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### **Community Events to Celebrate World Refugee Day 2019**

*Mayor John Engen and Missoula's refugee support organizations bring you 4 ways to show your support for refugees in Missoula from 6/16-6/20.*

The International Rescue Committee and Soft Landing Missoula announce multiple events happening in Missoula, showing support for refugees resettled in our community as a part of **World Refugee Day**. World Refugee Day is an international celebration showcasing the strength, resilience, determination, and contributions of refugees worldwide.

"Three and a half years ago, we asked you all to join us on a journey to make Missoula a welcoming place where refugees can call home," says Mary Poole, ED of Soft Landing Missoula, a local refugee support organization, "We now see that we are the true beneficiaries of the incredible richness in culture, experience, and fortitude that refugees have brought to our community."

Mayor John Engen has already begun celebrating by contributing his signature to the [UNHCR's Cities#withrefugees](#) campaign; joining more than 130 cities and local authorities all over the world who are embracing refugees and working to promote inclusion and a welcoming home for those who have been displaced by war and conflict. Going along with the support he has consistently shown Missoula's effort to resettle refugees, Engen has updated a 2017 World Refugee Day Proclamation to continue to show the city's commitment in 2019.

Since 2016, through resettlement by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Missoula has welcomed over 75 families from Congo, Eritrea, Iraq, and Syria. "This World Refugee Day, we recognize the immense contributions refugees have made to our everyday lives.", says Jen Barile, Resettlement Director for the IRC in Missoula, "Thank you, Missoula, for welcoming refugees into our community so that they can thrive!"

Here is a look at events in Missoula honoring World Refugee Day 2019:

**June 16, 2109: World Refugee Day Cup Soccer Tournament and Community Celebration**

Soft Landing Missoula hosts this third annual event that brings together refugees and Missoulians to share some friendly soccer games, food, music, and dance. Mayor John Engen will give the welcome (5:30 p.m.) and read the updated 2019 World Refugee Day Proclamation.

**When:** Sunday, June 16: Soccer starts at 10 a.m., the final game will be at 4p, and a FREE community celebration will follow at 5 p.m.

**Where:** Fort Missoula Regional Park

For more information, please visit [softlandingmissoula.org/soccer-tournament](http://softlandingmissoula.org/soccer-tournament)

**June 17, 2019: Mayor Engen reads the 2019 World Refugee Day Proclamation at City Council**

During the regularly scheduled Monday night City Council meeting, Mayor Engan will present the 2019 World Refugee Day Proclamation.

**When:** Monday, June 17, 7 p.m.

**Where:** Council Chambers, 140 W Pine St.

**June 19, 2019: Action Wednesday**

IRC Missoula and Missoula Rises present Action Wednesday! Join us in writing postcards in support of the GRACE Act - a bill to set a minimum refugee admissions goal of 95,000 each year.

**When:** Wednesday, June 19, 6-9 p.m.

**Where:** Imagine Nation Brewing, 1151 W. Broadway

**June 20 2019: World Refugee Day Fundraiser**

Join us in celebrating Missoula's resilient refugee community by supporting local establishments that hire and empower refugees! World Refugee Day honors the strength of refugees, those who have fled their homelands due to conflict or persecution. Help us celebrate Missoula's refugee community by dining at these local establishments on World Refugee Day:

- **Imagine Nation Brewing** from 12 p.m.-8 p.m.
- **Scotty's Table** from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5 p.m.- Close
- **Masala** from 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

A portion of sales will go to IRC Missoula to directly support refugee families.

For more information, please visit the IRC on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/IRCMissoula/>

Please join us in celebrating refugees in Missoula and across the globe by participating in any or all of the above events!