

Living the Dream
Their banner said it all for SGI-USA members in Dallas as they marched in
the Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade.
By WENDY DeORE
Texas Bureau Chief

More than 100 flag-waving, pompom-shaking, band-playing, rope-twirling, walking, singing, and smiling SGI-USA members proudly marched in the Martin Luther King Jr. parade sponsored by the City of Dallas on Jan. 17.

Their beautiful red and white banner, carried by several youth division members, boldly declared their message:“Living the Dream”!

The idea for SGI-USA participation in the parade came from Audrey and David McClure, two members who have made it part of their mission to reach out to the community of South Dallas, a predominately black and impoverished neighborhood.

For more than 20 years, it has been David McClure’s dream that somehow, someday, SGI members would march down Martin Luther King Boulevard in the heart of his beloved neighborhood.

His wife, Audrey, admitted that she used to listen and smile when he would talk about that dream, thinking to herself that he was a little crazy. However, in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day — on the first sunny and dry Saturday morning that Dallas had seen for nearly two months — David saw his dream come true.

Enthusiastic support for the idea of participating in the parade seemed to spring from every division within the organization. The youth were especially revitalized by the idea, participating in all aspects of the planning, performing and logistics.

One member and participant, Gail Ferguson, said that the most exciting thing about the parade was the spontaneous support and unity that grew out of the event. “It was an idea that grew out of the membership and the districts as part of our desire to support the community,” she said.

As white, black, Asian and several wheelchair-bound SGI members marched along the parade route, they were greeted with cheers, smiles and exuberant shouts of “Now that’s what it’s all about” and “That’s living the dream.”

SGI participation in events such as the Martin Luther King Jr. parade reflect one of the most important messages of the recent reorganization in Dallas: reach out to the community.

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