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## Wisconsin Recognizes World Refugee Day

(MADISON) – In recognition of World Refugee Day on Saturday, June 20th, Governor Walker and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) would like to acknowledge the contributions, courage, and strength of those who are forced to leave their home countries due to violence, persecution or natural-disasters. On this day, we honor the human spirit that allows people to move to a foreign land in order to build a better life for themselves and their families.

“As we recognize World Refugee Day it is important to remember that the United States is a country with a long history of welcoming refugees from all over the world,” said Governor Scott Walker.

“Today, refugees continue to add to the mix of cultures and experiences that make the U.S. special. We praise them for their many contributions and we thank the people throughout Wisconsin who have opened their hearts to help integrate these newcomers into their communities.”

Over the past 36 years, Wisconsin has become a home for over 70,000 refugees. The Department of Children and Families manages the programs designed to connect refugees with the community and provide resources to help them achieve economic and social self-sufficiency in their new country. Wisconsin’s former refugees have contributed to our communities economically, with over 90% reaching self-sufficiency.

“Every refugee has a personal story to share about his or her struggles and victories,” said DCF Secretary Eloise Anderson. “They have become role models in their communities and have built a foundation for their families and future generations. Refugees have shared their culture and diversity, and are proof of the power of the human spirit.”

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Milwaukee World Refugee Day observance will take place from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Rainbow Park in West Allis, featuring a soccer match, music and dancing.

To learn more about World Refugee Day visit <http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/refugee/day/default.htm>.