

Media Release

Many Cultures, One Mile- The International Mile of the Boilermaker Road Race

The Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees (MVRRCR) is pleased to announce plans for the 3rd annual International Mile of the Boilermaker Road Race, which will take place on July 13th. The International Mile is a one-mile stretch of the Boilermaker racecourse coordinated by the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees, and sponsored by Mohawk Valley Community College. The International Mile starts at mile two of the racecourse and highlights the rich cultural diversity of Utica, showcasing bands and dance groups that symbolize the traditional sounds of faraway countries and cultures.

The International Mile received widespread acclaim from runners and spectators alike; favorable press coverage, and was instrumental in East Utica's first-ever Boilermaker block party. This year's performers on the International Mile will include bands and dance groups representing many countries and cultures from all corners of the world. Some of the performers include the Bosnian band *MAH*, the Irish/Scottish group, *Rattlin' Bog*, an Albanian group, *Mergimtaret*, Polish Dancers and many more! MVRRCR welcomes all cultural and community organizations that are interested in performing along the International Mile, please contact MVRRCR for more information. The Boilermaker Road Race hosts thousands of runners and spectators, so groups performing along the International Mile receive incredible exposure, as well as the experience of participating in Utica's premier event.

In addition, the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees is forming an International Mile Running Team sponsored by Excellus BCBS, made up of current and former refugees, staff and community members. Any member of the community is welcome to join and support the wonderful diversity that Utica has to offer. Visit www.mvr-cr.org to find out how you can become a part of the team.

Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees also invites you to support the various programs and services that we provide by sponsoring one of the 192 flags of the United Nations. The flags are displayed along the racecourse, throughout the year at various community events, and are prominently displayed at our office. Our goal is to have all countries represented. You can make this possible by sponsoring a flag from around the world with a donation of \$250. Your flag and your name will fly at the International Mile adding to the festivities. Sponsor as many flags as you like!

Please visit our website at www.mvr-cr.org to see what the flags look like and then let us know which flag you prefer. Remember, flag sponsorships are first come, first serve!

If you are interested in performing at the International Mile, joining the running team or sponsoring a flag, please contact Jennifer VanWagoner either by phone at (315) 738-1083 or by e-mail at jenniferv@mvr-cr.org.

Don't delay to ensure you're part of the International Mile. Come and experience *Many Cultures, One Community!*