

## **THE WORLD STORIES TENT**

### **AUCKLAND INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL 2009**

Refugee Services presents the “World Stories Tent” which will be part of the 2009 Auckland International Cultural Festival to be held at the War Memorial Park, Wesley-Mt Roskill, on Sunday 29 March from 10am.

The “ World Stories Tent” , with its theme “People Who Make a Difference”, will showcase the work of some extraordinary people who help others in need Former refugees helping with innovative projects in their communities in Auckland or back in their own country, visionaries who create projects to support community development here or overseas, and of course our own Refugee Services volunteers who make such a difference to the new beginnings of refugee families when they arrive in New Zealand.

Dawit Arshak, who came to New Zealand as a UN quota refugee from Ethiopia, will be speaking about his experience of returning to Ethiopia with Habitat for Humanity, an organisation that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.



Photo: Dawit Arshak in action

People from more than 40 nations celebrate their music, dance, flavours and arts and crafts at this increasingly popular one day free global village festival.

The Auckland International Cultural Festival, organised by Auckland City Council in association with Refugee Services, celebrates Auckland's cultural diversity and the emerging confidence of the refugee and migrant communities as they take their place amongst the wider community to celebrate their cultural heritage.

"If people see our culture, we feel like we exist. We need our culture to be valued and respected by those around us. The festival is about being proud of who you are." says Burundian refugee Jean-Paul Bizoza

Don't miss hearing from these extraordinary people speaking about their experiences in the World Stories Tent at the Auckland International Cultural Festival, Sunday 29 March from 10am.

For further information, please contact: Joanna Biss at Refugee Services, on 6210338 or [joanna.biss@refugeeservices.org.nz](mailto:joanna.biss@refugeeservices.org.nz)