awareness about the many children now living in our communities who have experienced the trauma of war. At the same time, it explores the use of theater and narrative as a means of healing. CMHS hopes that “Children of War” will be adopted and used to help heal many thousands of young war survivors who have sought refuge in the US. Several performances of the play are planned nationwide in the coming year.

“Children of War” is a part of Ping Chong’s highly acclaimed dramatic series Undesirable Elements, in which immigrants tell their own stories on stage, taking audiences on spellbinding journeys to countries where cruel events have resulted in the mass displacement of peoples. The production of the play was funded in part by grants from the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Five local refugee children and CMHS therapist Farinaz Amirsehi recently came forward to tell their moving stories in “Children of War,” an original, dramatic work by world-renowned playwright Ping Chong, commissioned by CMHS. All are survivors of war from countries ravaged by assaults on human dignity. More than 800 people attended the performances held at George Mason University’s TheaterSpace in early December.

The fruit of six months of intense collaboration between Ping Chong and CMHS staff, “Children of War” is a powerful theatrical exploration of the experience of war and violence through the eyes, voices and personal memories of the people who lived them. A cutting edge work, it raises