



## **First Niagara Teaches Financial Literacy Skills to Local Students**

*-- Classes help young students learn and understand economic issues --*

BUFFALO, N.Y., May 6, 2013 – The First Niagara Foundation and Jericho Road Ministries are working together to help local students gain financial literacy through a round table discussion. The class will be held on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm at the Hope Refugee FLY Afterschool Program at 301 14<sup>th</sup> Street on the West Side of Buffalo.

Jericho Road Ministries facilitates wellness and self-sufficiency in the lives of refugee and low-income community members by addressing health, education and economic barriers. Their Hope Refugee FLY (Focused Learning for Youth) Program provides supplemental educational programming to enable refugee students to overcome educational gaps, achieve graduation and pursue long-term goals. FLY students hail as refugees from various African and Asian countries, including Somalia, Burundi, Iraq, Nepal, and Burma. First Niagara is partnering with the afterschool program staff at Jericho Road to provide this financial literacy enrichment opportunity. This is in conjunction with a new funding commitment of \$5,000 that First Niagara is making to Jericho Road Ministries' afterschool programming to better serve our community's refugee youth.

“When First Niagara heard about the opportunity to partner with Jericho Road, we knew it was an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these refugee children,” said the Executive Director of the First Niagara Foundation Elizabeth Gurney. “We will provide support and instruction to help these students develop the financial and life skills needed to achieve independence and success. We hope to inform and inspire them to be all they can possibly be.”

The students participating in the financial literacy classes are between 11 and 18 years of age. To learn more about Jericho Road Ministries, visit [www.jrm-buffalo.org](http://www.jrm-buffalo.org)

### **About The First Niagara Foundation**

First Niagara Foundation is a not for profit corporation founded in 1998. The Foundation is committed to supporting organizations in the communities in which we live and work with specific focus on youth and education, community development and neighborhood revitalization. In 2012 the Foundation contributed more than \$10 million in charitable grants to community partners. For more information, visit [www.firstniagara.com/community](http://www.firstniagara.com/community).

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