



VISITING AFRICA FOR A GOOD CAUSE:
Princess Caroline attends the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, last month.

PICTURE:
VINCENT KESSLER
REUTERS

A princess who cares about the world's children

BY TANYA FARBER

It's comforting to know that, after the death of Princess Diana, there are still royals flying the humanitarian flag.

One such blue blood is Princess Caroline of Monaco, and South Africa is on the agenda of her two-week humanitarian field trip through Africa.

The princess is travelling in her capacity as the president of Amade Mondiale (a French acronym for the World Association of Children's Friends), a non-profit child-advocacy NGO founded in 1963 by Princess Grace of Monaco.

The organisation "advocates for the protection of children's rights, without any distinction as to gender, race, religion, language or culture".

To this end, it conducts a wide range of programmes throughout Africa.

The princess's first stop in Joburg will be at Johannesburg Hospital on Sunday, where she will attend a presentation of the activities of The Smile Foundation. This follows on from Amade Mondiale's generous contribution to the project which allowed 25 children to receive reconstructive facial surgery to correct moebius syndrome, cleft palates and facial burns.

The following day she will visit the Hospice Association of the Witwatersrand, another Amade Mondiale beneficiary.

Other local projects supported by the organisation include the Rainbow Creche in Masi-phumelele, Cape Town, and the Madiba Schools Project of the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

During her visit to Africa, the princess will also be visiting affiliates and partners of her organisation in Niger, Burundi and the DRC.

In Niger she will visit health projects established in 2005; in Burundi, she will visit a programme that cares for children who are HIV-positive and which facilitates the social reintegration of former child soldiers; and in the DRC she will visit projects which focus on rural education and the upliftment of women and girl children.