



# Des Moines World Refugee Day 2017

Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Des Moines to celebrate World Refugee Day on June 10<sup>th</sup>

**The Des Moines area celebration of World Refugee Day will take place on Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Callanan Middle School at 3010 Center St. Des Moines, IA 50312. The Soccer Tournament will be held Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Valley Community Center at 4444 Fuller Rd. West Des Moines, IA 50265.**

Various ethnic groups in Des Moines will share their cultures through food, dance, and music. A variety of refugee service agencies from the area will be on hand to share the work they do. The Soccer Tournament in July, will feature more than twelve teams and will take place throughout the day.

This is a great opportunity to;

- Learn about the culture and traditions of some of the many different populations that call Iowa home
- Celebrate the community, collaboration and contributions that have made Des Moines a diverse and thriving community
- Try new foods, catch a performance and enjoy a beautiful day
- Watch a soccer tournament that include an array of ethnically diverse players of all ages

The annual event is held each year in June by a collaboration of resettlement agencies, community based organizations, service providers, non-profits, employers, volunteers and community members. The speakers at this year's World Refugee Day include:

- Chad Dahm, Bureau Chief- Bureau of Refugee Services
- Barwqoa Aden, Assistant Director- Nisaa African Family Services
- Angela Conolly, Board of Supervisors Polk County Iowa
- Frank Cownie, Des Moines Mayor
- Joshua Barr, Director of Civil and Human Rights Commission
- Anthony Tewh, and more

Iowa has a long history of welcoming refugees. Many organizations, volunteers and support from the community is key in ensuring refugees receive the appropriate support to jump start their new life in the U.S.

World Refugee Day is observed each year in June to raise awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world, to celebrate their successes, and provide an opportunity that they may share their stories. Des Moines will kick off the celebration of World Refugee Day on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and then others across the country and around the world will continue the momentum on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Please join us celebrating this great tradition!  
#WorldRefugeeDayDSM

**For more information contact:**

Leslie Olson  
Oakridge Neighborhood  
515-244-7702 ext. 129  
[lolson@oakridgeneighborhood.org](mailto:lolson@oakridgeneighborhood.org)

Organized by members of

