



*International
Peace through Understanding*

People to People International News Release

For Immediate Release –

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OPERATION IRAQI CHILDREN NAMED “BEST OF AMERICA” BY *READER’S DIGEST* MAGAZINE

PLEASANTVILLE, NY April 10, 2006 – The Operation Iraqi Children program, administered by People to People International in Kansas City, MO has been named “Best of America” by the editors of *Reader’s Digest* magazine. This celebration of the quirky, amazing and truly extraordinary is featured in the May issue, on newsstands April 18.

After speaking to hundreds of experts and ordinary folk, the editors tested, tasted and debated everything from the Best Sandwich to the Best Must-Have Gadgets to the Best Buzz Cut. The resulting list is organized in six categories – Legacies, Passions, Adventure, Innovations, Time Off and Connections.

“Our country is full of hidden treasures, creative products and inspiring stories that often don’t grab the national spotlight,” said *Reader’s Digest* Editor-in-Chief Jackie Leo. “We had great fun putting this lively and surprising issue together.”

Operation Iraqi Children, named “Best Bridge Builders” by *Reader’s Digest*, was co-founded by actor Gary Sinise (*Forrest Gump*, *Apollo 13*) and author Laura Hillenbrand (*Seabiscuit: An American Legend*) in 2004. The program offers concerned Americans an opportunity to provide the children of Iraq with the basic tools needed for education and a better future and to support U.S. troops at the same time.

Donors across the country have sent thousands of School Supply Kits to the OIC Warehouse in Kansas City, helping OIC to provide school supplies to over a quarter of a million Iraqi children. The response has been outstanding, as evidenced in the photos and letters shared by the soldiers who distribute the supplies throughout Iraq. For more information, please visit www.operationiraqichildren.org.

Reader’s Digest “America’s 100 Best” can be identified by state or category on www.rd.com/boa where readers can nominate entries for next year’s collection.

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President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded People to People International in 1956 to advance international understanding, tolerance and world peace through direct people-to-people contacts. Headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri USA, People to People International has a presence in over 135 countries with more than 80,000 people actively participating in PTPI programs. PTPI’s 50th Anniversary Celebration and 17th Worldwide Conference is August 23-27, 2006 in Sydney, Australia. For more information, please visit us at www.ptpi.org.

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