

*IMAGINE THE IMPOSSIBLE™...for Every Child*



Monday, December 1, 2008

## Jr. League of Dallas

8003 Inwood Road, Dallas, Texas 75209 (Inwood and Lovers)

Tele: 214-357-8822

Hosts

# "Resilient Hearts: International Holiday Celebration 2008"

You are invited to come and celebrate the resiliency of the human spirit this holiday season.

**18 refugee children, boys & girls ages 6-14, from the persecuted Somali Bantu tribe & Republic of Congo comprise Dallas'**

**1st refugee children's dance troupe - RESILIENT HEARTS - of *IMAGINE***

*THE IMPOSSIBLE™...for Every Child*

**Resettled by the United Nations to Dallas, TX in 2004, these young children - some orphans - were born in refugee camps surviving famine, civil war and horrid devastation. (See attached fact sheet)**

Directed by legendary soloist, Mary Johnson, founder of *IMAGINE* & instructed by SMU dancers; the children will perform a classical rendition of the Broadway Musical The Lion King's "He Lives in You." A breathtaking fusion of Afro Classical Ballet

**Performance Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**Who: Resilient Hearts - Imagine the Impossible... & SMU Dancers**

**What: Afro Classical Ballet - The Lion King - "He Lives in Me"**

**When: Monday, December 1, 2008**

*IMAGINE* a 501 C3 non-profit organization, reaches over 500 impoverished children, every week, through the discipline of classical ballet, arts education and performance training in Dallas, Texas. If you have any leads for a building/facility to be donated as a permanent site for our classical arts education and performance training workshops, please contact us directly at 214-752-8470 or [imagineworkshop@yahoo.com](mailto:imagineworkshop@yahoo.com).

*CLASSICAL MUSIC... CLASSICAL BALLET ... CLASSICAL ART...*

(T) 214-752-8470 Email-[imagineworkshop@yahoo.com](mailto:imagineworkshop@yahoo.com) (F) 214-987-2386

[www.imaginetheimpossible.org](http://www.imaginetheimpossible.org)



Please visit us at [www.imaginetheimpossible.org](http://www.imaginetheimpossible.org) & make your tax deductible holiday contribution today. Thank You!

## Fact Sheet

### Somali Bantu Refugees

In the spring of 2003, the first Somali Bantu refugees arrived in the United States to begin new lives. This group of approximately 12,000 refugees have spent most of the past decade languishing in camps along the dangerous Somali-Kenyan border. Descendants of slaves taken from Tanzania and northern Mozambique in the late nineteenth century to the southern Somali coast, the Bantu have remained a persecuted minority in Somalia and cannot return to the homes they fled there.

For many years, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sought a place of safe asylum where the Bantu could permanently resettle. Kenya, which struggles to meet the needs of its own population as well as the hundreds of thousands of refugees it hosts, was unable to provide permanent refuge. In 2000, the United State agreed to consider the group for resettlement in the United States.

After being moved from the border to a safer and more accessible site in Kenya, the refugees under went interviews with officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to determine if they are eligible for admission into the United States as refugees. In addition, rigorous security checks and medical examinations were performed on all applicants before they are approved for resettlement. The Bantu were also provided with literacy training and an extended program of cultural orientation in Kenya before arriving in the United States. They have been placed in extended family groups in up to fifty cities and towns across the United States throughout 2003 and 2004.

Upon arrival in the U.S., each Bantu family was assigned to one of the ten voluntary agencies under cooperative agreement with the Department of State to provide reception and placement services. These agencies are Church World Service, Episcopal Migration Ministries, Ethiopian Community Development Council, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Programs, Immigration and Refugee Services of America, International Rescue Committee, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and World Relief Refugee Services. They will assist with basic immediate needs such as housing, furniture, clothing, food, and referrals to employment, ESL, and other services. In addition, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Refugee Resettlement provides funding to the states and voluntary agencies for longer-term programs for refugees.

For more information on the Somali Bantu, see the fact sheet on the Bantu on the Cultural Orientation website operated by The Center for Applied Linguistics: [www.culturalorientation.net](http://www.culturalorientation.net)

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