



**FOR IMMEDIATE JOINT RELEASE:**

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**CONTACTS:**

Tom Gill  
President  
Urban Community School  
216.939.8441  
[tgill@urbancommunityschool.org](mailto:tgill@urbancommunityschool.org)

Patrick Kearns  
Executive Director  
The Refugee Response  
216.236.3877  
[patrick@refugeeresponse.org](mailto:patrick@refugeeresponse.org)

**Urban Community School to Bring The Refugee Response Partner to Campus**

**Cleveland, Ohio** - Urban Community School (UCS) and The Refugee Response (TRR) are pleased to announce they finalized an agreement Tuesday to construct TRR's new headquarters on the UCS campus. TRR empowers refugees resettled in Northeast Ohio to thrive in their new home. The two organizations have collaborated since TRR was founded in 2010.

TRR has "tended learning and community gardens and enrolled our clients' children at Urban Community School for almost 10 years," says Executive Director, Patrick Kearns. "In the coming year, we are thrilled to work even more closely with UCS and its partners as we relocate to the UCS campus, enabling our clients to access a range of services in a single location. We look forward to mutual support and collaboration with partner organizations on Urban's campus as we continue to channel the strengths of the clients we are fortunate to serve."

Ann Zoller, TRR Board Chair, adds that "Refugee Response is an organization built on partnership. As we think about our next decade of service as we reach more and more families, our partnership with Urban Community School is at the core of our success. This partnership will allow our organization to grow and thrive to the great benefit of those we serve."

Urban Community School has added several partners to its growing campus located at West 48th Street and Lorain Avenue. In 2017, UCS added the Gallagher Family Lacrosse Field to serve as the hub of the Lacrosse Communities Project in partnership with US Lacrosse and Near West Recreation. In 2018, Urban Squash Cleveland opened its Youth Development Center on the campus, followed by an additional home housing the House of Champions, a program geared toward providing an after-school, residential-like experience for students who attend UCS and Metro Catholic School.

In 2020, the school opened The Cletus Jeckering Family Health Center - Ohio City Health Center, in partnership with The MetroHealth System, and recently completed construction of the Early Childhood Care & Learning Center expected to open in July 2021. Urban also plans to construct two additional homes on West 47th Street for additional campus partner headquarters.

The new headquarters resembles a residential home in order to preserve the residential look of the street, and part of the draw is that our partner organizations can utilize space within the school to operate programming and connect its clients with other partners including The MetroHealth System.

"We hold The Refugee Response in high regard for their overall mission and their strong commitment to education. Partnership during a time of such strained resources is critical and the synergies made possible for the community when aligned nonprofits work together are dynamic and seemingly innumerable," says Tom Gill, President of UCS.

The mission of TRR, “empowering and strengthening the roots of the refugees, powerfully aligns with Urban’s mission of serving the community. We welcome the TRR family to our neighborhood,” adds Raj Trikha, Board Chair of UCS.

UCS is eager to add TRR to its ever-growing campus, working together and serving their children and families for years to come.

### **About Urban Community School**

Urban Community School (UCS) strives to break social and economic barriers to success for Cleveland's near west side children by providing an individualized, innovative, and challenging education. Rooted in the Ursuline Sisters' tradition of faith, character, and educational excellence, UCS engages our faculty, families, and community partners in the successful whole child development of our students.

UCS is a fully accredited non-graded elementary school educating students from Pre-Kindergarten (age 3) through eighth grade. In the Ursuline tradition, UCS educates the whole child academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. UCS serves 570 students (400 in-person and 170 virtual) and is widely regarded as a model for urban education, having been the first school in Cleveland to receive the US Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Award for excellence in education in 1988. UCS graduates attend many of the area's top private and public high schools.

For more information, visit [urbancommunityschool.org](http://urbancommunityschool.org).

### **About The Refugee Response**

The Refugee Response (TRR) empowers resettled families to grow roots, supporting them in becoming engaged, self-sufficient, and contributing members of their new communities. TRR's vision is to be a local leader and a national model for innovative programming serving resettled families, utilizing strong bonds with the local resettled community, and a deep understanding of national and global refugee trends. TRR will have an increased qualitative impact on the lives of those we serve by ensuring their voices, skills, experiences, and knowledge are at the center of our decision making.

For more information, visit [refugeeresponse.org](http://refugeeresponse.org).