



VIVE, INC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ATTENTION: Assignment Editor

DATE: MARCH 24, 2009

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WHEN: THURSDAY MAY 14, 2009 5:30 - 9 PM.

WHERE: SHANGHAI RED'S, 2 TEMPLETON TERRACE, BUFFALO, NY.

BACKGROUND:

VIVE HONORS LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY & SERVICE AT 25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Buffalo, NY. VIVE's 25th Anniversary Recognition Dinner - Thursday May 14. Twenty-five years ago VIVE was founded by 9 orders of Women Religious in response to humanitarian disasters that brought desperate families to the doors of their churches, convents, and rectories. Since then VIVE has grown into the largest refugee shelter in the United States and a cornerstone of the global sanctuary movement. Each year at the Recognition Dinner, VIVE honors community leaders and servants who exemplify the traits of our founders. This year's honorees continue that tradition:

Episcopal Diocese of Western New York - John R. Long Award. For more than a decade of advocacy on behalf of refugees.

Sr. Mary Louise Lopez, OSF - Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) Award. For more than 20 years of service to tens of thousands of refugees.

Majority Leader of the Erie County Legislature Maria Whyte - Bonny Butler Humanitarian Award. For her leadership in fighting for the less fortunate of our community.

Past recipients include: Rev. Robert and Roberta Grimm; Jonathan H. Gardner; Dr. Margaret MacAloon; Patricia LaFalce; WNY Presbytery; Sr. Bette DiCesare, SSJ; and the Food Bank of Western New York.

Located in Buffalo, NY, VIVE is a non profit organization which serves refugees, defined under the Geneva Convention of 1948, as "people who have a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group." VIVE assists world refugees seeking asylum both in the United States and in Canada. VIVE operates La Casa, a shelter with 112 beds. VIVE provides food, shelter, clothing, and legal services to refugees. In 2008, VIVE provided services to 4,000 asylum seekers. Since its founding in 1984, VIVE has assisted over 67,000 refugees from 106 countries.

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*25 Years of Sanctuary
25 Years of Hope*