



Catholic
Social Services
Refugee Assistance &
Immigration Services

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact:

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World Refugee Day Celebration at the Mountain View Street Fair *Catholic Social Services Hosts this Saturday from 12-2pm*

WHAT: The Anchorage World Refugee Day celebration is this **Saturday, June 10, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.** as the kick-off of the Mountain View Street Fair. Catholic Social Services RAIS (Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services) invites the Anchorage community to honor the strength and resilience of refugees and celebrate their many valuable contributions that make our city the rich mixture of people and traditions we've all come to call home.

The event will include performances from the Bhutanese, Somali and Congolese communities among others, children's activities and the opportunity to honor refugees in our community and around the world. Providing protection and support for refugees is a part of our Nation's history. Alaskans are very welcoming and provide incredible support to refugees as they start life anew in the United States.

During **FY 2016, 89% of all employable adults** engaged in the program were gainfully employed and **92% of these retained their initial employment** for more than 3 months. By the end of their first year in Alaska, **79% of the refugee families served no longer relied on public assistance.**

WHEN: Saturday, June 10, 12pm-2pm

WHERE: Clark Middle School, 150 Bragaw Street, Anchorage, AK 99508

WHO: Catholic Social Services in partnership with the Mountain View Street Fair. The street fair will continue after World Refugee Day from 2-4pm.

The media is invited to speak to Catholic Social Services RAIS Program Director Jessica Kovarik, before and after presentations at 12pm, regarding World Refugee Day and what it means to our clients and our community.

About Catholic Social Services

*Since its founding in 1966, **Catholic Social Services** has grown, and continues to grow, in response to unmet needs. CSS programs help over 90,000 children, families and individuals each year, regardless of their faith. CSS provides shelter, meals, employment assistance and medical care to those experiencing homelessness. CSS offers assistance to children and their families, helps immigrants and refugees adjust to life in Alaska, and serves people with disabilities. CSS is working to improve quality of life for the entire Anchorage community by advocating on behalf of its most vulnerable members. For more information visit cssalaska.org.*

Catholic Social Services' [Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services \(RAIS\)](#)

*(established 1987) provides a bridge for refugees (individuals who had to flee their countries of origin due to the tragedies of persecution and war) from their former life experiences to the new skills required for success in the US. RAIS resettled **111 new arrivals in FY 2016**. The program aims to assist refugees in obtaining a financially sustainable lifestyle in which the family's basic needs are fully met long term. RAIS offers bilingual and bicultural services including case management, life skills orientation, and job readiness classes for refugees within their first 5 years in the US.*