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Message from Audrey Hepburn during TOYP Awards Presentation, Helsinki, November 1991

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Upasana Young

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United Nations Children's Fund
Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance
Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia

3 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017
212 326-7000
Telex: 175989

Message from Audrey Hepburn
During TOYP Awards Presentation, Helsinki, November 1991

I am impressed by the calibre of young people nominated in all ten categories for these awards. It is a privilege indeed to have been asked to serve as one of the judges -- but not an easy task!

The nominees in this category exemplify the last line of the Junior Chamber creed: "that service to humanity is the best work of life." It is this spirit of Junior Chamber that relates so closely to UNICEF's efforts for children.

In addition to the humanitarian side of your lives, you are successful business and professional people who expect a good return on your investments. UNICEF expects that too.

It costs only a few cents for oral rehydration salts, to save the life of a child suffering from severe dehydration -- which as you know is the biggest single killer of young children.

It costs only \$13 to immunize a child for life against all major childhood diseases.

And one of the greatest health benefits a mother can give is to breast-feed her infant, providing nutrients and immunities and insuring a safe source of milk even where there is no access to clean water. Add to this the economic reality that breast-milk is free.

In the developing world, where 60% of rural families and 23% in urban areas are still without clean water, improved techniques have made it possible to provide fresh clean supply of water for as little as \$2 per person.

As Jaycees you also recognise the importance of education and training. In poor countries, agricultural production is often up to 25% higher among those with even four years of schooling. And the incidence of child malnutrition and death is often significantly lower in the families where mothers have completed primary education.

You must agree that for a small investment UNICEF is able to produce huge dividends for parents and children. I urge you to find out what your Junior Chamber can do to lend a hand in UNICEF's sound business venture!

Now it is my pleasure to introduce Category #6 -- Outstanding Contributions to Children, World Peace and/or Human Rights. The nominees clearly demonstrate Junior Chamber's high standards of commitment, dedication and achievement. I salute the extraordinary achievements of (the winner's name will be added here) the winner of this year's award.