

PRESS RELEASE

UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 00.01 ON 31 DECEMBER 2011

FOUNDER OF NATIONAL FAMILY CHARITY HAS BEEN AWARDED NEW YEAR OBE

Rob Parsons, founder of leading UK family charity *Care for the Family*, has been honoured with an OBE for services to family support, in the Queen's New Years Honours list 2012.

Mr Parsons launched *Care for the Family* in Cardiff in 1988 in order to help strengthen family life throughout the UK and support families in difficulty. A lawyer by profession, Mr Parsons has also become an international speaker on family issues and a best-selling author with titles such as "The Sixty Minute Father" and "The Heart of Success."

"The Award came as a complete surprise and I know you are supposed to act 'super-cool' in these situations but to be honest I was really excited when I got the news," said Mr Parsons. "It is a great honour and I realise fully that I accept it on behalf of all the team at *Care for the Family*, including our hundreds of amazing volunteers, and everyone who has worked with us over the past twenty years to help and support families throughout the United Kingdom."

Born in 1948, the son of a postman, Mr Parsons was brought up in "an ordinary home" in Cardiff with no hot water or inside toilet. After training as a teacher and then a lawyer he became a partner in a Cardiff legal practice before co-founding Lawyers Planning Services, one of the most successful legal consultancies in the United Kingdom.

Leaving the legal world at the age of forty to begin *Care for the Family* was a dramatic change of lifestyle. "I was a senior partner of a large provincial law practice with people all round. If you wanted a cup of coffee it magically appeared," says Parsons. "The next day I was in a one-room garret licking my own stamps. No one returned my phone calls because, in this new world, no one knew me or cared whether they did or not."

His persistence paid off. Since Rob, and his wife Dianne, first set up *Care for the Family* he has spoken to three quarters of a million people in live events across the world and more than 350,000 people have attended the charity's events, courses and family-building breaks. Thousands more

have been helped through additional resources, enabling couples to build strong relationships and equipping parents to tackle the challenges of family life.

Care for the Family has over 70 staff working throughout the United Kingdom, with regional offices in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and the Isle of Man. Its growing volunteer base across the UK helps to ensure that, wherever families need it, *Care for the Family* is on hand to offer hope, support and encouragement.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- **To arrange an interview with Rob Parsons**, Founder and Executive Chairman of *Care for the Family*, please contact our press office:

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- **Care for the Family** is a national charity which aims to strengthen family life throughout the UK and help those facing family difficulties. Over the past 23 years, over 350,000 people have attended the charity's events, workshops and family-building breaks. Many more families find support through its resources and other initiatives – including stepfamilies, bereaved parents, families where children have additional needs, those parenting alone and those widowed young.

For more information please contact:

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