

Holbrooke gives \$10K to Peace Museum

Man who guided talks that led to Dayton Peace Accords comes through on pledge

By [Laura Dempsey](#)

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DAYTON | Tuesday's mail brought the usual batch of bills to the old house at 208 W. Monument Ave. downtown.

"There was a statement from a heating contractor, a letter from the Ohio Department of Taxation," said Kate Johnson, co-director of the Dayton International Peace Museum, which bought, rehabilitated and now inhabits the historic Italianate manor. "And then I saw the envelope from Richard Holbrooke ... I couldn't even open it. I had to hand it to Steve (Fryburg, her co-director)."

Inside was a check for \$10,000, nearly half the amount of Holbrooke's \$25,000 Dayton Peace Award stipend presented in November during a ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords. Holbrooke, former U.N. ambassador, is widely credited for the success of the talks, held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1995, which forged an agreement to end the bloody war in Bosnia.

"He promised publicly to donate some of the money to the Dayton Peace Museum," said Johnson, "and we were sure he'd come through. But we had no idea of the amount, or even when.

"Needless to say, we are more than thrilled."

During Holbrooke's November visit to Dayton, he met with Ralph Dull, one of the museum's founders, and toured its Peace Mobile, a traveling tribute to people, places and philosophies dedicated to peace and non-violence.

"He was impressed," Johnson said.

"He didn't have time to go through the museum itself, but we'd like to announce publicly that it's open for him any day, anytime."

The museum opened to the public in October and is operating on the usual non-profit shoestring budget.

"We have enough in the bank to operate for about six months," Johnson said. "We're focusing on getting memberships, looking into major donors, and grant writing. We have a lot of exciting programs just waiting to get off the ground."

Information on the Dayton International Peace Museum can be found at www.daytonpeacemuseum.org or by calling 227-3223.

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