



Message from ATD Ireland

Memorial Service for Philippe Barbier (1959 - 2018)

Saturday 1st September 2018

Philippe's passing has been a terrible loss which is keenly felt by those who came to know him when he was in Ireland as an ATD volunteer. Of course, our sadness is as nothing, when compared to that of his beloved Françoise, Amélie, Sophie and Zoé. Yet, in the face of this loss, we want too to celebrate here Philippe's life, and in it there is so much to celebrate and to admire.

Philippe had immense creativity and, as with all of his art, there was always the sense of depth, the feeling that so many experiences and emotions lay behind it. In Ireland and in English-speaking environments, he was generally quiet, and seemed not to speak often. When he did speak, there was again always the same sense that came through in his art: that what he said was based on careful thought, and was derived from patient reflection on his own experiences and observations.

Of course, while Philippe's art and the depth of his thought were admirable qualities, what is most important about them is how he used them: always for the good of others, always with generosity of spirit, and with compassion and love.

We saw it in his engagement with young people in different youth training centres in the inner city of Dublin when he created wire figures with them, and developed solid relationships with them based on respect and kindness. We saw it in his dedication to ATD and its principles, and in his work with the most marginalised, in Ireland and everywhere that he went. We also saw it in his deep love for Françoise, Amélie, Sophie and Zoé, and we know that they will always have the gift of this love in their lives.

Thank you, Philippe, for all that you gave to us and to so many others during your time in Ireland.

Ger Doherty and Mark Hogan, on behalf of the friends and members of ATD Ireland

Philippe young member of ATD's volunteer corps – He was 26 when he joined the volunteer corps in 1985



With young adults in France (Welding Workshop 1987 and 17 October 1987)



With teenagers in Sénégal (1988)

Philippe was also a guitarist and a drummer

With his sculpture offered by ATD to UN Geneva in 1999



A very special photo for ATD Ireland: the ATD UK team in September 1990
with Philippe and Françoise Barbier, Isabelle, Marie and Stuart Williams,
and Fabienne and Pierre Klein

