



John Suchet becomes Honorary President of REPOD

John Suchet, one of the UK's best known broadcasters and journalists, has given his backing to a nationwide campaign aimed at providing support for families living with dementia.

REPOD (Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia) works with Rotary Clubs around the country to develop local projects that offer hands-on support for both carers and their loved ones.

Since his wife Bonnie was diagnosed with dementia in February 2006, John has become a passionate campaigner dedicated to raising awareness of dementia and providing support for carers.

Having spoken at several Rotary conferences about his experiences caring for Bonnie, John has agreed to become REPOD's Honorary President.

John said: "I fully support Rotary's nationwide campaign to provide help for families caring for people with dementia. I know at first hand how difficult it is, and how much help and support is needed. I applaud Rotarians for their commitment, and am honoured to become Honorary President of REPOD".

REPOD Chairman Dr Geri Parlbay commented: " We are delighted that John has agreed to become REPOD's Honorary President. His experiences caring for Bonnie have made him only too aware of the enormous pressure carers are undergoing when looking after a loved one with dementia."

Working within their own communities, Rotary Clubs around the UK are involved in developing a variety of initiatives designed to support local families living with dementia. These range from setting up and supporting Memory Cafes, informal drop in sessions where people with dementia and their carers can meet others in a similar situation, to providing a 'Fifth Emergency Service' offering hands on practical support when needed.

"Dementia throws up more practical problems than any other medical condition because of the physical and mental problems that accompany the disease. Coping with these difficulties while watching the slow decline of a loved one can often be too much for a carer to deal with alone"; said Geri.

"By joining forces with other community groups and volunteers Rotarians have already been able to provide a powerful support network in many towns and villages around the country. We are now in the process of widening the types of support we can offer across the whole of the UK."

RIBI President Ray Burman said:

“On behalf of Rotarians in RIBI I wish to thank John for agreeing to become REPoD’s Honorary President. This is an amazing project, which provides help and support for the families affected by this dreadful disease. On a personal note, I am fully aware of the impact on families when a close relative suffers with Dementia and ask Rotary clubs to consider supporting this wonderful project which is needed more every day.”

For further information contact REPoD on 01822 852777 or via their web site www.repod.org.uk