



MOHAWK VALLEY RESOURCE CENTER FOR REFUGEES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Utica's World Refugee Day 2009 **"Real People, Real Needs"**

World Refugee Day (WRD) internationally celebrated each year on June 20th. Once again our community will be celebrating this important day on Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Hanna Park next to City Hall! With our presenting sponsor, *First Source Federal Credit Union*, along with the *City of Utica*, the *Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce*, the *Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees*, and with people from our diverse community, Utica will celebrate *World Refugee Day* with the theme "Real People, Real Needs." WRD is a day to raise awareness about the plight of refugees around the world and garner support for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees' work. Locally, Utica's World Refugee Day celebrates the Mohawk Valley's many cultures that come together to form one community.

The day's events include:

- An International Bazaar, featuring a variety of arts & crafts from around the world alongside organizations that serve a diverse community
- Cultural music and entertainment featuring Karen dancers from Burma, a Bosnian band, an African drum group, and Latin dancers
- Safety demonstrations by Utica Fire & Police and the NYS Troopers
- Children's crafts tables
- Local ethnic food vendors (The Secret Garden, Sunny's, El Barajo)
- Kid's Bicycle Raffle

Organizations and individuals can get involved by being an event or program sponsor, sponsoring a bicycle for the raffle, sponsoring a children's activity table, hosting a vendor table, or volunteering your time!

Find out more by visiting our website at www.uticaworldrefugeeday.org.

Contact:

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The Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees promotes the well-being of culturally diverse individuals and families within our community by welcoming our new neighbors, refugees and immigrants, and by providing individual and community-centered activities designed to create opportunity and facilitate understand. To learn more, visit www.mvrcr.org.

Many Cultures, One Community