



## **Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.**

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*Empowering refugees and immigrants since 1983*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 19, 2018**

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### **ECDC Celebrates its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Refugees' First Thanksgiving**

**Arlington, VA** – Yesterday, ECDC's African Community Center celebrated its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Refugees' First Thanksgiving in the United States. Nearly 250 people attended the celebration, including clients, community members, volunteers, and staff.

Thanksgiving is a day that reminds us to be grateful for what we have. For refugees and other newcomers, this celebration provides an opportunity to learn about this tradition and to share it with their neighbors. Refugee families are some of the most grateful people in our country. Many of them were resettled into their new neighborhoods after years in refugee camps. Leaving those conditions behind to start a new life is not easy, but it is often a lifesaving decision.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, ECDC extends its gratitude to volunteers and community members who are unwavering in their support for vulnerable families. This year's celebration was yet another example of the many ways in which working together for the good of our community makes us stronger.

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*ECDC is one of nine resettlement agencies working in partnership with the Department of State and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to provide initial placement and support services to refugees being resettled in the United States. ECDC promotes cultural, educational, and socio-economic development programs to assist refugees and immigrants in becoming productive members of their new homeland.*