



**InterFaith Works of Central New York**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **INTERFAITH WORKS OF CENTRAL NEW YORK APPOINTS NEW STAFF MEMBERS**

**Syracuse, NY**– [InterFaith Works of Central New York](http://www.interfaithworkscny.org) has appointed four new staff members: **Olive Sephuma** has been appointed the agency's director of the Center for New Americans; **Lekia Hill** has been appointed a dialogue coordinator for the El-Hindi Center for Dialogue; **Jai Subedi** has been appointed housing services coordinator for the Center for New Americans; and **Cristal Mendoza** has been appointed an employment specialist for the Center for New Americans.

**Sephuma** is responsible for InterFaith Works' Center for New American's overall operation, including planning; partnership, program and fiscal development; as well as community engagement. She previously served as director of community grant making at the Central New York Community Foundation. Sephuma has more than 20 years of experience in the philanthropic, non-profit and governmental sectors in both Africa and the U.S. A resident of Syracuse, she holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Botswana and an Executive Master of Public Administration degree from Syracuse University.

As a dialogue coordinator, **Hill** is responsible for the leadership of selected annual dialogue projects and the training of facilitators to support those projects. Before joining InterFaith Works, Hill was a lead organizer in the Alliance for Quality Education for Citizen Action of New York. A resident of Syracuse, Hill has an Associate in Applied Science in Business Administration degree from Monroe College in New Rochelle, NY.

**Subedi** is responsible for finding appropriate housing for newly arrived refugees who are resettled by InterFaith Works' Center for New Americans. Subedi previously served the agency

as a case worker and as a community peer educator. A resident of Syracuse, Subedi has a bachelor's degree from Tribhuvan University in Nepal.

As an employment services specialist, **Mendoza** is responsible for assisting refugee clients in job preparation and in finding and retaining employment. Mendoza resides in Syracuse and is a recent graduate of SUNY Oneonta where she earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology.

[InterFaith Works of CNY](#), 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. Empowering people in need, including refugees, the elderly and institutionalized, InterFaith Works' service and educational programs include the [Center for New Americans](#), [Ahmad & Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue](#), as well as [Senior Services](#) and [Spiritual Care Programs](#).

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Follow these links to the InterFaith Works website staff photo pages:

[Olive Sephuma](#), director, InterFaith Works' Center for New Americans

[Lekia Hill](#), dialogue coordinator, InterFaith Works' El-Hindi Center for Dialogue

[Jai Subedi](#), housing services coordinator, InterFaith Works' Center for New Americans

[Cristal Mendoza](#), employment services specialist, InterFaith Works' Center for New Americans

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