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**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11: GATHERING WILL COMMEMORATE PENDING CLOSURE
OF DENVER'S MISSION-DRIVEN SPRING CAFÉ**

**POPULAR CAPITOL HILL EATERY & MEETING SPOT SERVED AS BRIDGE FOR IMMIGRANTS
& REFUGEES ENTERING COLORADO'S HOSPITALITY SECTOR SINCE 2015**

**ADVOCATES SAY CAFÉ'S MISSION WAS DERAILED BY TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S
ONGOING EFFORTS TO DETER REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES**

Denver, CO— Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning will hold a farewell gathering on **Wednesday, December 11 from 1:00 - 3:00pm at The Spring Café (1373 Grant Street)**, which sadly will be closing its doors permanently that Friday, December 13.

Spring Institute established [The Spring Café & Learning Center](#) in December 2015 with a mission to support immigrants and refugees who have a desire to work in the hospitality industry through temporary employment and on-the-job training in customer service, food preparation, catering, and barista skills.

“Unfortunately, [sharp decreases in refugee arrivals](#) under the Trump Administration have made it extremely difficult to hire new staff and fulfill the café’s mission. Despite our best recruitment efforts, skillful management, and obvious popularity of the café, it’s just not sustainable,” explains Paula Schriefer, President & CEO of Spring Institute. “We’re so proud of the many immigrants and refugees who’ve used their work experience as a springboard to careers or further education and we’ll sorely miss the sense of community the café has brought us all--not to mention the great coffee, delicious food, and convenient meeting space.”

Over the years, café employees included more than twenty refugees/immigrants from around the globe, hailing from Afghanistan, Belarus, Burma, Cameroon, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Vietnam. All improved their English language and other job skills and the vast majority went on to obtain new above minimum wage employment or enroll in additional education. Some are now thriving in the customer service sector and others have transitioned into career paths in nursing, entrepreneurship, and more.

Along with providing a pathway to economic sufficiency for immigrants and refugees, the café has been a popular eatery and meeting spot for the local community, Denver tourists, and especially those who work in or visit the Colorado State Capitol Building and surrounding office complexes.

The farewell gathering is expected to attract former employees, community members, and elected officials who lament the loss of this important feature of a Denver community that honors the humanity of immigrants and refugees and values their tremendous cultural and economic contributions.

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Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning is a nonprofit organization with a mission to empower people and organizations to succeed across languages and cultures. To find out more, visit our website at <http://www.springinstitute.org/> and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).