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CCC, Refugee and Immigration Services Merge

Combining Agencies Casts a Wider Net to Help Newcomers

RICHMOND, Virginia— July 26, 2010—When it comes to problem solving, it’s often said that two heads are better than one. Commonwealth Catholic Charities and Refugee and Immigration Services applied the same principle on July 1, 2010—the official date of the merger between the two service providers, who will resettle over 500 refugees and provide services to thousands of immigrants this year.

“It’s a natural fit since we share the same mission of helping those most in need. RIS has a solid history of hands-on work with refugees and immigrants with powerfully positive results. I can’t imagine a better partnership for tackling the incredible and immediate tasks at hand,” said Joanne Natrass, Executive Director of Commonwealth Catholic Charities. “The administrative support of CCC can free refugee resettlement and immigration services staff to focus almost exclusively on helping clients directly,” she added.

Refugee and Immigration Services formerly was managed by the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. Formed in 1975, RIS works to fulfill the basic needs of refugees and immigrants and ease their transition into a new life. Growing exponentially over the past 35 years, the organization serves populations in Richmond, Roanoke, and Hampton via refugee resettlement, interpreter services, and immigrant services such as immigration counseling and English language instruction.

Commonwealth Catholic Charities is a non-profit human service organization providing quality, compassionate human services to all people, especially the most vulnerable, regardless of faith. CCC programs center on support in crisis, nurturing children, and strengthening families. Over 24,000 people throughout Central and Southwest Virginia benefited from CCC programs this year. Visit www.cccofva.org or call 804-285-5900 to learn more.