MISSION AND GOALS
The Caring Institute has promoted the values of caring, integrity and public service since 1985. It was formed that year at the behest of Mother Teresa. Stirred by her example, the Institute has always held fast to an ideal: most problems can be solved if human beings truly care for one another. The Institute celebrates heroic people for their selfless service, especially to the dying, disabled, and disadvantaged. The dedication of these unselfish people to public service uplifts us all and ennobles the human race. The Institute is committed to spreading the caring credo: you can do well by doing good. To reinforce this standard, we continue to broadcast a message of social responsibility. It comes from our belief that one person, with the heart and will, can make a positive difference in the world.

FATHER PATRICK DEVINE

Cover Photo by Christopher Bellew Fennell Photography

Devine is a great humanitarian who has spent many years trying to broker peace among the warring tribes of Eastern Africa. He has literally risked his life several times stepping between armed partisans. He knows there can be no lasting peace if people’s needs are unmet. He has provided food, shelter, health care, and education to thousands in Kenya and nearby countries.
CARING SUBSTITUTE

October 1, 2013

Rev. Fr. Patrick Devine
Executive Director
Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR)
P. O. Box 827-00606
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Rev. Devine,

The purpose of this letter is to congratulate you. You have been selected by the Caring Institute for induction into the Caring Hall of Fame. You are our 2013 International Winner, succeeding His Holiness the Dalai Lama who was chosen for 2012.

We look forward to presenting you with your award on the morning of October 31, 2013. As you know the ceremony will be held in the Cherry Blossom Ballroom of the Gaylord National Hotel at National Harbor, Maryland. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 and end at noon. Lunch will follow the ceremony.

The ceremony will mark your induction into the Caring Hall of Fame located at the Frederick Douglass Museum at 320 A Street, N.E. in Washington, D.C., three blocks east of the U.S. Capitol. We are pleased to have the opportunity to honor you. You deserve the commendation of good men and women everywhere for the exemplary manner in which you have used your life for the betterment of others.

It is a pleasure to include a copy of the November 2012 issue of Caring Magazine which pays tribute to last year’s Caring Award winners. It is included in order to give you an idea of what to expect. Please contact our volunteer staff Danielle Golka, danielle@caring.org or Mike Wittke, mike@caring.org or call 202-547-4273 if you have any questions.

We will be happy to accommodate your schedule or your needs including transportation. The Gaylord is only about 10 minutes from the Capitol. We will be issuing a press release informing the public of your Caring Award and about your induction into the Caring Hall of Fame. This year marks the 25 anniversary of our National Caring Awards which as you know was inspired by Mother Teresa. You will receive a long and inspiring address from millions of people to follow your example devoting their lives to improving the public good.

God Bless America,

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This issue of CARING magazine celebrates the human spirit by profiling those who embody it best. It strives to promote positive values and underscore the importance of service to others in the belief that the solution to most problems lies in the love, understanding, and caring of one human being for another. We believe Albert Schweitzer was correct when he observed, "We are all so much together, and yet we are dying of loneliness." In CARING, we seek to break down barriers between people and build bridges to join them.

We strive to redefine wealth and success in America. We believe that both should find their meaning in service to humankind, instead of only in the accumulation of money and material things. We also believe Albert Einstein was correct when he said, "Only a life lived for others is worthwhile." We emphasize the importance of hard work and seek to promote a positive work ethic in America. We believe there is no such thing as a menial job; each occupation in its own way is essential to society.

Through our interviews with men and women of achievement, we underscore the fact that one person can make a difference. In doing so, we provide positive role models for our nation's youth. We search for genuine heroes, particularly among those who have overcome disability, pain, and suffering to serve others.

We strive to remember and celebrate those whose selfless contributions to society have been forgotten or gone unrecognized.

In CARING, we focus on the positive rather than the negative side of the news in the belief that there is a hunger among the citizens of this nation for such stories.

We seek to promote the solidarity of the American family, which we perceive to be the bedrock of our society. It is an institution we believe to be presently threatened by dangerous inB.uences.

We do our part to shatter myths about aging and combat prejudices that keep the disabled from attaining their full share of the American dream.

We believe that we must change from a materialistic society to a caring society, and that the words "caring people" are two of the most important ones in the English language.

We believe that "caring" is the very essence of the Golden Rule, the thread that connects all great religions of the world. It implies empathy, sensitivity, and placing the welfare of others before self. It involves community service and community cooperation.

We believe that the 21st century will be known as the "Era of Caring," and that society's adoption of this positive value will produce economic as well as sociological gains.

We believe that Luciano de Crescenzo put it well when he said, "We are each of us angels with only one wing. And we can only fly by embracing each other." We invite our readers to join us on our flight into the future, and in our endeavor to build a better and more caring America.

Val J Halamandaris is the founder and executive director of the Caring Institute and President of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice, and editor and publisher of CARING Magazine.

Val J Halamandaris is the founder and executive director of the Caring Institute and President of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice, and editor and publisher of CARING Magazine.
"Shalom is a Hebrew word that means peace with justice and harmony," says Father Patrick Devine, a priest who seeks to resolve conflict in northern Kenya. He's taken on a daunting task given Kenya's ethnic diversity and history of unrest. In 2007, Kenya was shaken by inter-ethnic violence following disputed elections, and six of the country's leaders faced charges of inciting the riots that led to over a thousand deaths. Kenya's military entered Somalia in 2011 to curb the threat of the Islamist militant al-Shabab movement which it accused of kidnapping and killing aid workers and tourists. This fall, a Kenyan with links to Al-Qaeda plotted to attack his country's parliament building and the UN headquarters in Nairobi. The nation's capital city was also scene to a horrific massacre when Somali terrorists laid siege to a shopping mall, killing 61 people and injuring over 100.

Father Devine was there to comfort the victims and survivors of the mayhem. They're just a few of the people who have felt his gentle touch in his 28 years as a missionary in Africa. Looking back, he says, "I have witnessed a substantial amount of killing and maiming and displacement of people. I have witnessed the tremendous sacrifices of missionaries and humanitarian workers promoting peace and development. I have seen large amounts of development assistance utilized to address symptoms of conflict, rather than trying to address the root causes." But if there's no focus on the root causes, conflict will persist, Devine warns. "Negative peace - the mere absence of violence- will never be transformed into positive peace, the experience of people reinforcing the wellbeing, harmony, and development of each other."

Creating a peace that is more than the lack of violence is the goal of Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCRR), the organization Devine found after witnessing the 2007 Kenyan post-election violence. The center is recognized by the Kenyan government and endorsed by the church as a means to bring peace through conflict transformation. "One aspect of our work," Devine explains, "is conducting rigorous research to determine the cause of conflict and offer a basis for new policies and projects going forward. The other is working at the grassroots level to provide the 100 million people with analytical skills to understand what's causing conflict and techniques for building peace. We believe we can help them become the solution to their own problems."

You could see this peace-building process at work during a workshop Devine held for Muslim and Christian leaders of different churches. "There were a lot of conflicts going on. Everyone was on the defensive, and I was not sure how to conduct the workshop," he admits. But he says his spirit guided him when they demanded to know what was on the agenda. "I said to the Christians, 'You know our Muslim brothers and sisters here are going to pray at one o'clock, so maybe we could delay lunch to one-thirty. We'll also pray at one, and this is the prayer I would like you to make.' I urged them. Then I turned to the Muslims, and I said the same thing: would they be willing to pray for their Christian brothers and not pray that they become Muslims? After the both agreed, we all relaxed and had a wonderful workshop."
This success, Devine explains, says something about the way we should approach other people. "We shouldn't try to make them like ourselves. Nor are we called upon to just leave them as they are. But we should have the courage to walk with other people to a place that neither they nor we have been to yet."

And speaking of going to new places, you might wonder how an Irish boy who loved to play football ended up as a priest in northern Kenya, a semi-arid region with practically no roads or electricity, and no medical or educational institutions.

Devine says he came to Africa in response to the cry of the poor. "I was ordained in 1988 into the Society of African Missions (SMA) and assigned to western Tanzania, but my journey really began nine years earlier when I made up my mind to commit my life to Africa. From a very young age, I knew that if I was going to become a priest I wanted to work among the poorest of the poor, like Mother Teresa. I wanted to go places where there's underdevelopment, where the good news of love and forgiveness is not fully heard, and where there is a great need for medical and educational development."

His wish came true after his society asked him to start a mission in a very remote part of Tanzania's Shinyanga Region. He was truly in the wilderness, he recalls, "18 hours from the nearest tar road." But that did not stop him from forging his own road ahead. From the mid 1990’s on, the SMA gave him leadership roles in Kenya and Tanzania, where he was in charge of a medical center, a GOO-pupil secondary school, numerous AIDS education programs, and the care of 1.5 million refugees from Rwanda who had crossed into Tanzania fleeing refuge from genocide. In 2005, he was elected chairman of the Religious Superiors Conference of Kenya, a high-profile position he gave up so he could devote himself to the Shalom Centre.

It all made for "exciting and fulfilling times," Devine recalls. "However, it was not all work. I continued to play football with the Africans as long as the legs were fit and played golf whenever possible, having put flags in the semi desert and used be.n cans for the much sought after hole in one. During holidays, in Ireland and America, I managed to crack the single handicap figure of nine," he says with glee. When on these trips he also likes combining work and play to raise money for new projects. And he gets his chance when Irish friends hold a yearbr golf classic for Africa's poorest schools. "We like to spend t~ money," he says, "on education and medical needs, maybe o kids with AIDS. In some of the poorest schools, there's n electricity or running water. And we can help them. With the money we raise, we've provided desks, renovated classroom , brought in books - and of course footballs!"

Devine also wants to give these young people - and a I young people - a sense of how much joy they can get ol.l~ of giving back. "We need to help them realize," he says, "that every person has so much to give. We need to help them realize
One of Fatha Deoine's conflict resolution workshops their potential to do good, no matter what field they choose."

Sadly, there's a real danger of getting trapped in the "I," where greed and selfishness take over. That's not the road to joy, he knows, so he urges young people to get in tune with God and what He wants us to do. "Of course, the First Commandment is to love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself."

If you can do that, you will find joy, Devine has learned. "My gratefulness for life is grounded in realizing that the person opposite me is sacred to God and that God is speaking to me through that other person. I absolutely believe that God is dying for us to experience His presence, but there's no point in experiencing God in our lives unless we realize that every human being is an expression of his existence. We should go our, dialogue with humanity, and give because there's nothing more important than that."

A culture of violence stands our way, Devine knows from his many years witnessing massacres and mayhem. So he urges all missionary and development workers to join in building peace. And he has advice to guide the rest of us in our daily lives. "We have to be proactive as change agents lest by doing nothing we encourage the doers of evil," he says. "We must never give up on each other and on our ability to do something because God never gives up on us. While many of the youth of our time search in vain for genuine spiritual and political leadership, we are all challenged to engage in a culture of daily living where respect for human rights and life is held to be sacred and honored."

This culture is summed up in the word shalom, Devine explains. "Shalom should not be owned by any religious tradition. It's for everybody, and it's fundamental to our relationship with God, our relationship with our neighbor, and our own sense of self-worth. If we can bring about peace in the world, we can all find our own path to God." But in the meantime, Devine and his center are leading the way in one of the most troubled parts of the world. "Our conviction," he says our work can transform the lives of communities affecte by conflict, so positive, peaceful coexistence becomes a new norm in northern Kenya and adjacent countries."
The 25th Annual Caring Awards