

HAPIMAG OFFICER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

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BAAR, SWITZERLAND-NEW YORK, NEW YORK - For his many years of exceptional contributions to his community, the New York City-based vice president of a vacation ownership industry leader, Hapimag, recently earned one of that industry's most highly desired honors.

Jan Willem van Bergen, Vice President of Hapimag Corporation USA, New York, New York, received the American Resort Development Association's ACE (ARDA Circle of Excellence) Community Service Award at its annual conference in Las Vegas. Nearly 4,000 vacation ownership professionals from the United States and many other countries worldwide attended the ARDA conference.

Van Bergen received the award on behalf of Hapimag in connection with two major initiatives: his leadership of the Worldwide Plaza Student Outreach Program and his presidency of the project's Residential and Condominium Boards.

In presenting the award to him, Christel DeHaan declared that he is "a remarkable individual, who has literally changed the lives of an entire community over the past decade. He is a person who puts his compassion into action to make a difference in the lives of everyone around him."

She said, "In 1989, Worldwide Plaza was opened in New York City. The new center placed some of the world's most affluent companies and residents next to some of the most impoverished. One of the new residents of Worldwide Plaza took a look at the gap between those communities, and decided he would build a bridge between them."

DeHaan added that Jan Willem van Bergen "started in two community high schools, where he brought together a community team to start making a positive difference for those young people."

He led his team to achieve outstanding results that, DeHaan said, "have been felt equally by all residents and businesses in the community:"

Establishment of student internships with local organizations
Visits to the schools by the Mayor's office and private industry executives
Initiation of "Take Your Daughter or Son to Work Day"
Creation of "Safe Corridors" for children to go to and from school
Funding of scholarships for deserving students

In presenting the award, she also cited van Bergen's second major community contribution, his service as President of Worldwide Plaza's Residential and Condominium Boards. She called it "another full-time volunteer job."

Since his election to that post eight years ago, after three years of service as a Board member, he has acted as CEO of these boards. He now deals with all critical aspects of the \$800 million (US) Worldwide

Plaza project.

Van Bergen has been in charge of Hapimag's operations in North America for 11 years. Before joining the company, he had built up an impressive resume of hospitality industry experience with increasing responsibility at some of the world's most prestigious hotels. These include the renowned Waldorf-Astoria in New York City and Hotel de Paris in Monte Carlo, perhaps the only property worldwide that has received Michelin's top ratings in all lodging and dining categories.

Van Bergen is a Trustee Member of ARDA and has been an active member of the association for many years. He recently accepted ARDA's invitation to join its new Mixed Use, Fractional and Hotel Time Sharing Committee.

Christel DeHaan was a founder and chairwoman of Resort Condominiums International, Indianapolis, Indiana, the world's largest timeshare and vacation ownership exchange company. She sold RCI to Cendant Corporation (NYSE: CD), Parsippany, New Jersey, in 1996.

Since then, she has become an exemplar of community service herself. She has dedicated her considerable energy and talent to Christel House and the Christel DeHaan Family Foundation, both in Indianapolis. Christel House helps orphaned, abandoned, and poor children around the world break the cycle of poverty and become self-sufficient, contributing members of their societies. The foundation focuses on supporting disadvantaged children, the arts, culture, and education and the environment in its local community.

Based in Baar, Switzerland, near Zurich, Hapimag is a leader in the nearly \$7 billion (US) worldwide vacation ownership industry. Hapimag created the point system as a critical component of vacation ownership over 37 years ago. The company has grown to include over 50 resort and city projects, with more than 4,500 comfortable and well-equipped apartments in 17 nations worldwide.

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