



THE CENTER

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MVRCR Launches Welcome & Opportunity Center. Rebrands as “The Center”

UTICA, NEW YORK (September 19, 2019) – Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees (MVRCR) announces the launch of The Welcome & Opportunity Center – a state-of-the-art community space and training center aimed to promote community engagement, workforce development, and inclusiveness – and with it, the announcement of their name and brand as The Center.

Founded in 1981 in response to the War in Vietnam and the 1980 Refugee Act, MVRCR was born of a community banding together to help those in need. The organization was built around the core vision of helping refugees achieve independence and self-sufficiency by providing services and support throughout the integration process.

Since that time, MVRCR has helped more than 16,500 individuals from 36 different countries join into the community and the workforce, and has trained more than 130 entrepreneurs—contributing significantly to the revitalization of the community and the stabilization of Utica and the county’s declining population.

“Not only have the depth and breadth of our integration services and community programs evolved over the years, but our reach has expanded as well. Building on Utica’s history of welcoming immigrants, refugees, and the community at large, The Welcome Center is a place of inclusion, and a hub for workforce development and economic growth,” says Executive Director Shelly Callahan. “And in an effort to better reflect our core position in the community, we’ve renamed and rebranded as The Center.”

For a city with such a rich migrant history, the future looks bright. And, as The Center’s expansion of physical space and services means a continued focus on the cultural and economic vibrancy of Utica and the greater Mohawk Valley Region, the organization has created a model that can be adopted across New York State, and beyond.

For more information, please visit [TheCenterUtica.org](http://TheCenterUtica.org). For additional media materials, please visit [TheCenterUtica.org/media](http://TheCenterUtica.org/media).

### About

The Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping refugees and immigrants successfully settle in the Mohawk Valley region by offering programs that promote independence and full participation in the greater community. Since its inception in 1981, the organization has been instrumental in stabilizing the area’s declining population, fostering significant economic growth, and cultivating a thriving, vibrant and inclusive multicultural community.

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