

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Soft Landing Missoula and Imagine Nation Brewing Present Community Events for National Welcoming Week

Missoula, MT, September 7, 2018 — Soft Landing Missoula (SLM) and Imagine Nation Brewing are organizing Missoula's second annual *Welcoming Week* from September 14 - 23, 2018, offering a rich calendar of community events. In tandem with thousands of organizations and communities nationwide, SLM and Imagine Nation hope to inspire and celebrate welcoming all to the Missoula community during this week-long celebration.

"We are so excited that our city has been able to give such a warm welcome to more than 60 new refugee families resettled by the International Rescue Committee these past two years," said Mary Poole, executive director of Soft Landing Missoula. "It has been incredible to see personal relationships blossom and what those close connections mean- both for a family coming to a new and strange place and the Missoulians who have open their arms and hearts. Through Welcoming Week events, we are honored to be a part of extending the sharing of cultures to the larger Missoula community and continuing to help create a welcoming home for immigrants and refugees in Missoula."

Join SLM, Imagine Nation Brewing the International Rescue Committee, and other partners, including The Top Hat, Liquid Planet, the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center, the Roxy Theater, ARTS Missoula, and more, for a week of cultural activities!

Friday, September 14th, 5:30 pm at Imagine Nation Brewing: Help us kick off Welcoming Week 2018 with a celebration at Imagine Nation Brewing! Bring your friends and sip on the limited edition TOGETHER Global Pale Ale, brewed exclusively for Soft Landing Missoula, while partaking in a global trivia game. Save room for shawarma and falafel from the incredibly talented Ammar Omar of Kamoon Arabian Cuisine.

Sunday, September 16th; Pre-sale ticketed event at the Top Hat: September's Supper Club will feature the savory flavors of the Middle East, with four refugee chefs partnering to create a menu that you won't want to miss. A three course family-style dinner featuring food from Iraq and Syria will be served alongside your favorite beverages, including Imagine Nation Brewing's limited edition TOGETHER

Global Pale Ale, brewed exclusively for Soft Landing Missoula. Join us to eat, drink, and celebrate with our incredible neighbors- new and old!

Monday, September 17th, 7:00 pm at The Roxy: Global and Cultural Affairs of Arts Missoula, in collaboration with the Roxy Community Theater, Soft Landing and the International Rescue Committee invite you to the opening premiere of a new global film series titled: World View - Cultures in Motion. Set in Northern Uganda, WAR/DANCE tells the story of three children whose families have been torn apart, their homes destroyed, and who currently reside in a refugee camp in Patongo.

Tuesday, September 18th, 5:30 pm at Jeannette Rankin Peace Center: Join the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center for a discussion about "I Am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai, followed a Q+A session with Maria Chaudhary surrounding the stereotypes and generalizations that are made about a person's country and navigating the issue of cultural sensitivity. Drinks and small bites provided, teens and adults welcome!

Tuesday, September 18th, 6:00 pm at Imagine Nation Brewing: Interested in learning more about our sister cities or being involved in culture and language immersion programs? All are welcome to ARTS Missoula's community discussion on increasing our strategic city partnerships with our sister cities of Neckargemünd, Germany and Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Friday, September 21st, 12:00-2:00 pm @ Imagine Nation Brewing: Join the the International Rescue Committee to advocate for refugees! Currently, refugee arrivals in the U.S. are at their lowest levels in the history of the U.S. resettlement program. With new refugee admission numbers being decided by October 1st, your voice can make a big difference. Come call your representatives with us and discover more information about resettlement in the U.S.

Saturday, September 22nd, 9:00-11:00 am at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church: Join Soft Landing to celebrate Missoula's Eritrean community at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church for a traditional coffee ceremony, where green coffee beans are hand-roasted, ground, and brewed into strong and delicious coffee. Enjoy a delicious cup with traditional Himbasha bread, sitting in front of a traditional serving table. Admission is free with a suggested donation to benefit the participating families. Drop by anytime between 9:00-11:00 am!

Sunday, September 23rd, 4:30 pm at Playfair Fields: Soccer teams from two of Missoula's refugee communities kick off our final Welcoming Week event with a friendly soccer match! Head down to Playfair Park to watch the game, enjoy great company, and mingle with neighbors- new and old. After the game, bring a dish or treat to share and join us for a delicious potluck at 6:00 pm hosted by the Missoula Alliance Church to celebrate the end of Welcoming Week 2018.

An initiative of the Welcoming America organization, Welcoming Week is a national campaign featuring an annual series of events, where "communities bring together immigrants and U.S.-born residents to raise awareness of the benefits of welcoming everyone – including new Americans." A non-profit, non-partisan

organization, Welcoming America is proud to support the many diverse communities and partners who are leading efforts to make their communities more vibrant places for all.

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Soft Landing Missoula's mission is to help Missoula, Montana, be a welcoming, supportive and informed community that can assist refugees to integrate and thrive. For more information, visit softlandingmissoula.org.