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Executive Director

1 June 2011

Dear Friends,

For more than 90 years, the Institute has helped thousands of new Americans with the support from dedicated friends like you, from your generous donations of volunteer time, money and skills. The IIconn truly appreciates the ways in which you have helped us to grow and expand, and its community impact has been possible in large part due to the outpouring of support in recent years. The Institute has emerged from a period of transition with renewed purpose and a vision for the future.

The past year was an exciting one for the IIconn, serving approximately 5000 individuals and assisting 346 people to become naturalized US citizens. The anti-human trafficking program gained national recognition for its work in supporting the victims who testified about sexual exploitation by trafficker Douglas Perlitz. Our refugee program began resettling refugees in Derby, where we launched a new office and staff efficiency permitted us to resettle 100 refugees this fiscal year, up from 75 individuals last year.

This is an exciting time to become a member of the International Institute. As you may have noticed, we began the year with an executive transition, a revamped web site and logo, and an increased capacity to serve immigrant and refugee populations in Hartford, Derby, Bridgeport and Stamford. As the new executive director, I plan to work with our community partners and advocates to increase access to affordable immigration assistance, assist individuals to reunite with family members, as well as designing and implementing quality programs to promote self-sufficiency and integration among immigrant and refugee families throughout the State of Connecticut.

There is still work to be done in 2011. In the fall the Institute will partner with the Secretary of State and the US Citizenship and Immigration Service to host a Mass Naturalization Ceremony where more than 200 new Americans can celebrate their swearing-in at a special event. Our continuously arriving refugee families, who have fled ethnic conflict, repression and hopelessness, require donations and volunteers to ensure well-stocked homes and willing mentors to make their American experience a good one. For those who would like to apply their business management skills, we welcome input toward the agency's 3-5 year strategic plan.

We are pleased to invite you to actively engage in the Institute's work by becoming a member! Those who have been members in the past, now is the time to renew your membership and join the IIconn as a unified voice for immigrant and refugee advocacy.

Individual members will have an opportunity to serve on our planning committees, organize and attend events, run our educational programs, and steer the path of the agency and local communities in a positive direction. Organizations that wish to become members will receive technical support and skills-building trainings from the Institute.

Your dollars will go far at the Institute, \$500 will guarantee that up to 30 limited English proficient immigrants will spend 3 months learning English in an inviting, multi-cultural environment where free child care is provided. A gift of \$150 will enable a victim of labor or sex trafficking to have basic needs, such as food and clothing, paid for one month. Your donation of \$40 will support the immigration consultation fee for a client to reunite with his/her spouse and children back in their home country.

Donations are tax deductible. Become an International Institute of Connecticut member and help us to create stronger immigrant families, more self-sufficient refugees, and engaged communities. Our professional and trained staff provides a vast array of services and little or no cost, and your membership donation will help us to have the necessary materials and personnel to continue our important work in the communities we serve.

Thank you in advance for opening up your hearts and wallets to the Institute and our clients, we appreciate your support. Contributions are accepted year round, however by giving before August 1st, you will ensure that the families who need help most are served.

Please give now, and please give generously.

Warmest Regards,



Angela Rossi Zurowski
Executive Director

Thank you!

