



Golf Tournament – Sept. 23 at Timber Ridge

Our second annual ICP Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, Sept. 23 at Timber Ridge Golf Course in Brockport. It's a fun day full of golf, food, drink, camaraderie and raffle prizes! To find out if there is still room, please contact Paul Donahue at pdonahue70@me.com

\$95 to enter. \$20 for dinner only (catered by Outback).. Tom Keefer and Celtic Cross will provide lively entertainment once again!

The event would not be the success it has been without the support of our sponsors. Thank you very much to our 2017 sponsors:

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My Experience with the ICP as Host Family and Board Member



18 years ago I did a selfish thing. I chose not to put my children in camp. Being a teacher, I relished my summers off and wanted my children home

with me. That summer my children were 10, 8, and 3 years old. I knew I would have to keep them busy. My husband and I made the decision to become involved with The Irish Children's Program, and hosted our first child from Belfast, Northern Ireland. We didn't know what to expect, and it wasn't always easy. However, there was much support and the families we met through hosting enriched our lives. That summer we kept busy daily, and found gems to explore within and around Rochester.

I made the decision to join the board of the Irish Children's Program after our experience that summer and continue after 18 years, after hosting 7 children from Belfast, and several chaperones. Each year I question whether I should remain active in this

program and on the board, and after every summer or meeting or activity, the answer is clear. This program has enhanced my life, through the work with other volunteers, the connection with the Irish community in Rochester, the families I have met and maintained friendships with, the efforts of the volunteers in Belfast who were former host children themselves, and the knowledge that children's lives have been changed by the work of this board.

Our time from September to June is spent fund-raising and finding families who will open their homes for the month of July to a 10-14 year old child from Belfast, Northern Ireland. The reward is always the summer, watching the faces of these Belfast children as they arrive in Rochester, and meet their host families. Remembering how brave their parents are back in Belfast for unselfishly allowing their children this experience.

So I ask myself, another year on the board of the Irish Children's Program? Absolutely, won't you come join me, our new President Bob Tucker, and the rest of our Board?

Gina Michener, outgoing President

"Peace Through Understanding"

Special points of interest:

- > Golf Tournament
- > Consider being a host family in July 2018!
- > Follow us on Facebook



Inside this issue:

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Photos

Belfast "Daughter" 3
All Grown Up

Summer Fun



Photos below submitted by Joe Territo (see article on next page)



This cracks me up! I wanted to take a picture of the three boys wearing their Manchester United kits (uniforms) on Bryson Street next to the peace wall, but Lucas wasn't having it.



**DONATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO
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ONLINE AT OUR
WEBSITE: [http://
www.irishchildrensprogram.com](http://www.irishchildrensprogram.com)**

**Rochester Irish Children's
Program**

Our Irish Daughter and the Grandchildren of Belfast

Upon arriving from Belfast, Northern Ireland to Rochester, ten year old Adele jumped off a bus and into our hearts.

The Irish Children's Program sponsors visits for children who need a break from the violence that can erupt between Protestants and Catholics during the summer months in Belfast. They stay with American host families and hopefully learn that it is possible for the two religions to live side by side in peace.

Thanks to this ecumenical program, Adele became our Irish daughter. And then just like that, twenty years flashed before us and we were sitting in St. Matthew's chapel in East Belfast watching her, now a beautiful young woman, walk down the aisle about to be married. The wedding was followed by two days of celebration!

Adele stayed in our home nearly every summer during her childhood; she grew up with my kids Nick and Stephanie. Even after graduating from school she often returned to us as a young adult. The bond formed between Adele and my family became strong and extended into a bond between her family in Northern Ireland and ours in America.

Upon arriving in Belfast for Adele's wedding, my family and I were welcomed into their small community, known as the Short Strand, as part of her family. The Strand, as it's commonly called, is a Catholic enclave of about three thousand residents and is approximately ten by ten city blocks of row houses. The district is the only Catholic community in East Belfast and has historically been a flash point for the violence known as the Troubles. Surrounded by peace walls, the children of the Short Strand still do not wander out of their district to play with children on the other side of the walls.

When Adele came to Rochester as a child, the Troubles were still a prominent part of life for the citizens and children of Belfast, but since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, things have steadily improved between Protestants and Catholics. Paramilitary organizations such as the Real IRA (Irish Republican Army) and the UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force) are still represented in the segregated neighborhoods by the many murals which often feature violent undertones as their subject matter. Having said that, my family and I did not feel a sense of danger walking through the districts during the day. There is also no sense of tension in downtown Belfast as Protestants and Catholics walk, shop and dine freely among one another.

Belfast is a beautiful city and now seems to have strong economic activity and tourism. It's citizens, both Protestant and Catholic, should be proud of what is becoming of their city on the River Lagan.

In 2001 I visited Belfast for the first time to work on a personal photography project entitled The Children of Belfast. Much of the project depicted life in what was and sometimes still is, the tough streets of the Short Strand from a child's point of view using a photo journalistic approach. This work was exhibited at the High Falls Fine Art Gallery in downtown Rochester with the opening reception being held on St. Patrick's Day 2002. I returned to the Short Strand this time with two of my grandchildren, Nicholas and Lucas. I was delighted to find the Short Strand a safer place and documenting my own grandchildren in the Strand just blew my mind.

Submitted by Joe Territo

For full blog and photos:

<http://joeterritophotography.com/blog/2017/9/our-irish-daughter-and-a-return-to-belfast>

Editor's Note: While there has been much publicity about the "troubles" between Catholics and Protestants, the majority of the issues and disagreements in Northern Ireland remain political rather than religious.



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and on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/irishchildrensprogram>

SAVE THE DATE!
Sept 23, 2017—Golf Tournament
Timber Ridge
pdonahue70@me.com



ICP Rochester Board Members:

Won't you please consider joining our board?
Guaranteed to be rewarding and fun!

Contact Gina at president@irishchildrensprogram.com



IRISH CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
of Rochester

E-mail:
president@irishchildrensprogram.com

DONATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO RETURN ADDRESS BELOW OR ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE

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