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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Valley United Way Awards Grant to International Institute's Refugee Initiative**

*Funding will support newly arrived refugee families obtain basic needs & services.*

Derby, CT, March 25, 2010 – With the arrival of new refugees to the Lower Naugatuck Valley area, the **International Institute of Connecticut** has received a Special Needs Grant from **Valley United Way** to provide these families basic needs and to help them achieve self sufficiency.

The immediate aim of the **Refugee Resettlement Program** is to provide refugees—many of whom enter the country with little more than the clothes on their backs—with basic necessities: food, transportation, housing, and essential household goods. In addition, the IIC will supply these families with basic needs support, employment services, and case management.

The long term goal of this project is to help the refugees assimilate culturally into their new community. Through sustained efforts, this will benefit both the new populations as well as the Valley residents by increasing diversity and mutual understanding within this growing community.

This initiative is in line with Valley United Way's mission to improve lives through community efforts, including philanthropy, volunteerism, and collaboration.

The International Institute of Connecticut is a statewide, non-profit agency dedicated to the needs of immigrants, refugees, and their families. Recognized by the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals, the IIC assists hundreds of low income individuals a year in their applications and inquiries concerning U.S. citizenship. Working through four permanent offices located in Bridgeport, Stamford, Hartford, and Derby, as well as outreach operations throughout the state, the IIC supports and assists clients through the provision of material needs, direct professional services, counseling, advocacy, and the advancement of fair and humane public policy.

To schedule an appointment or ask a question, contact the IIC at: **(203) 336-0141**. To learn more about the IIC, go to [www.iiconn.org](http://www.iiconn.org). To learn more about Valley United Way, visit <http://valleyunitedway.org/index.htm>.

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