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PRESS RELEASE

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Rocktown Rallies Phone Drive for Locally Resettled Refugees

Harrisonburg, VA – September 22, 2016: Rocktown Rallies, a grassroots refugee advocacy group in Harrisonburg, will be collecting used cell phones with removable SIM cards for locally resettled refugees. Donations of phone chargers will also be accepted. Monetary donations will be used for the purchase of pay-as-you-go phones, and are especially appreciated. The phone drive will be from October 1 – 15.

Refugee families face many obstacles that can be mitigated with access to cell phones. Refugees need phones for necessary activities such as making health care appointments, communicating with employers, and keeping in touch with children’s schools. Phones and monetary donations collected during the phone drive will be given to the Harrisonburg Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Office for the benefit of their refugee clients.

Rocktown Rallies was founded in September 2015, and focuses on raising local awareness about the global humanitarian refugee crisis. The group is also involved in efforts to support local refugees from all over the world that have resettled in Harrisonburg.

Rocktown Rallies volunteers understand what a huge difference having access to a telephone can make for a refugee family struggling to put down roots in the Harrisonburg area. “Access to a telephone helps lessen the burdens of time and distance,” said Alysia Davis, one of the Rocktown Rallies organizers. “Our hope is that local residents will drop off their old flip phones or donate money for the purchase of new phones so our community can be an example of one that tries to encourage the success of our new refugee neighbors.”

There are numerous drop-off locations for phone donations in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. Organizations co-sponsoring the phone drive include the Harrisonburg Women’s Service League and two JMU student organizations: Delta Phi Epsilon and the Public Affairs Student Organization. To find a complete list of collection sites, please visit www.rocktownrallies.org/phone-drive.html. For business sites, drop-off will be available during regular business hours.