



LEAF INTERNATIONAL: Rwanda

Matching Kids Globally with Instruments & Mentors

An outreach program of Lake Eden Arts Festival

WHAT: MIZERO CHILDREN'S TROUPE'S 1st INTERNATIONAL TOUR

WHO: MIZERO CHILDREN'S TROUPE'S of Rwanda with Jean Paul Samputu. The troupe is 12 talented orphans representing the one million in Rwanda. Mizero means "HOPE" in kinyarwanda.

WHY: To raise awareness and funds for Rwandan Orphans.

WHEN: October 19-21st Lake Eden Arts Festival (LEAF)

USA & Canada Tour Oct 13-Dec 15

LEAF Contact:

Jennifer Pickering, Executive Director Jennifer@theleaf.com

828-68-MUSIC (686-8742)

Web: www.LakeEdenArtsFestival.org www.theleaf.com/rwanda

"WE ARE THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY, WE ARE THE WORLD IN THE COMMUNITY"

Jean Paul Samputu- Rwandese Performing Artists & Activist & Mizero Troupe

MIZERO CHILDREN'S TROUPE'S DEBUT INTERNATIONAL TOUR: This inspiring tour will kickoff at LEAF's October festival and concludes in December at a United Nations Gala in New York. The troupe, as cultural ambassadors, will take audiences into the lives of Rwandese through music, dance, costumes and drumming. This will be the children's first visit outside of their country. Jean Paul Samputu's dedication to Rwandese children and LEAF International's outreach has sparked the forming of Mizero Children of Rwanda Organization. These collaborative efforts have brought to life the dream of this tour.

TAKING GLOBAL ACTION: In December 2006, a team from Lake Eden Arts Festival (LEAF) joined LEAF performer Jean Paul Samputu in his native country of Rwanda. We worked in the cities of Kigali and Nyanza with youth who were orphaned during the 1994 Genocide or as a result of AIDS. LEAF matched the youth with Rwandan drums, guitars, costumes, weekly mentors, and a safe place to gather to continue to learn their rich cultural traditions. Through their music and arts, these youth are creating opportunities for themselves such as performing locally and this TOUR. They also gain self-confidence, life skills, and creative expression to help them heal and go forward. These youth are INSPIRING and IMPRESSIVE!

FUTURE DREAMS: The creating of a Kigali ARTS COMMUNITY YOUTH CENTER with housing. LEAF International will continue to raise funds to support the MUSIC MENTORING programs.

LEAF International believes in empowering youth through their cultural traditions by matching them with instruments and mentors.

**" Their music and dancing was thrilling, alive, vibrant, full of joy,
and by the end they had us all up and dancing..."**

Carol Hetrick, Team member of International Peace Training from Vermont