

—Slug:.....COMM-0850.bratt.Interfaith\_SCTrip  
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—Dateline.....Brattleboro  
—Article Number:.....42950

**Notes from editor (not for publication):**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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5 TEXT BODY:

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6 The Brattleboro Area Interfaith Youth Group says its  
7 spring service trip for 2026 will be to Charleston, South Carolina.  
8 from April 18 to 25.  
9 Charleston is one of the oldest cities in the South, and  
10 the city where the Civil War began. During Brattleboro Union  
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 Asheville, 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](mailto:Nanci.leitch@gmail.com) or text or call  
60 802-258-8348.

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