



# Harford County Public Schools

## NEWS RELEASE

102 S. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, Maryland 21014 ● Teri D. Kranefeld ● Manager of Communications  
office: 410-588-5203 ● cell: 443-752-2062 ● [teri.kranefeld@hcps.org](mailto:teri.kranefeld@hcps.org) ● [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org) ● fax: 410-893-2478

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 7, 2008

### LOCAL SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN BENEFIT CONCERT NORTH HARFORD CHOIRS, COMPOSER SUPPORT CENTRAL ASIA INSTITUTE

Renowned composer and conductor Z. Randall Stroop will take the stage at North Harford High School to conduct a benefit concert with the combined choirs of North Harford Middle and High Schools and the Deer Creek Chorale on Saturday, November 1, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. The concert, "Inscription of Hope," will support the Central Asia Institute (CAI) in building a school in the mountain regions of Central Asia and will feature Dr. Stroop's own selections in addition to John Rutter's 'Mass of the Children.'

Martha Banghart, director of choral music at North Harford High School and the Deer Creek Chorale, was inspired to launch this benefit effort after reading Greg Mortenson's acclaimed best-seller 'Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time.' Mortenson's non-profit organization, Central Asia Institute, supports community-based education programs, especially for girls, in remote regions of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, and the steppes of Mongolia. Each one of CAI's projects is locally initiated and involves full community participation. A committee of elders and experts guides each selected program and matches CAI project funds with equal amounts of local resources and labor, ensuring the projects viability and long-term success. CAI's achievements focus on rural education and literacy and public health and conservation.

By launching this student-based initiative, Mrs. Banghart hopes to enrich the lives of young people in Harford County and abroad, to provide a means to serve those in need, and to promote awareness, tolerance, and understanding of other cultures. As part of the benefit, many students in the North Harford community are reading and studying 'Three Cups of Tea.' Students are also participating in a service-learning program of CAI, "Pennies for Peace," which aims to broaden their cultural horizons and teach them about their capacities as philanthropists. In the "Pennies for Peace" campaign, students are collecting pennies in jars placed in elementary, middle and high school classrooms, libraries, churches and offices in the North Harford area. The penny is essentially worthless in the U.S., but in Central Asia a penny buys a pencil and empowers a child to read and write. North Harford students' goal is to encourage their peers, who are ultimately future leaders, to share just one percent, a penny per dollar, for global peace.

Join us for this exciting musical event and help us raise \$20,000 to build a school for children in Central Asia. General admission tickets are \$30.00 and reserved seating is \$60.00. To order tickets, make checks payable to "Inscription of Hope Project" and mail to Mimi Hatch, 1813 Midsummer Lane, Jarrettsville, MD 21084 or order online at [www.inscriptionofhopeproject.org](http://www.inscriptionofhopeproject.org). Concert tickets and donations are tax-deductible.

###