



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Advocates to Host Minnesota State Fair Booth on Ending Hate, Welcoming Newcomers, and Respecting Human Rights

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (August 20, 2012): The Advocates for Human Rights will focus on ending hate, welcoming newcomers, and ensuring the human rights of all Minnesotans at its grandstand booth at the Minnesota State Fair. The booth will engage fairgoers with resources, activities, and opportunities to take action to promote human rights in Minnesota.

The Advocates' Executive Director, Robin Phillips, said the booth is particularly timely following the tragic shooting at the Sikh temple in Wisconsin. "We will never know all that motivated the killer, but what we do know so far suggests that the attacker was a belligerent espouser of hate. In The Advocates for Human Rights' work to educate the public about the realities of immigration and to dispel the negative myths that create hostility in our communities, we have seen how anti-immigrant propaganda has fueled known hate groups."

The Advocates has hosted a booth at the Minnesota State Fair since 2005, engaging thousands of Minnesotans each year about pressing human rights issues in our community. The Advocates' "I Am An Advocate" campaign encourages individuals to get involved in human rights work, including promoting tolerance and respect for all people. The Advocates' permanent booth is #69 in the Lower Grandstand.

Phillips added, "We all have opportunities to speak up for what is right every day. If we take these opportunities, together, we can be much louder than the voices of hate."

The Advocates also coordinates the One Voice Minnesota (OVM) network, made up of individuals, organizations, groups, and institutions across Minnesota interested in helping their communities thrive and see diversity as an important element of positive growth.

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The Advocates for Human Rights, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Minneapolis, is dedicated to the promotion of internationally-recognized human rights. With the help of hundreds of volunteers each year, The Advocates investigates human rights violations; provides representation to immigrants and refugees who have suffered human rights abuses; assists groups that protect human rights; and engages the public, policy makers, and children in human rights work. The Advocates has received international recognition for its innovative programs and holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations. To learn more visit theadvocatesforhumanrights.org.