



JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES OF MADISON RECOGNIZES 20th CELEBRATION OF WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Madison, WI—06/08/2021— Jewish Social Services of Madison (JSS), Dane County’s only refugee resettlement agency, will host a virtual panel on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7:30pm in recognition of World Refugee Day. In 2001, the United Nations designated June 20th as an international day to honor the strength and courage of refugees around the world. This year marks the 20th World Refugee Day and JSS is proud to help raise awareness for the plight of those fleeing persecution or conflict in their home country, and celebrate the refugee communities that are making the Madison area home.

The theme of this virtual panel is “Coming from Across the Globe to Make Madison Home, Refugee Resettlement in Dane County”. The greater community is invited to attend and participate in the event, which will feature a panel of individuals who were resettled by JSS as well as JSS’ Resettlement Director, Becca Schwartz. Attendees will be able to ask questions of the panelists, registration is required to access the event.

Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsf-ioqzkoH9PiU279tjkQKQrc6qtBeeTb>

This World Refugee Day coincides with a marked increase in the number of refugees entering the United States. “JSS staff, volunteers, and partners are thrilled to welcome newcomers to the Madison area again after very low arrival numbers since early 2020,” says Dawn Berney, Executive Director of JSS. “We expect the rest of 2021 and 2022 to be our busiest time since restarting our program in late 2016.”

JSS and Open Doors for Refugees, a local volunteer group, will also host a private event on World Refugee Day, June 20th, for individuals and families in Madison who have come through the refugee resettlement process. “This will be our first in-person event since Thanksgiving, 2019. Clients and staff alike are very much looking forward to coming together again to celebrate,” says Schwartz.

Open Doors for Refugees is co-sponsoring the event and continues to work closely with JSS to welcome refugee families and offer vital support as they begin their new lives in Madison.

About Jewish Social Services

JSS is a 40+-year-old organization, comprised of people committed to improving the lives of individuals and families of all religions and nationalities. We meet people where they are. Our programs are designed to help people manage mental health and physical health; to care for and

connect seniors to needed services and programs; to provide emergency financial assistance to empower them with self-sufficiency; and to welcome and help resettle and provide legal assistance to refugees from around the world.

For more information

Becca Schwartz, Resettlement Director

becca@jssmadison.org

(608) 960-7883

Or

Dawn Berney, Executive Director

dberney@jssmadison.org

(608)442-4080