

The Hague, March 2008

Dear friends of the Bernard van Leer Foundation,

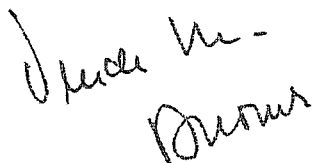
I am writing to you as chair of the Bernard van Leer Foundation to announce a change in the leadership of the Foundation.

Peter Laugharn, Executive Director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation since 2002, has decided to return to the United States as of mid-July. He will become the Executive Director of the Firelight Foundation, a California-based foundation focused on children affected by AIDS in Africa.

Under Dr Laugharn's leadership, the Bernard van Leer Foundation has built on its historical strength as a grantmaking organisation focused on young children. He has led the Foundation in refocusing its strategy on three thematic areas - strengthening the care environment around young children, successful transition to school, and social inclusion/respect for diversity. He has sought to build strong alliances with other child-focused organisations, and to make sure that young children are increasingly prominent on the international agenda. He has also continued a Foundation tradition of leadership within the European philanthropic community.

The Board and staff of the Bernard van Leer Foundation join me in thanking Dr Laugharn for his service to the Foundation and in congratulating him in his new role.

The Board of the Foundation has formed a search committee to oversee the process of identifying the new Executive Director. The Board will name an interim director in the coming weeks, in order to ensure handover and continuity.



Trude Maas-de Brouwer
Chair of the Board of Trustees