

—Slug:.....COMM-0850.bratt.Interfaith_SCTrip
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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Brattleboro Area Interfaith Group sets sights on spring
2 service trip to South Carolina

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 The Brattleboro Area Interfaith Youth Group says its
6 spring service trip for 2026 will be to Charleston, South Carolina.
7 from April 18 to 25.

8 Charleston is one of the oldest cities in the South, and
9 the city where the Civil War began. During Brattleboro Union
10 High School's spring break, the group will be exposed to the

11 area's rich history and current situation, according to Brian
12 Remer, one of the youth group's organizers.
13 "From slavery to today's racial-economic disparity, youth
14 group members will look at common threads, serve the
15 community's needs as volunteers, and reflect on how most, if not
16 all, religions call for justice and equality for all," Remer said in a
17 news release.

18 In Charleston, these 16 young people and five adults
19 from the Greater Brattleboro area representing Christian, Muslim,
20 and Jewish faith communities, will assist local nonprofits with
21 projects addressing food insecurity, sea mammal rescue, poverty,
22 and homelessness.

23 They will be hosted by the nonprofit Youth Mission Co.,
24 stay in simple accommodations in the Park Circle area of
25 Charleston, and contribute hands-on service.

26 Remer explained that the Brattleboro Interfaith Youth
27 Group builds a multicultural community through friendships, fun,
28 and service. It is composed of local young people, over half of
29 whom are either recently resettled refugees from Afghanistan and
30 the Democratic Republic of the Congo or exchange students from
31 Zanzibar, Germany, Argentina, and Thailand.

32 "All are interested in sharing their cultures, providing
33 peer support, and learning about each other while doing
34 community service each month," Remer stated.

35 Church affiliation or attendance is not expected, though
36 numerous religious organizations in Windham County support
37 the effort by hosting the group on a rotating basis and ensuring
38 that all can participate, regardless of their spiritual affiliation or
39 their ability to pay.

40 "The youth group benefits equally from the perspectives
41 of young people who are newcomers to this culture and from the
42 experience of youth who have grown up here," explained Remer,
43 describing the group's evolution into a dynamic multicultural
44 club for teens who are interested in sharing their cultures and
45 learning about each other.

46 In the past decade, youth performed community service
47 in places as diverse as Ashville, North Carolina; New Orleans;
48 Kenya; St. Croix; El Salvador; and the Cheyenne River Sioux
49 Reservation in South Dakota. To ensure wide participation, the
50 group conducts fundraisers leading up to each trip.

51 "Between now and their departure, the group will be
52 making presentations to community businesses and churches
53 about the reasons for their trip, holding fundraisers (the next one
54 is a Chili Supper on Saturday, Jan. 31 at West Brattleboro's First
55 Congregational Church). They'll also prepare for their trip by
56 learning more of the backstory of the region while getting to
57 know one another better," explained Remer.

58 For more information about the youth group, or to
59 donate to the trip, email Nanci.leitch@gmail.com or text or call
60 802-258-8348.

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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