



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:  
Sara Aghajanian  
International Rescue Committee  
520-443-1929  
SaraAg@theIRC.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Tucson Unites in Global Celebration of Refugees**

**May 6, 2009, Tucson, AZ**—Community organizations will hold a free family event in celebration of World Refugee Day on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Tucson will join other cities around the globe by celebrating the occasion with the 2nd Annual Tucson World RefugeeFest.

Since 1982 Tucson has become home to nearly 10,000 refugees coming from all over the world to rebuild their lives. Tucson World RefugeeFest will honor their stories and highlight their contributions as members of the community.

The celebration will feature live performances and art from refugees around the world as well as educational booths, ethnic food and interactive children's activities.

The United Nations designated June 20<sup>th</sup> as World Refugee Day to acknowledge the resilience and strength of refugees. Tucson refugee service providers have been sponsoring events for World Refugee Day since 2002. Last year the events attracted over 500 community members. This year organizers hope to double the community's participation.

“There are about 16 million refugees—survivors of violent conflict and persecution—in the world today. On World Refugee Day, we celebrate their courage and determination and how their presence in our community enriches us,” says Ken Briggs, Director of the International Rescue Committee's Tucson Office.

“It is also a day for Tucson to celebrate its role in a global humanitarian effort to help refugees rebuild their lives.”

Tucson World RefugeeFest will be held in downtown Tucson at El Presidio Park from 5-9pm. The event is presented by Fat Trees Design Studio and the Arizona State Refugee Program.

More information can be found online at: [www.tucsonrefugeefest.com](http://www.tucsonrefugeefest.com)

###