

The Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian Award goes to Irena Sendler

**Award Ceremony - May 4, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Berlin, Germany**

On May 4th 2009, Audrey Hepburn would have turned 80 years old. Her family, friends, the Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund and UNICEF will commemorate this occasion with the presentation of the Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian Award given in recognition of those who work with purpose in the field and behind the scenes to aid children in need around the world.

The recipient of the Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian Award is Irena Sendler (1910-2008), a former Polish resistance fighter responsible for saving the lives of 2,500 Jewish children during the WWII German occupation of Poland. As a member of the underground organization 'Zegota,' dedicated to helping persecuted Jews, Irena and a small group of helpers smuggled children out of the Warsaw Ghetto, hid them, provided false documents and safely placed them with sympathetic foster families, in monasteries and orphanages. Irena did this work at great personal risk and was eventually arrested, imprisoned, tortured and sentenced to death. 'Irena Sendler rescued the future of the Jewish people,' said Piotr Kadlczak, the Chairman of the Union of Jewish Congregations in Poland. Accepting the award from Sean Hepburn Ferrer on behalf of Irena Sendler will be Dr. Marek Prawda, the Ambassador of Poland.

The award ceremony will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Berlin Hauptbahnhof, site of "Timeless Audrey," (www.timeless-audrey.de), a traveling exhibit based on the life and career of Miss Hepburn. The exhibit was created by the Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund as a fundraising tool for UNICEF's "All Children In School" program, an educational initiative aimed at bringing 115,000,000 children, two-thirds of whom are girls, quality basic education.

As one of the most beloved film stars in the world, Audrey Hepburn continues to enchant audiences worldwide 50 years after films like 'Roman Holiday,' 'Sabrina' and 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' were released. Yet she considered her greatest role to be that as a UNICEF International Goodwill Ambassador, work she devoted herself to for the last five years of her life. In 1994, Audrey's family created The Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund (www.audreyhepburn.com) in order to continue her work to bring help and hope to children in need around the world.

Please visit the Timeless Audrey exhibit at the Berlin Hauptbahnhof through May 10th