

A WINNING TEAM – VANCOUVER WHITECAPS FC RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL PEACE AWARD

For immediate release: Wednesday, April 25, 2012

VANCOUVER, BC – Vancouver Whitecaps FC were presented with the World Harmony Run's Torch Bearer Award for their team contributions for peace and building strong and healthy communities.

"We are delighted to have received the World Harmony Run's Torch Bearer Award," said Carl Valentine, Whitecaps FC club ambassador. "We are committed to having a positive impact in the communities we visit, and hope to touch the lives of more and more individuals as the club and sport continue to grow."

The Vancouver Whitecaps FC team is being honoured for their sportsmanship and for being role models for our youth. Since joining Major League Soccer (MLS) in 2010, Vancouver Whitecaps FC have made tremendous efforts to touch the lives of British Columbians and Canadians through their many programs including camps, clinics, school programs, and academies.

"In the world of soccer where the stars are more often advertisements of excess, Vancouver Whitecaps FC stand out in their efforts to inspire children and communities," said Salil Wilson, Executive Director of the World Harmony Run "We are proud to include them as Torch Bearers."

The Torch Bearer Award recognizes and celebrates extraordinary individuals for their tireless inspiration and service to humanity. Previous recipients include international and local heroes that range from entrepreneur and music producer Russell Simons, Slovenian Head of State Dr. Danilo Türk, to sports legend Billie Jean King, to our own Canadian rock legend, Trooper's Ra McGuire.

Founded in 1987 by peace visionary Sri Chinmoy, the bi-annual event is now the world's longest global relay covering more than 45,000 miles in over 100 countries. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, runners have logged enough miles to circle the earth more than thirteen times.

Over the coming months, the Canadian team will cover 2,700 kilometers, relay fashion, stopping in towns across the country. In parallel, Runs will take place throughout North and South America, Europe, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

Along the route, thousands of children will participate when the Run visits their schools, day camps and athletic associations. The message that "Harmony begins with me" has resonated with children of all ages and added to curriculums promoting cross-cultural understanding, self-esteem and positive learning

environments.

The ceremony will be held at the Terry Fox Memorial Plaza outside BC Place.

The World Harmony Run is a non-profit event organized entirely by volunteers, which strives to encourage goodwill among peoples of all nations. To find out more about the World Harmony Run visit www.worldharmonyrun.org

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