



## **SARAH FERGUSON, THE DUCHESS OF YORK**

The Duchess of York is the second daughter of the late Major Ronald Ferguson and the late Mrs. Hector Barrantes. As Sarah Ferguson, she married Prince Andrew, the second son of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1986.

Sarah Ferguson was born in the Welbeck Clinic in London on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1959. She spent her early years at her parents' home in Sunninghill, Ascot and was educated at two local boarding schools, Daneshill and Hurst Lodge. On leaving school, she attended Queens secretarial college in South Kensington and, after working in an art gallery in Covent Garden, she joined the London offices of a Swiss fine art publishing company, where she was working at the time of her marriage.

The Duke and Duchess of York have two daughters. Princess Beatrice born on August 8<sup>th</sup> and Princess Eugenie born 23<sup>rd</sup> March. They are fifth and sixth in line of succession to the throne.

The Duchess of York devotes much of her life to supporting a variety of charitable causes. In April 1993 she founded Children in Crisis and is Life President of the charity. To date, Children in Crisis has raised in excess of £15 million, helping disadvantaged children all over the world. The charity was created to highlight the plight of suffering children and works with international and national aid agencies.

Building on the success of Children in Crisis, The Duchess founded Chances for Children in America in November 1994. It was established as a fund-raising arm for non-profit organizations and for individual children, concentrating on smaller areas of need which larger organizations do not have the time to focus on.

Other charitable Patronages include Teenage Cancer Trust, SOS Children's Villages, Tommy's, and The Motor Neurone Disease Association/(ALS).

In September 2006 the Duchess established the Sarah Ferguson Foundation, which aims to fund charities around the world. In November 2006 the Duchess will embark on a five-continent tour as a Global Ambassador for Children's World Day, which is organized by Ronald McDonald House Charities.

In January 1997 Sarah Ferguson became the U.S. spokesperson and published author for Weight Watchers International. She has published five books that deal with weight loss and health issues.

She has written two historical books on the life and travels of Queen Victoria. *Victoria and Albert – Life at Osborne House* and *Travels with Queen Victoria* were written with the assistance of historian Benita Stoney. The Duchess has also written a number of children's books, which include *Budgie The Little Helicopter* series, as well as the *Little Red* series – companion stories to the doll designed by The Duchess. The first book, *Little Red*, was published in the autumn of 2003 and the second, *Little Red's Christmas Story*, was released in October 2004. The third book, *Little Red's Summer Adventure*, was released in June 2006. In 1996, The Duchess' autobiography *My Story* was published, and in 2003 The Duchess brought out *Moments–Reflections in Words and Pictures*, a collection of photographs taken by The Duchess herself, from which all author royalties were donated to Children in Crisis.

The Duchess has also written a series of articles for the *New York Times* Syndication and has hosted the *Larry King Show* in America, standing in for Larry King.

The Duchess enjoys painting and is a keen amateur photographer.

###