

Silk Road Dance Company entertains elementary students

DAYTONA BEACH – Kindergarten, first, and second grades from T.T. Small Elementary School and first graders from Westside Elementary School watched in awe as the Silk Road Dance Company presented women's dances from Iran, Central and South Asia, and China at T.T. Small Elementary School.

The ensemble's performance, sponsored by the Iranian American Society, offered a unique glimpse of art, life and the rich cultures of the regions along the Great Silk Road trade route linking China with the Mediterranean. Students were enthralled by the music, colorful costumes and unique dance style.

The Silk Road Dance Company has presented throughout the United States as well as internationally, including performances for royalty and dignitaries at foreign embassies. They have been featured in major U.S. magazines and foreign newspapers. In the United States, they have performed at the Kennedy Center, Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, Library of Congress and Georgetown University among numerous other locations.

Food Brings Hope believes that exposing youngsters to different cultures provides a unique opportunity for them to learn about the world and promote cultural understanding.

Through concerts and lecture demonstrations, the Silk Road Dance Company promotes knowledge and appreciation of traditional dance forms of Eastern cultures by educating, entertaining,



Photo provided by Food Brings Hope
Melanie Storr-Rolle, T.T. Small reading coach and Food Brings Hope sponsor, acknowledges the young audience during a performance by the Silk Road Dance Company.

and engaging the general public.

Food Brings Hope, an initiative founded by local businesswoman Forough B. Hosseini, works in eight public schools in Volusia County to break the cycle of poverty for homeless and economically disadvantaged students. Key components of the program include: providing nutritious meals, tutoring, rewards for improvement and opportunities to participate in cultural and sporting events.

For more information about the group, contact Beth Butera, executive director, at Beth@FoodBringsHope.org.