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#Hearts4Refugees Fill Windows of CVT Headquarters, Neighboring Businesses in St. Paul Today

ST. PAUL, Minn.—On this Valentine’s Day, hearts and welcoming messages for refugees fill windows and storefronts at the corner of University and Raymond Avenues in St. Paul, and the #Hearts4Refugees theme celebrates refugees on social media. Initiated by the St. Paul-based Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT), today’s fourth annual Hearts for Refugees Day is a wholehearted show of support for Minnesota’s refugee communities and refugees around the world.

New this year, local teen artists from Juxtaposition Arts designed a Hearts for Refugees-themed poster and social media graphics which join CVT’s original campaign creative. See the campaign graphics here.

“We at the Center for Victims of Torture have stood shoulder to shoulder with our refugee clients and refugees throughout the world for 35 years. The news has been dark at times for those who seek safety in the United States, which only fortifies our resolve to declare that refugees are welcome here,” said Curt Goering, CVT’s executive director. “I am humbled and proud that our neighbors and friends join us in welcoming refugees for Hearts for Refugees Day. When we come together to stand up against bigotry and anti-refugee sentiment, the light of welcome shines brighter. Hearts for Refugees is one example of that light.”

“Refugees make up part of the rich fabric of our region. Transit weaves those threads together into a wonderful tapestry of communities,” said Metropolitan Council Chair Charlie Zelle. “When our riders read this message, I hope they take a moment to be proud that Minnesota is welcoming people in need. Even more importantly, I hope it helps those who have fled here feel welcome in their adopted home.”

CVT is joined in the #Hearts4Refugees initiative by fellow tenants of the Specialty Building at 2356 University Ave. W. and by neighboring businesses near the corner of University and Raymond Avenues. Allied organizations and individuals are invited to share their #Hearts4Refugees messages and images online at Twitter, Instagram and Facebook on February 14.
Graphics are available online:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1T8qLowsgXDG8O4QH09Sfuaka0ypkx5He

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*The Center for Victims of Torture is a nonprofit organization headquartered in St. Paul, MN, with offices in Atlanta, GA, and Washington, D.C.; and healing initiatives in Africa and the Middle East. Visit [www.cvt.org](http://www.cvt.org)*