



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

David J. Valesky

## Senator Valesky Holds Coat and Blanket Drive to Benefit Newly Arrived Refugees

DAVID J. VALESKY November 13, 2014

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SYRACUSE, N.Y. – State Senator David J. Valesky (D-Oneida) is holding a coat and blanket drive at the State Office Building in Syracuse now through Friday, December 5 in partnership with InterFaith Works' Refugee Resettlement program at the Center for New Americans. Refugee families often need coats, blankets, and other household items when they arrive in the United States.

“Early snows around the area are normal reminders for us to get ready for the cold months ahead, but refugees coming from warm climates are unfamiliar with how to prepare for winter in Central New York,” Senator Valesky said. “I am pleased to partner with the Center for New Americans to provide cold weather items that will be much needed in the coming months.”

Area residents can drop off new or gently used washable blankets and coats, hats, and gloves in the lobby of the State Office Building through the entrance at 333 E. Washington St in Syracuse. All coat sizes are needed for toddlers, youth, women and men.

Many refugees come from warmer climates and have never experienced the kind of winters that occur in Central New York. Most arrive in the United States with only the clothes they are wearing and the items that they can carry in a suitcase. The Refugee Resettlement program assists families with a variety of needs such as housing and furnishings, English language classes, school enrollment, medical care and employment.

For more information about the drive, call Senator Valesky's office at 315-478-8745 or email [valesky@nysenate.gov](mailto:valesky@nysenate.gov).