



## **Roots & Shoots Day of Peace September 21, 2008**

### **Keynote Speech by Pierce and Keely Brosnan Roots & Shoots California Regional Day of Peace Event Griffith Park, Los Angeles, California**

#### **KEELY**

Good afternoon. My husband and I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone and thank you all for joining us for the sixth annual Roots & Shoots Day of Peace in California.

#### **PIERCE**

My family and I are thrilled to be here to celebrate Peace Day, to honor our dear friend Dr. Jane Goodall and to applaud the great work of Roots & Shoots in California. As many of you know, Dr. Goodall is a world-renowned primatologist who, after observing a need in children to have a sense of belonging and purpose, founded Roots & Shoots in 1991. The Roots & Shoots mission is to promote an understanding of diverse cultures and beliefs and to inspire individuals to take action to make our world a better place.

#### **KEELY**

Dr. Jane's insight and passion have made her an iconic trailblazer in the fields of science, the environment and community-based conservation programs. With Dr. Jane's guidance and compassion, Roots & Shoots humanitarian youth program has made a significant impact in the lives of children of all ages by emphasizing respect and reverence for all living things, and by advocating the empowerment of each and every individual. Roots & Shoots provides a link between the heart of compassion and the hands of service, between learning and action, between the natural world and the human community. Its remarkable programs provide a local solution to a number of global issues and demonstrate the principle that Jane holds dear: "Never underestimate the power of one person, because every individual can and does make a difference."

#### **PIERCE**

Many of you may have already met Dr. Jane or perhaps studied her work at school. Others in the audience may have read one of her insightful books or watched one of her many amazing documentaries. For those of you unfamiliar with Dr. Jane, picture a courageous and inquisitive young woman in 1960, walking alone into the wilds of the African forest to study the chimpanzee population. Thus began the longest field study of any animal species in their natural habitat. Dr. Goodall's work in Tanzania enlightened the world about the behavior of chimpanzees. She defied convention by giving the Gombe chimps names instead of numbers and proved through her observations that animals have distinct personalities, minds and emotions...and that man himself was not the only toolmaker. In the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats, Dr. Jane established the Jane Goodall Institute in 1977, which continues her Gombe research today.

#### **KEELY**

Dr. Jane's Roots & Shoots program fosters positive change—for children, for communities, for animals and for the environment. What started with a group of students in Tanzania has grown into tens of thousands of young people in almost 100 countries. The Roots & Shoots network now connects youth of all ages who share a desire to create a better world. Young people—like many



of you here today—identify problems in their communities and learn how to take action. Through volunteer projects, youth-led campaigns and an interactive website, Roots & Shoots members are making a difference around the globe.

### **PIERCE**

In California alone, there are 136 active Roots & Shoots groups with more than 5,000 members.

### **KEELY**

Of all her accomplishments, Dr. Jane often says that she is particularly proud of her role as a United Nations Messenger of Peace. She was appointed not once, but twice: first by former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and again in 2007 by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. ... As a U.N. Messenger of Peace, Dr. Jane serves as an advocate in a variety of areas, including but not limited to poverty eradication, human rights, conflict resolution and conservation.

### **PIERCE**

Unfortunately, Dr. Jane could not be here today to celebrate with us as she and other Messengers of Peace took part in the United Nations International Day of Peace celebration this weekend. However, Jane is here with us today in spirit, and she has sent a letter to you all which I will read...

*Welcome Everyone! I am so sorry to not be with you at this, our 6th Annual California Roots & Shoots Peace Day! But I am very grateful to my two wonderful friends, Keely and Pierce Brosnan, who have agreed to be hosts in my absence. They share my vision of making our world a better place for all living things.*

*It was just six years ago that we flew our first Peace Doves in Los Angeles, and Peace Day in California has always been such a great event thanks to John and Dar Zavalnay and their volunteer team. Today in celebration of the U.N. Day of peace, thousands of people around the world are holding events to express their wishes for peace. You are all making a difference, and together we are changing the world.*

*Although I'm in New York flying a Giant Peace Dove in Manhattan with Roots & Shoots members, their families, and friends, please, know I am with you in spirit, and we parade together for peace. My thanks to everyone who has come out to celebrate Peace Day: the performers, all the volunteers, the Roots & Shoots staff and most importantly all the Roots & Shoots members.*

*Let us celebrate friendship, compassion, kindness to the earth and all living beings, and most of all Peace.*

*With love,  
Dr. Jane*

### **KEELY**

Although we talk of peace ... and we pray for peace.... it is sometimes difficult to imagine peace when we are the midst of a war that is taking loved ones away to distant shores ... and robbing us of critical resources. In order to achieve true world peace, we must urge our leaders to come to peaceful resolutions to our many conflicts. We must also work for peace in our own backyards, and in our communities, with our neighbors, our families, our friends and with ALL our brothers and sisters. There is hope, and that hope rests with you, the youth of today, the leaders of tomorrow.



It has been an incredible experience for myself and my family to join you all in flying our Peace Doves. In past years, Peace Doves have flown in almost 100 countries around the world .... in city parks and backyards, convention centers and refugee camps. Held high by young hands, the Peace Doves have spread their wings everywhere from the Coliseum in Rome to a monastery in Mongolia, from the base of Mount Fuji to the peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Dr. Jane's vision on this extraordinary day is to see Doves soaring all around the globe.

### **PIERCE**

We believe in Dr. Jane's vision and in the promise of our youth. I know that each and every one of us can and does make a difference through our actions. Today, we are not just at war with each other, we are also at war with our planet. Unbridled economic growth has led to widespread industrial pollution, contamination of our air, water and soil, given birth to a list of endangered species and created a dramatic loss of biodiversity. It has also contributed to deforestation, depleted fish stocks worldwide, and has led to the reckless burning of fossil fuels, which has diminished our ozone layer and contributed to global warming.

Roots & Shoots encourages 21<sup>st</sup>-century minds to solve these challenging 21<sup>st</sup>-century problems ... by teaching the ABC's of environmental education and activism. Specifically, it gives young members the tools to become leaders so they can anticipate a problem, alert the world and become part of the solution before the problem is potentially irreversible.

### **KEELY**

Today, we applaud the efforts of all the members of Roots & Shoots across the great state of California who have demonstrated their commitment to making the world a better place for ourselves and our children. We celebrate all that is free and noble in the human spirit. Peace is our greatest treasure. It begins in our hearts ... and is visible in our actions. Thank you.

Additionally, we would like to extend our thanks to the musicians and speakers and especially all the volunteers, who made this event possible. Thank you for donating your time and talents. You are living examples of what is possible when we work together for peace. Thank you.

It's hard to talk about peace while we are at war, but together we can urge our leaders to talk of peace here at home in our own backyard with our neighbors, friends and brothers and sisters.