



New American Pathways  
HELPING REFUGEES AND GEORGIA THRIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Red, White and New Celebration to Honor New Americans and  
Former Refugee Awet Woldegebriel**

**ATLANTA (July 13, 2015) – New American Pathways** invites the community to attend its annual Red, White and New celebration on Saturday, August 29 at 6:30 p.m. at The Ballroom at the Carlos Center located at The Thalia N. Carlos Hellenic Community Center. This year's celebration will honor **Awet Woldegebriel**, a former refugee and current non-profit executive and rising star at The Coca-Cola Company.

Red, White and New is a celebration of America's newest citizens and benefits New American Pathways. The event will be attended by generous Atlanta-area individuals and corporations who support diversity in the community and opportunities for refugees to rebuild their lives in the greater Atlanta area. In its third year, the annual celebration will offer elegant cuisine, a live and silent auction, and a ceremony honoring Mr. Woldegebriel with the Friend of Freedom Award, which is presented annually to a leader in Georgia who has demonstrated an outstanding contribution to promoting the cause of refugees.

Awet Woldegebriel came to the United States as a refugee from Ethiopia, where his Eritrean family faced persecution during the Ethiopian-Eritrean War. He joined The Coca-Cola Company in 2013 at age 20 and was the youngest member of the 700-person People Function, all while studying full-time at Oglethorpe University, where he graduated in 2014. In addition to his career as a Training and Talent Development Coordinator for the Company's University Talent Program, Mr. Woldegebriel is the founder and executive director of Knowledge Aid Foundation, a non-profit organization that aims to fully furnish 300 libraries across the developing world and advance the education of 15 first-generation refugee college students by the year 2020. Thus far, Knowledge Aid has sent more than 8,000 books to Africa and South America, and has provided yearly scholarships to first-generation refugee students globally. Mr. Woldegebriel has also teamed up with local filmmakers and writers in chronicling the everyday life of Atlanta's homeless population with "100 Cups 100 Stories" ([100cups100stories.com](http://100cups100stories.com)).

"We are honored to present Mr. Woldegebriel with the Friend of Freedom Award," said New American Pathways Chief Executive Officer **Paedia Mixon**. "Awet is an outstanding example of the incredible contributions refugees make in the greater Atlanta community, and we commend his efforts to support education for refugees."

As the only organization in the state providing a full continuum of support and wrap-around services for refugees, New American Pathways provides approximately 3,500 refugees per year with the necessary tools to rebuild their lives and achieve long-term success. New American Pathways was created on October 1, 2014, by the merger of Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta (RRISA)

and Refugee Family Services (RFS). Prior to the merger, RRISA and RFS shared a deep legacy of service to the refugee community in metro Atlanta. For more than two decades, the organizations provided complementary services ranging from initial resettlement to literacy, employment, youth education and school services, and immigration and citizenship assistance.

Photography and video recording are welcome at the event. To arrange an interview with New American Pathways Chief Executive Officer Paedia Mixon, please contact Marketing and Communications Director Amy Crownover at [a.crownover@newamericanpathways.org](mailto:a.crownover@newamericanpathways.org). For more information about the event and the honoree, please visit the [www.redwhiteandnew.org](http://www.redwhiteandnew.org) or [www.newamericanpathways.org](http://www.newamericanpathways.org).

**About New American Pathways.**

New American Pathways is an Atlanta-based nonprofit that helps refugees from the moment they arrive in Georgia through their journey to U.S. citizenship. With a comprehensive set of customized services, steady guidance, and strong advocacy, we enable refugees and other immigrants to realize their full potential and dreams as they build new lives in Georgia. Beginning with resettlement services and by keeping a strong focus on jobs, education, cultural integration, individual and female empowerment and building strong families, our specially designed programs provide proven pathways to self-sufficiency and success. By matching peoples' unique individual assets with the opportunities available in the community, we help ensure that these new Americans develop and contribute their special skills and talents to strengthening the American workforce and helping Georgia thrive.

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