



For Immediate Release: July 21, 2015

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Microenterprise Grant Entrepreneurs Celebrate Graduation

Office of Refugee and Resettlement Microenterprise Grant partners are proud to graduate five women, all part of the Buffalo refugee community, on Friday, July 24 at 11:00 am. These graduates, originally from Somalia, Rwanda, and the Congo, have been taking coursework to become regulated child care providers. This fills a critical gap in the community, creating culturally appropriate child care programs for children in areas where there is need and building viable small businesses for new immigrants and refugees looking to become self-sufficient.

Beginning in 2013, Child Care Resource Network, Journey's End Refugee Services, and Jewish Family Services of Buffalo and Erie County have collaborated to offer classes to 29 immigrants and refugees seeking to open home based child care businesses. These classes include: completion of over 70 hours of training, including 15 hours of NYS required health and safety training; required application paperwork; background checks; and required inspections needed to open a home-based child care program. This is the fourth and final cohort graduating from the program.

When speaking of the graduation, CCRN CEO Lynn Pullano said, "This program shows the good that comes from agencies collaborating to meet critical community needs in innovative ways. It's amazing to watch participants become empowered to provide a better future for themselves, their families, and other Western New Yorkers."

Child Care Resource Network (CCRN) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to child care, early learning, and development. CCRN offers resources and child care referral services to families and employers, child care program registration, training and credentialing for child care providers and the administration the Federal Child and Adult Care Food Program. CCRN also partners with community organizations to provide early childhood developmental screenings and care coordination to children and families in need. The agency mission is to support families, child care providers, employers, and the community by developing and advocating for high quality, accessible and affordable child care and education for all children.

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