

The Nagano Olympic Harmony Fund

The ideals of mutual respect, friendship and peace are especially present in people's minds in 1998, the year the world celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Drafted mainly by Canadian jurist and diplomat John Humphrey, who in 1946 was appointed as the first director of the

leisure and rest, the right to participate in the cultural life of the community, and the right to a social and international order in which these freedoms can be realized.

With these goals also in mind, the Nagano Organizing Committee (NAOC) designed a programme to raise public

panied by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jody Williams and IOC and NAOC officials. Joined by some 1,600 participants, the walk helped to raise funds to benefit refugee children and the victims of landmines.

The largely visited Peace Appeal Exhibition, which was shown at two different sites before and during the Games, traced the progress that has been made in clearing landmines and the advances in treatment for landmine survivors. It also provided a drop-off point for donations of patchwork quilting destined for the elderly and the infirm living in the city of Sarajevo, host of the XIV Olympic Winter Games in 1984.

Through the activities of the Olympic Harmony Fund, presided by Nagano Mayor Tasuku Tsukada, Nagano sent out a strong message of support for the right of all children to have an education and take part in recreational activities. This goal is set out in NAOC's Nagano Peace Appeal, a text which expresses the organizers' hope that the peaceful climate of the Olympic Games will continue long after the Games are over.

Through the sale of telephone cards, T-shirts and other merchandise, the Fund's steering committee aimed to raise enough money to provide meaningful assistance to disadvantaged children, in the form of educational materials and sport equipment.

These initiatives reflect the potential of the Olympic Games to turn a message of goodwill into a reality. Through them, Nagano has made a worthy contribution to humanitarian concerns, carried out in a spirit of solidarity and fraternity: values which form the core of the Olympic ideal.

Amanda Pingree



Jody Williams (at the microphone) during the ceremony for the Nagano Peace Walk.

human rights division of the United Nations, the declaration was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948.

The objective of 30-article declaration is to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the social and cultural rights of humankind. These include the right to

awareness about the human rights concerns the world continues to face, despite the progress which has been made in the past half-century. On the programme of activities was a charity walk from the historic Zenkoji temple through the centre of Nagano, in which the IOC President and his wife both took part, accom-