



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lights! Camera! Advocate! The Advocates for Human Rights at the State Fair!

Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN (August 25, 2011) Staff, Board members, and volunteers of The Advocates for Human Rights will be meeting, educating, and learning from Minnesotans at The Advocates' booth at the Minnesota State Fair starting today through the close of the Fair on September 5, 2011. A highlight of the booth this year is the opportunity for visitors to make a short "I am an Advocate" video in which they share the human rights issue they care most about. Video-makers will receive buttons, postcards, and a chance to have their video uploaded to The Advocates' website. Visitors can also find more information about their key issue, play games to test their knowledge of human rights, create a picture to add to the "I am an Advocate" tapestry, and find resources on how to promote human rights in their homes, schools, and workplaces. The "I am an Advocate" theme is designed to remind fairgoers that everyone has a role to play in protecting and promoting human rights.

Michele Garnett McKenzie, Advocacy Director, who opened The Advocates' booth #69 in the Lower Grandstand this morning, says, "I love the State Fair! And I love the opportunity it gives us to hear from Minnesotans about human rights--we take home a good sense of what Minnesotans see as the most pressing human rights issues." Staff members and volunteers use these insights in their research, education, and advocacy work to support The Advocates' mission of implementing international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law.

Last year The Advocates welcomed over 3,500 fairgoers to their booth and are hoping to see even more this year. Follow The Advocates' Fair news and see fellow Minnesota advocates on the website www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org, Facebook, and Twitter at #MNStateFair and #TheAdvocatesatFair.

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The Advocates for Human Rights is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights. With the help of hundreds of volunteers each year, The Advocates investigates and exposes human rights violations; provides representation to immigrants and refugees who have suffered human rights abuses; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and works through education and advocacy to engage the public, policymakers, and children in human rights work. The Advocates for Human Rights holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations.
www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org