

Dear Supporter of the Arts,

It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I am writing to request your support of Imani Edu-Tainers African Dance Company. Imani Edu-Tainers are a long-standing group of dedicated artists and teachers who study the traditional African arts of dance and drum and bring them to share with Central Pennsylvania. Imani is producing a fundraiser this winter, and would like to request your support either in the direct fundraising effort or via a donation from your business or organization. The funds that Imani raises will assist some of our members to travel to Mali, West Africa this year.

The participation in the July Malian trip will help to diversify our cultural knowledge and thereby allow us to better meet the enrichment goals we have for the community of Lancaster. As you may know, the mission of Imani is to receive and provide training, education and cultural enrichment in African traditions, with an emphasis on youth participation. It is only through continual learning that our program can evolve and diversify.

Pending the support of the community by way of financial donations, members of our Dance Company will travel to Mali in July 2008 to participate in a 14-day cultural workshop experience. Upon our return, we will use the knowledge gained to enhance our existing programs and structure future activities. Mali has a rich culture, which is manifested in its world-renowned art. With your support, we will be able to attend the following workshops and will return with a more comprehensive understanding of the topics covered:

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ❖ Costume Making Workshops            | ❖ Drum Workshops              |
| ❖ Dance Workshops                     | ❖ Mask Making/Dance Workshops |
| ❖ Folklore/Rites of Passage Workshops |                               |

Please consider making a financial donation. Funds will go to support our trip, which will include trips to Bamako and the historic villages of Mande. Funds will be used to cover the cost of workshops, lodging, transportation, and the purchase of native arts and art resources that will become a part of the Imani programming. Imani is a non-profit organization, with all proceeds invested back into the program to better serve the local community. Of course, donations to the organization will be tax deductible.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Your interest in supporting cultural exploration and the arts is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sonya Mann-McFarlane, M.Ed  
Founder, Imani Edu-Tainers African Dancer Company