



Charlotte di Vita MBE Wins Woman of the Year Award



Fundraising to alleviate world poverty from the age of 9, Charlotte di Vita has grown into an extraordinary woman as her recent Woman of the Year Award has recognised. At the 48th annual Women of the Year Lunch and Assembly in October, Charlotte received the Pilkington 'Window to the World Award'. "I was stunned to be chosen. I hadn't realised that people had even heard of me, never mind would want to nominate me for an award. It is fantastic to have won and it is a valuable endorsement of what we do. The prestige of the Women of the Year event and the publicity it attracts will encourage our supporters and hopefully persuade more people to purchase Charlotte di Vita Collection teapots." More than 400 women attended this year's lunch, including Miss Dynamite, Linda Parker, Maureen Lipman CBE, Esther Rantzen OBE, Angela Rippon, Penny Vincenzi, Carol Vorderman MBE and Calendar Girls Tricia Stewart, Lynda Logan, Ros Fawcett, and Angela Baker. Guest of honour was The Rt. Hon. Patricia Hewitt MP, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Minister for Women and Equality.

Since 1992, Charlotte's trading initiatives have returned US\$5,000,000 to producer groups in 21 countries, as payment for their handicrafts, creating secure jobs for individuals thereby enabling them to support their extended families.

In addition to this, Charlotte di Vita has donated US\$420,200 from licensing profits to create charitable projects that assist 33 disadvantaged communities in 12 countries around the world. The Trade plus Aid® charitable trust is currently funding [10 development projects](#) designed to alleviate poverty in six countries in Africa and Asia.

On the 7th of May 2003, Nelson Mandela appointed Charlotte a Goodwill Ambassador for his children's charity, The Nelson Mandela Children Fund.

Charlotte's latest venture, 21st Century Leaders, involves asking international celebrities and political leaders to donate a piece of artwork which can then be used to decorate pottery, cards or other gifts, creating employment for women in Thailand and South Africa. She said: "The guest list for the lunch was so impressive - I came away with some great additions to my Leaders list!"

21st Century Leaders began after Charlotte was approached by Ewan McGregor at the beginning of the year. Keen to help contribute to a project that would raise substantial funding to tackling child rape issues in South Africa, Ewan asked Charlotte to set up a new high-profile and

sustainable project. 21st Century Leaders also will raise funds for Trade plus Aid, the Nelson Mandela Children Fund, UNICEF and other charities, in addition to creating fair and sustainable employment in developing countries. The aim is to license artwork that has been designed by well-known individuals, considered to be 21st Century Leaders in their industry. The artwork will be used to create products, initially porcelain plates, which will be sold world-wide. 18 artworks have already been received from Samuel L. Jackson, Ewan McGregor, David Bowie, Iman, Sir Michael and Lady Shakira Caine, Christopher Reeve, Laurence Fishburne, Jerry Hall, Martina Navratilova and Gillian Anderson to name but a few. Charlotte is interested to hear from leading companies wanting to pursue a licensing partnership.