



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Advocates to Celebrate Announcement of Deferred Action for DREAMers with Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network on July 29 in Minneapolis

Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN (July 26, 2012) On Sunday, July 29, The Advocates for Human Rights will participate in a community celebration of the recent Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announcement of a Deferred Action process for certain young people who are low enforcement priorities (DREAMers). The event will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Midtown Greenway between Chicago Avenue and Bloomington Avenue in Minneapolis.

The Advocates' Michele Garnett McKenzie, director of advocacy, says, "This is an opportunity to celebrate a positive decision, inform the community of its implications, and mobilize for continued action. While the Deferred Action decision is a welcome development, our country's immigration system needs further reform to ensure that it respects the human dignity of everyone living here."

The event on Sunday will include free health screenings courtesy of Allina Health, music, games, giveaways, and food. The event is part of a series of events sponsored by the Midtown Greenway Coalition to create awareness and use of the Greenway trails and space for all community members.

A day earlier, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 28 at Las Mojarras Restaurante on East Lake Street, The Advocates, Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network, and NAVIGATE will conduct a training for high school and college youth to be prepared to share accurate information about the impact of "Deferred Action" with peers. Immigration attorneys and other professionals will be present to train and answer questions.

According to the June 15 DHS announcement, certain young people who were brought to the United States through no fault of their own as young children and who meet several key criteria will be eligible to receive deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. To be eligible, individuals must have been brought to the United States before the age of sixteen, be under age 30, have been in the country for at least five continuous years, have no criminal history, and be currently in school or graduated from a United States high school, holders of a G.E.D. certificate, or serving or have honorably served in the United States Armed Forces. The Advocates is working to ensure that accurate resources on the Deferred Action process are available to communities throughout Minnesota through its One Voice Minnesota (OVM) network.

For more information on the event, please contact:

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The Advocates for Human Rights, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Minneapolis, is dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights. To learn more please see theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.