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**GASPARILLA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL & WATOTO PARTNER FOR U.S. PREMIERE,
*Exclusive Film & Concert Benefit in Tampa***

TAMPA, Fla. (Jan. 28, 2013)—Gasparilla International Film Festival (GIFF) and Watoto, an internationally renowned non-profit that provides rescue for orphans and widows in Africa, will present a film and concert benefit on Sunday, Feb. 17 at Tampa Theatre. The evening will feature the U.S. premiere of the inspiring documentary, “Restore Gulu: Child Soldier No More” and a performance by the Watoto Children’s Choir.

“We can’t think of a better beginning for this year’s film season than a real-life story of overcoming inconceivable circumstances to learn what the term ‘community’ is all about,” says Joe Restaino, president of Gasparilla International Film Festival.

Set in Gulu, Uganda, “Restore Gulu: Child Solider No More” is about restoration and hope. The film tells the story of a community where 50% of the population is below the age of 15. After decades of war, the majority of the population does not know what it means to have peace in their surrounding community. The film focuses on the journey that the people of Gulu experience as they rebuild hope and happiness in their lives and country.

“Through this partnership with the Gasparilla International Film Festival, Watoto is able to bring to light compelling global issues and real life stories of rescue to audiences in Tampa Bay,” says Eugene Stutzman, U.S. executive director of Watoto.

Following the film, Watoto Children's Choir will deliver one of their world-renown performances. The lively song and dance choir constructed of orphans ages 6-15 will perform their newest Broadway-style production, "Beautiful Africa: A New Generation."

The Watoto Children's Choir has performed for the Queen of England at Buckingham Palace, as well as for former President George W. Bush at the White House.

A VIP reception and meet and greet with the Watoto Children's Choir will be held at 4 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for all attendees and the screening of "Restore Gulu: Child Soldier No More" will begin promptly at 5 p.m.

Proceeds from the evening's event will benefit the relief efforts of Watoto, as well as the local film community.

VIP reception and meet/greet tickets are available for \$50 (includes wine and light appetizers), general admission is \$25 and military and students for \$20. To purchase tickets, visit: GIFFWatoto.Eventbrite.com. For more information about Watoto, please visit: watoto.com and for more information about the Gasparilla International Film Festival, please visit: gasparillafilmfestival.com

Interview Requests: Children and representatives from the Watoto Children's Choir are available for interviews leading up to the event and onsite, as well as representatives from GIFF. Please contact either Jeanine Bedell at 813.449.2927 or Jeanine.Bedell@watoto.com or Nancy Vaughn at 813.994.9807 or nancy@whitebookagency.com to set up interviews.

ABOUT THE GASPARILLA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

First launched in the summer of 2006, the Gasparilla International Film Festival (GIFF) has grown into an entertaining and educational year-round entity in Tampa Bay. Well-known for its annual film festival, GIFF is operated by the 501(c)(3) non-profit Tampa Film Institute and continually upholds its mission to provide year-long support for film screening, production, and education throughout Tampa Bay and the region. For more information on GIFF including sponsor and volunteer opportunities, visit: gasparillafilmfestival.com.

ABOUT WATOTO

Watoto is a holistic care solution providing for the physical, emotional, medical, spiritual and academic needs of children in Africa. Watoto was initiated as a response to the overwhelming number of orphaned children and vulnerable women in Africa. It is positioned to rescue an individual, raise each one as a leader in their chosen sphere of life so that they in turn will rebuild their nation. For more information about Watoto, visit: watoto.com.