



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 11, 2016

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THE RESCUE MISSION AND INTERFAITH WORKS COLLABORATE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED Clothing and Household Goods Donations Will Benefit Both Organizations' Clients

Syracuse, NY – The Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse and InterFaith Works of Central New York have formed a collaboration to use items donated to the Rescue Mission to also assist refugees resettled by InterFaith Works' Center for New Americans.

The Center for New Americans currently accepts donations directly for its refugee clients; however, the additional Rescue Mission collections will help fulfill its continual need of clothing and household goods. "By giving unneeded items to the Rescue Mission, you are now helping InterFaith Works, too," said Alan Thornton, CEO of the Rescue Mission. "Your donation to the Rescue Mission will help support refugees."

As part of this effort, the Rescue Mission has developed vouchers, making clothing and necessities available through its Thrifty Shopper stores for the new Americans being served by InterFaith Works. "Not only will Interfaith Works' clients have the ability to access essential items, but our collaboration will provide more donations for the Rescue Mission, allowing that organization to fulfill its vision of sharing hope," said InterFaith Works President/CEO Beth A. Broadway.

InterFaith Works Center for New Americans provides resettlement and post-resettlement services to help refugee families reestablish their lives and overcome barriers to successful integration in their new communities. The program typically resettles between 500 and 600 refugees each year, and annually serves an additional 1,200 families who have been in the U.S. for less than five years.

"Partnerships like this define the work we do," said Abdul Saboor, a Center for New Americans' case worker. "Both the Rescue Mission and InterFaith Works exist to affirm dignity and change lives."

The partnership is an ongoing effort to provide support to individuals served by both organizations. Community members can help year round by bringing unwanted clothing and household goods to Rescue Mission Attended Donation Centers. For a full listing of locations, visit cleanthatcloset.com.

For more information about the program or donations, contact Rescue Mission Alliance Donation Acquisition Coordinator Jeannine Goodrich at 315-701-3843 or jeannine.goodrich@rmsyr.org or InterFaith Works Volunteer and Donor Coordinator Daryl Files at 315-449-3552, ext. 208, or dfiles@interfaithworkscny.org.

<u>The Rescue Mission</u> (Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending hunger and homelessness, with programs in Syracuse, Auburn, Binghamton and Ithaca. The Rescue Mission strives to share hope, change lives, and strengthen communities one person at a time. Its services include emergency shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing, meals and access to food, street outreach, spiritual care and individualized case management.

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, social circumstances or age. Programs include the Ahmad & Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue, Center for New Americans, Senior Services and Spiritual Care.

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