



## **Project Rescue grant, and ARZA-IICONN Internship Program**

### **Department of Justice awards Project Rescue new three-year grant**

IICONN's Project Rescue was awarded a new three year grant by the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). The grant will allow IICONN to continue to provide comprehensive services to all victims of human trafficking in Connecticut.

*"Congratulations to the International Institute of Connecticut on their recent grant award from the Department of Justice. I commend IICONN's continued high impact work with victims of human trafficking in Connecticut and their demonstrated commitment to ensuring coordinated efforts to combat human trafficking in our state." Congressman Jim Himes*

Project Rescue, the Anti-Human Trafficking Program at IICONN, serves survivors of human trafficking and raises awareness about the issue of trafficking in persons, within the state of Connecticut. In cooperation with the U.S. Attorney's Office and law enforcement, Project Rescue was established in 2006 to serve trafficking victims through comprehensive case management, advocacy, immigration legal aid, and referrals to community service providers. In addition, Project Rescue provides statewide training to service providers and law enforcement on victim identification and outreach to increase public awareness of human trafficking.

***Although Connecticut is a small state, its proximity to major metropolitan areas such as New York City and Boston make it a prime location for perpetrators of human trafficking.***

Presently, IICONN is the only service provider in the state that provides comprehensive case management services to all trafficking victims including women, men, adults, children, foreign born and nationals. IICONN's collaboration with law enforcement entities such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and FBI, state and local law enforcement has been crucial to CT's battle against human trafficking. Since 2006, Project Rescue has had a significant increase in referrals, identified victims and requests for trainings. Our work and efforts are primarily supported by the Office for Victims of Crime through the Department of Justice and the Trafficking Victims Assistance Program through the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

With the new grant from OVC, IICONN will:

- 1) build its current state-wide delivery response by strengthening collaboration with local, state and federal law enforcement, local agencies, service providers and nonprofit organizations;
- 2) improve identification of all victims through training and outreach to potential community partners; and
- 3) co-chair and convene The Connecticut Coalition Against Trafficking with the goal of strengthening the work of the coalition as a whole.



**Angela Rossi Zurowski Andersen-International  
Institute of Connecticut (ARZA-IICONN)  
Internship Program**

The ARZA-IICONN

internship was designed to honor and commemorate the life and legacy of Ms. Angela Rossi Zurowski Andersen. A Western Connecticut State University alumna as well as an adjunct instructor, Angela was beloved for her spirited personality and devotion to helping immigrants and refugees reclaim



Angela, former Executive Director of IICONN, was beloved for her spirited personality and devotion to immigrants and refugees.

their lives after suffering unimaginable loss, poverty and heartbreak. The ARZA-IICONN internship provides to a social sciences student at Western CT State University a paid internship at the International Institute of Connecticut (IICONN) in Bridgeport, where Angela worked as the Executive Director. The program offers student interns the opportunity to learn about and contribute to the mission of IICONN, and offers IICONN the chance to work with and learn from a social sciences student intern each year. Angela's family was very involved in the process of selecting the inaugural intern. The first ARZA-IICONN intern is Alexa Hinds, a senior Anthropology/Sociology major.

If you would like to support the longevity of the ARZA-IICONN internship, please go to [www.wcsu.edu/socialsci/angelas-passion](http://www.wcsu.edu/socialsci/angelas-passion) where you can learn more about Angela, IICONN and the internship. You will also be able to purchase tickets for a fundraising event, Affirming Angela's Passion, which will be held on Saturday, November 5th from 4pm to 8pm in the WCSU Ballroom. The last day to purchase tickets is Monday, October 31, 2016.



**IICONN counts on donations it receives from generous members of our community to continue our important work. To learn more, and to volunteer, please visit [www.iiconn.org](http://www.iiconn.org). Secure contributions can be made directly to IICONN through our [donation page](#).**

