



From Our Chairman



It is a great privilege for me to serve WAGGGS as Chairman during this period of innovation in the ways in which we are modernising and developing our organization and addressing the issues facing girls and young women across the world. I am proud of the way that we are reaching out to new audiences and providing opportunities that are relevant to today's girls. As we continue to face new challenges and embrace change, it is also important that we celebrate success.

Before I report to you about what we have achieved during 2006, I want to welcome our new Chief Executive, Mary Mc Phail (pictured left). It is a reflection of the Board's commitment to our vision and our strategic plan that we recruited someone with such great experience in advocacy, lobbying and the development of external funding and advocacy partnerships. The World Board and the World Bureau staff hosted events to honour Lesley Bulman-Lever, the outgoing Chief Executive, and thank her for her commitment and dedication to WAGGGS over a ten year term.

Leadership Development, one of our three goals, is absolutely central to all of our work at local, national, regional and world level. We know that girls can and do act as powerful agents of change in the world, one family and one community at a time. Increasingly through WAGGGS, they are developing a global voice and are involved in global actions.

In this Annual Review, we hear inspirational stories from Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in our five regions. They tell how leadership training has made a real difference to their lives, both in Guiding and in their wider communities. We also have wonderful examples from international events at each of our four World Centres. One of our major steps last year was to launch a new venture, the **WAGGGS' Leadership Development Programme (WLDP)**. This provides a framework for the development of current and potential leaders at all levels within the organization.

We all want to be part of creating a world where all girls and young women have the possibility to fulfil their potential to grow up in security, peace, free from the fear of violence and without discrimination. It is for this reason that we continue working **to strengthen and grow the membership**, which is another of our strategic goals,

and to ensure that more girls and young women have opportunities for personal development that we can provide through Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting.

In addition, we have already made significant progress towards achieving our third goal, ensuring that the **voices of girls and young women** are heard at every level of society. We will continue to work to place girls at the heart of policy discussions at local, national and international level.

In developing our role as the voice of girls and young women across the world, we are actively seeking global partners and sponsors to support our work.

The **UPS-WAGGGS partnership** is one example and is a great success story. Thanks to the generosity of UPS, through our Signature Programme - Volunteerism, Guiding membership in Mexico and Malaysia has grown beyond all expectations. The Hong Kong Girl Guide Association began working with partners to promote volunteerism in China.

An additional measure of the success of our cooperation with UPS is that they have committed to working with WAGGGS for a further three years. During phase 2 (2007-2009), the partnership will expand to Brazil. We are also extending the 2006 pilot project in South Africa. Part of the plan is to support fundraising for the World Conference in 2008. UPS is also supporting a piece of research which WAGGGS will conduct amongst its membership towards the end of 2007.

UNAIDS has also provided considerable funds to help develop WAGGGS' work on HIV and AIDS, where it is needed most.

Each girl makes a difference in her own family and community. The collective voice of all the girls and young women involved in Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting, as well as the hundreds of thousands of volunteers involved in WAGGGS, delivers a very powerful and compelling message about girls' empowerment. I look forward to continuing to work closely with all of the Member Organizations, with the volunteers, girls and young women, and the staff of WAGGGS as we fulfil our mission.

Elspeth Henderson
Chairman