



## **Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine of Yugoslavia Visit Indianapolis**

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Far, far away, in the land of Yugoslavia, there lives Prince Alexander II, and his beautiful Princess, by the name of Katherine. One day - April 25, 2007 - the Royal couple traveled to a far off land called Indianapolis, Ind., where they arrived to accept the Ambassadors for Children Peace Award.

Ambassadors for Children (AFC) is a not-for-profit, charitable organization dedicated to servicing children around the world through short-term humanitarian service trips and sustainable programs. Each year an AFC award is given to someone in the world that has made a significant impact in their country in regard to disadvantaged, abused, or abandoned children.

This award, which was given at Indianapolis's Peace Learning Center (PLC) in Eagle Creek Park, was a part of the center's Peace Tree Dedication, and took place at 2 p.m. Wednesday afternoon.

According to PLC, "Each leaf on the Peace Tree helps support thousands of young people decrease violence and encourage kindness."

Becki Banet-Lucas, a local artist, created the tree.

According to their website, "PLC is an Indianapolis-based community educational institution teaching peace building and conflict resolution skills to youth and adults. PLC establishes safe and common ways to deal with conflicts and differences."

The site also says that PLC was started in 1997, and has recently reached nearly 100,000 youth and adults.

Following The Peace Tree Dedication was a short press conference, sponsored by AFC, featuring the Royal Couple and additional speakers.

The Royal Couple was welcomed and presented with a glass globe as a gift. Ben McKenzie, a gifted young artist, who specializes in glass as his chosen art medium, created the globe.

McKenzie, who is currently a 14-year old freshman at Herron High school, has been a student at the Indianapolis Art Center since he was just 10 years old.

According to McKenzie, "The globe depicts the earth in iridescent hues of blue."

Other speakers, who also preceded the Royal Couple included Judy O'Bannon, Former First Lady of Indiana; Tim Nation, Co-Founder and Executive Director of PLC; and Dr. Sally Brown, President and CEO of Ambassadors for Children.

Finally was the highlight of the afternoon: words from the greatly anticipated Prince and Princess.

"We were honored to have the Royal Couple visit, and to hear about their humanitarian efforts, particularly their work with children," Gina Woods, development director of PLC, said.

Not only does the couple do admirable deeds to improve the world, but they also manage to

have time for other interests as well.

HRH Crown Prince Alexander II enjoys skiing, sailing, water skiing, scuba diving and under-water photography. He was British Army Ski Champion in 1972. His other interests include music, theatre, information technology, and current affairs.

Princess Katherine speaks Greek, English, French and some Spanish, and she is also studying Serbian. Her Royal Highness enjoys music, reading, and all the activities that regard children, cooking, the theatre and cross-country skiing.

After a series of greetings and questions from media and guests, the couple concluded their visit.

Before they left however, they released two doves outside, which were provided by the White Dove Association. The doves symbolized their true dedication to peace.

"We were very pleased with their visit for many reasons, but perhaps most importantly because of the passion they express for their work," Woods said. "Both the Prince and Princess are great humanitarians. As the Princess said, 'there is always money for war, but none for peace.'"

Woods was not the only one enthusiastic about this one-of-a-kind event.

"Peace Learning Center was excited to host the Prince and Princess of Serbia to honor them for their work for peace in this world," Tim Nation, Co-founder and Executive Director of PLC, said. "They work tirelessly for the unfortunate of their country while building bridges with people around the world."