



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: Assignment Editor
DATE: May 10, 2010
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WHEN: **Wednesday May 12, 2009 10:00 AM**
WHERE: 2495 Main Street, Tri Main Lobby

DEFINITE PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

BACKGROUND:

JOURNEY'S END BESTOWS BLESSINGS ON NEW OFFICE SPACE

Increased Refugee Resettlement Spurs Job Growth and Expansion.

Preparing for a June opening, representatives from Christian, Buddhist, and Muslim traditions break bread with renovations underway. As Journey's End Refugee Services (JERS) celebrates its 25th anniversary, it is experiencing unprecedented growth. Journey's End has seen its staff expand by 75% over the last two years adding 12 full time positions and dozens of staff interpreters. According to Molly Short Executive Director, "arrivals have soared by 280%" and participation in the agency's employment programs has "grown by nearly 600%" for the same period. "With such tremendous growth, we just needed more room." The agency's new 7200 square foot office in the Tri-Main Center will allow Journey's End to make the most of its increased capacity to better meet current and future needs of its clients.

Refugee resettlement rates in the Buffalo area have increase 231% over the last five years. On Buffalo's West Side the impact of resettling refugees has been most clearly felt, with thousands of refugees contributing to the investment and vitality of these neighborhoods. Dr. Myron Glick, CEO of Jericho Road Family Practice said that refugees have contributed significantly to the revitalization of working class neighborhoods and has led to his practices' expansion as well as the growth of Journey's End. JERS Board Chair, Rev. Barbara Price sees opportunity for a similar impact in other parts of the city, "The Tri-Main's central location is perfect to facilitate urban renewal opportunities throughout Buffalo." Buffalo has a long history of immigration and migration beginning with the Germans, Polish, Irish, Italian, African Americans, and now resettling refugees are providing much needed energy and talent to the city.

Journey's End Refugee Services Inc was founded in 1984 and provides a comprehensive range of services including housing, cross cultural orientation, medical case-management, employment services, immigration and citizenship services, interpreting services, and educational support that have served as a model for the rest of New York State. For more information, visit our website at jersbuffalo.org.

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