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Birmingham Cathedral Contributes to Pave the Way Foundation Project Supporting Jewish and Muslim Welfare Mothers in Jerusalem

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The Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF) a non-sectarian New York-based foundation dedicated to enhancing relations between religions, today announced that the Cathedral of St. Paul in Birmingham, Alabama has provided financial support to a program that supports needy mothers on welfare in Jerusalem. One of Pave the Way Foundation projects to demonstrate and encourage good will between religious groups, this project uses funds donated by Christian groups to help Jewish and Muslim mothers.

Path the Way Foundation initiated this charitable program to address a vital need and provide a way that individuals, churches, synagogues and mosques could contribute to improving relationships between religious groups. Social services in Israel are lacking in certain areas and sometimes leave the poorest mothers without the basic needs of infants. Funds collected from mosques are donated to help Christian and Jewish mothers. Likewise, funds collected from synagogues are used to help Muslim and Christian mothers and funds collected from churches help Jewish and Muslim mothers.

"The Cathedral of St. Paul, ever striving for peace in our world, believes that dealing with poverty at the grass roots level is the most effective way we can address many of the illnesses of our world," said Rev. Richard E. Donohoe, Rector. "Because of our mandate to love our neighbor we are compelled to respond in many varied ways to these ills. To assist the feeding of children in Jewish and Islamic cultures is a wonderful sign that authenticates our vision."

The funds were used to provide baby formula, diapers and toys. The gifts were distributed on May 22nd and May 24th by PTWF founders, Gary and Meredith Krupp, along with renowned artist, Sam Philipe, and Under Secretary for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, Fr. Angelo Ison OFM. Both are Special Advisors to PTWF in Jerusalem. Fr. Peter Vasko OFM, President of the Franciscan foundation for the Holy Land, helped by locating the Muslim women in need.

While the international news media focuses on horrendous acts of terrorism rooted in religious extremism, PTWF works to give a voice to the silent majority of peace-loving religious people. Religion must not be used as a tool for violence but rather as a tool of reconciliation and peace.

Pave the Way Foundation is founded on the idea that concrete gestures of good will between the faiths can do much more than just simple dialog. PTWF held the largest Jewish Papal Audience in history to simply thank Pope John Paul II for all he had done in religious reconciliation. PTWF initiated the first ever loan of a rare manuscript of Maimonides from the Vatican Library to the State of Israel. These and other projects enhance the common message that the world must come together to oppose religious extremism in every religion and to recognize this abuse as the greatest danger to humanity.

About Pave the Way Foundation

PTWF is dedicated to achieving peace by bridging the intellectual gap in tolerance and understanding, by enhancing relations between religions through cultural, technological and intellectual gestures. The Foundation has a simple yet monumental vision: To enable all the world's religions to mutually realize that extremism, politics and personal agendas must not be allowed to poison the true benevolent message common to all faiths. Bigotry and hatred must be abolished by the faithful embracing their similarities and savoring their differences.