

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Elisabeth Omilami

PERSON

Omilami, Elisabeth, 1951-

Alternative Names: Elisabeth Omilami;

Life Dates: February 18, 1951-

Place of Birth: Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Residence: Lithonia, Georgia

Occupations: Civil Rights Activist

Biographical Note

Humanitarian and actress Elisabeth Omilami was born on February 18, 1951 in Atlanta, Georgia. At an early age, Omilami's parents taught her that people should be accountable for each other, for their environment and should fight for justice for all people. As a young girl, she accompanied her father, the noted civil rights leader Dr. Hosea Williams, on marches and movements across the South. During the height of the Civil Rights Movement, after having the distinction of being one of the youngest people arrested in the fight for civil rights, Omilami was sent to boarding school. She then attended Hampton University, where she received her B.A. degree in theater.

In 1970, during the time her father began his own humanitarian organization Hosea Feed, the Hungry and Homeless, Omilami founded The People's Survival Theater, one of Atlanta's earliest performing arts companies. She also created a summer arts camp that provided arts training for the economically challenged youth of Atlanta.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Omilami and her husband Afemo, Hosea Feed The Hungry and Homeless has expanded to a year round human services organization with programs that touch over 180,000 people annually. HFTH's "Homeless Prevention" program is an award winning initiative credited with helping place thousands of families in permanent housing. The organization's disaster relief activities have been commended by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal and reach far beyond Georgia into Alabama and Tennessee. HFTH operates the largest food bank in the region that supports families directly with nutritious emergency food.

The Omilamis, assisted by thousands of volunteers, host an annual Holiday Dinner Series on Thanksgiving and Christmas, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday and Easter Sunday.

Omilami is also the author of several plays, one of which, *There is a River in My Soul*, toured in February, 2002. As an actress, Omilami has combined her art with her life. She also toured in the play, *The Life of a King*, which her mother, State Representative Jaunita T. Williams co-authored. Omilami has acted in numerous films, including *Runaway Jury*, *Ray*, *Madea's Family Reunion* and *The Alter*, a film which showcases the plight of the homeless while portraying them as individuals deserving of dignity and respect.

Omilami has been seen in "The Blind Side" alongside actress Sandra Bullock, in the Lifetime TV special "Marry Me" and at the Alliance Theatre in Janice Shaffer's stage play "Broke".

Elisabeth Omilami is the wife of actor, Afemo Omilami, and has two children, Anodele and Tranita, and her granddaughter Kamaya. They live in Atlanta, Georgia.

Elisabeth Omilami was interview by The HistoryMaker on April 12, 2006.

Related Entries

St. Benedict the Moor Catholic School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Boggs Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Wasatch Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Hampton University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]