



InterFaith Works of CNY

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NEWS RELEASE

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14TH ANNUAL DUCK RACE TO END RACISM MAKES A BIG SPLASH WITH NATIONAL GRID AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

SYRACUSE, NY – [National Grid](#), [InterFaith Works](#) and community partners “splashed off” the 14th Annual Duck Race to End Racism at InterFaith Works, 1010 James St., Syracuse, today. The Duck Race, a fun-filled family event raises awareness about racism and racial inequality, and provides supports to InterFaith Works’ [Ahmad & Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue](#). The center, which facilitates the longest-running dialogue program on ending racism in the United States, serves as a regional hub for constructive community engagement and for the important work of dialogue.

“National Grid is thrilled to be a presenting sponsor of the 2016 Duck Race to End Racism and to help support a fun and engaging way to shine a light on the crucial work of InterFaith Works,” said Melanie Littlejohn, National Grid regional executive of Upstate New York. “Now in our 12th year as sponsor, we have witnessed the continued growth of the Duck Race in both popularity and impact. We are proud to continue to support organizations like InterFaith Works that create opportunities for local businesses and community leaders to openly discuss racism through sustained dialogue.”

Joined by 40 third- and fourth-grade classes and youth groups from 12 schools and organizations located throughout Central New York, diverse businesses and community members participate in the annual Duck Race to End Racism to offer families and the community an opportunity to enjoy a day of fun while supporting the Ahmad & Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue.

This year’s Duck Race will be held at the Syracuse Inner Harbor on Saturday, June 11th, from noon to 4 p.m. It will feature three duck races: Corporate sponsors race, the Quackers youth race, and the “duckling” race, which is open to the community.

The winner of the community duckling race will take home the grand prize, a \$1,000 shopping spree at Destiny USA. Other prizes include “A Night on the Town” with theater tickets and dinner; “Family Fun Pack” with tickets to family-friendly events; an Onondaga County Parks Family Fun Package; and boys’ and girls’ bicycles. The winning duck in the youth race will receive a diversity resource library, which includes books, videos and reference materials relative to the theme of racial equality.

The Duck Race also includes a free family festival that features live music and a community dance, a huge lineup of children’s entertainment, cooperative games, Ying TRSEF Maker Hall science and math activities, face painting, community information booths and free Byrne Dairy ice cream.

The Center for Dialogue helps to establish and sustain dialogue and relationships between people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds and create a forum for action among people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to meet, work with and learn from one another. Through the dialogue, the organization helps to break down stereotypes that keep people from fully seeing each other’s humanness and helps affirm the worth of every member of our community.

“The Duck Race to End Racism has become a community institution,” said Beth Broadway, president and CEO at InterFaith Works. “It is one of the most diverse community festivals our region enjoys, a place where we get to see what the world will look like when racism has been ended. From the entertainment to the leadership, you will see people of all faiths, cultures and ethnicities working together for the children of our community. It is our hope that people will come to have fun, but leave with a deeper commitment to end racism and build relationships across the color lines that divide us unnecessarily.”

About InterFaith Works

[InterFaith Works of Central New York](#), through education, service and dialogue, affirms the dignity of each person and every faith community and works to create relationships and understanding. Founded in 1976, InterFaith Works addresses deeply embedded social divisions leading to community action and policy change. InterFaith Works’ social service programs address the needs of and empower people who are vulnerable, low income and targets of oppression, including refugees, the elderly and the institutionalized, through direct service and educational programs. InterFaith Works is committed to the belief that all people are deserving of dignity and respect regardless of ethnicity, faith tradition, social circumstances or age. Key programs include the following: [Ahmad & Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue](#), [Center for New Americans](#), [Senior Services](#) and [Spiritual Care](#).

About National Grid

[National Grid](#) is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. The company owns and manages the grids that connect people to the energy they need, from whatever the source. In the Northeastern United States and Britain, National Grid runs systems that deliver gas and electricity to millions of people, businesses and communities. In the Northeastern US, National Grid connects more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for modern lifestyles.

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