raised through special events?"

To explain, it is helpful to briefly review finance statements from 1991-92 and 1992-93, as prepared by IDS Tax and Business Services of New Brighton.

In 1991-92, CPNI had revenues of \$132,843 and expenses of \$152,519. The \$19,676 loss was the result of higher-than-expected expenses and lower-than-expected fund-raising revenue. The loss was covered by savings which consequently shrunk to \$14,758.

The board clearly could not afford a similar loss in 1992-93 and took several steps. An extra effort was made to hold the line on expenses, the fee for host families was increased \$25 and an annual Pot O' Gold dinner and silent auction were established.

The results: \$147,553 in revenue and \$126,147 in expenses for a surplus of \$21,406. The surplus is nearly equal to the \$20,800 received in donations (\$7,108) and from special events such

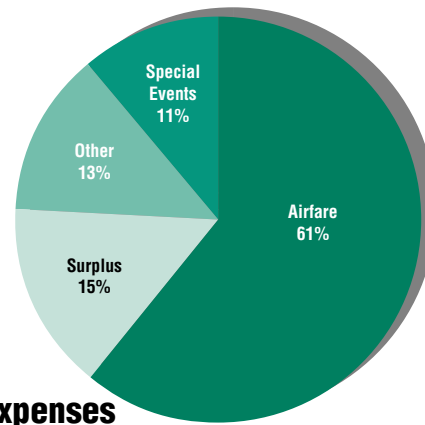


Revenue

as Pot O' Gold (\$9,700 net), "Phantom of the Opera" ticket sales (\$2,750 net) and smaller events (sale of clothing, raffle tickets and candy bars).

As the illustrations on this page show, airfare for the children and their chaperones is the largest single expense and takes 61 cents of every dollar. The only other expense above 2 percent is for special events (11 percent).

The program's 1992-93 financial success enabled the board to replenish its bank accounts, which stood at \$30,536 on Sept. 30, and keep the 1994 program fee at \$875 for most children. Higher operating expenses will be



Expenses

absorbed easily by projected special events income of \$20,000 - \$25,000.

President Pat Leahy said a five-figure surplus is necessary for short-term borrowing on plane tickets and to guard against unexpected expenses or dramatic increases in expenses, as occurred in 1991-92.

Donations to the "Hope for the Future" fund drive will be invested separately and will allow CPNI to cap, and possibly reduce, the cost of the summer program and to fund new initiatives such as a proposed exchange of high school students. ❖

from both countries. The Corrymeela Peace Centre in Northern Ireland has expressed interest in co-sponsoring this program, and details will be worked out soon.

Additional sets of "Hope for the Future" materials are available from Doug Hennes at (612) 962-6402. Contributions should be mailed to CPNI in care of Karen Miller, 254 Upper Lea Lane, Long Lake, MN 55356. ❖



Among Friends

by Pat Leahy, Children's Program of Northern Ireland president

About three years ago, I asked Warren Hanson, a host father, to help CPNI design a fund-raising

brochure. Warren's first pass at a cover had a great line and graphic. There was a sketch of a leprechaun sitting on a mushroom holding a shamrock and the following copy:

"Giving the little people of Northern Ireland a summer of peace takes more than luck."

We never used the design but as a group we understood what Warren was trying to say. And we still do today as we plunge deeper into planning and executing our 21st year. For example:

- Our first task is to find 100 families for the summer of 1994. News releases have been sent to newspa-

pers in the five-state area. Notices are going out to churches to be used in bulletins and newsletters.

In the past, we have not paid enough attention to our most-important resource - you, the former host families and friends of the program. We need your help finding families. Please call us, and have friends and neighbors do the same. We will hold an information meeting at your home, church or library, and will arrange to have a board member give a presentation and answer questions.

- We are aggressively raising funds to contain costs. Last year, the summer program cost \$875 per family (and \$975 for repeat children).

Our "Hope for the Future" fund drive is in full swing, and donations will help us to maintain - and ultimately, we hope, reduce - what we charge. Our goal is to raise \$150,000 over a

three-year period for that purpose.

Our special events have all of the pizzazz of a Hollywood production. The Chieftains concert in December, "Miss Saigon" in January and our Pot O' Gold celebration in March all will help to offset operational costs.

- We are getting our mailing list in order. A newsletter every quarter is our goal to keep families and friends aware of what is happening in CPNI.
- We are attempting to reach agreement to fly the children out of Belfast next summer instead of Dublin. This would mean the arduous 15-hour journey would be cut by at least four hours.

You were right, Warren. It does take a little more than luck! We thank all of you for your continued support. ❖

Leahy re-elected president; Reid new VP

Pat Leahy has been re-elected president of the Children's Program of Northern Ireland.

Leahy, advertising manager for Target Stores, will serve his fourth one-year term as president. Other officers are vice president Joe Reid, an administrator in the Minnesota Attorney General's Office; secretary Diane Tapper, an Eagan homemaker; and treasurer Dick Klecatsky, who owns several St. Paul area funeral homes.

New directors on the 20-person board are Nancy Brennan, a Minneapolis homemaker; Katherine Glassmeyer, marketing director of Meagher and Geer law firm in Minneapolis; Jennifer Harvey, an Eden Prairie homemaker; teacher and attorney, and Kevin Kelleher, a sergeant in the Bloomington Police Department.

Returning directors are Sharon Bailey of Roseville, a computer programmer for The St. Paul Companies; Lisa Bjerken of Edina, a librarian; Sylvia Dorsey of West St. Paul, a travel agent; Michele Edwards, a Mendota Heights homemaker; Cheryl Kerner of St. Paul, a day care educator; Karen Miller of Long Lake, a mortgage closer; Dorothy Miller, a St. Paul homemaker; Doug Hennes of St. Paul, director of university relations at St. Thomas; Linda Ruscher, a Brooklyn Park seamstress; Kathy Schultz of Maplewood, a pharmacist at United Hospitals; Donald Q. Smith, editor and publisher of the Monticello Times; and Demi Tolbert of Plymouth, an assistant Hennepin County attorney. ❖



Hope for future drive

Continued from Page 1

do make a difference when they are combined with similar initiatives. We know that program and others like it are making an impact on children as they become adults."

President Pat Leahy said CPNI is undertaking the fund drive for two reasons:

- Costs have increased nearly every year to a level that threatens to make the program unaffordable. Contributions will be invested and a

portion of earned interest will subsidize operating costs, allowing CPNI to cap (and possibly lower) the program fee. Interest also will be added to the principal to "inflation-proof" the program and ensure that funds always will be available to meet families' needs.

- CPNI needs to do a better job of staying in touch with children from Northern Ireland after their return. One way is to establish exchange programs for high school students

Students head for Ireland

Twenty-four high school students from Cretin-Derham Hall and two from St. Paul Central will travel to the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland on an educational and cultural trip.

The Feb. 17-26 venture, sponsored by the Children's Program of Northern Ireland and American Group Tours of Mendota Heights, is an effort to increase students' awareness of the two countries.

Their stops will include Parliament, Trinity College and U.S. Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith in Dublin. They will meet the mayor of Belfast, spend a day in a school there and stay in the homes of CPNI families.

Students will pay about \$1,500 for the trip, and will sell CPNI raffle tickets to help cover their costs.

This is the second such trip; a similar trip was in February 1992 by 28 Cretin-Derham students.