



# Media Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Refugees, Immigrants to Experience Thanksgiving Tradition

On Tuesday, November 22 at 11:45am at the International Institute of St. Louis (3654 S. Grand Blvd.) 200 refugees and immigrants studying English at the International Institute will celebrate Thanksgiving in grand style with a meal featuring traditional trimmings, from stuffing to cranberry sauce. Refugees from such far-away places as Iraq, Burma, Bhutan and Sudan will come together enjoy a customary feast.

Tuesday, November 22. Dedication and activities 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
Turkey dinner served 12:15 p.m.

For more than twenty years, the Institute has hosted a traditional Thanksgiving feast for its students and clients. The highlights of this annual event are holiday-centered activities that make use of the students' newly-acquired understanding of weights and measures. Newcomers, agency staff, city and county officials, as well as honored guests will sing a touching rendition of *This Land is Your Land*.

A special recognition and dedication of the Goldstein Berger Volunteer Services Program will be held at 11:45am. Fred Berger and Kathy Hammer will be on hand to unveil the program named in their parents' and grandparents' honor.

### Photo opportunities:

- New Americans - Iraqis, Burmese, Cubans, Sudanese and more - will enjoy a Thanksgiving meal;
- Refugees and immigrants from across the globe will unite to sing *This Land is Your Land*;
- Students have been learning Thanksgiving history and customs, and have written poignant papers about their pasts and futures;
- Weights and measures lessons will be put to practical use as students estimate the circumference of a pumpkin and other measurements using fall food items!

*International Institute of St. Louis' Annual Thanksgiving Celebration is supported by  
Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Pulaski Bank.*

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*Annually, the International Institute of St. Louis helps thousands of immigrants become more integrated into America. We teach English, resettle refugees, help newcomers find jobs, and provide orientation, translation and other supportive services. We also produce the popular Festival of Nations, annually drawing a crowd of 125,000+ to honor and celebrate our community's growing cultural diversity. Immersion, investment and inclusion are our three pillars of service. They offer a solid structure to build positive relationships between newcomers and long-time Americans. [www.iistl.org](http://www.iistl.org)*