



WATERTOWN URBAN MISSION

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For Immediate Release
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3rd Annual Running for Recovery from Addictions

Watertown Urban Mission Run On Pace for Saturday

Volunteer, sponsor support will make run a success with more than 200 participants expected

WATERTOWN (September 8, 2011)—More than 200 runners and walkers will descend on the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds by 10 a.m. Saturday to participate in the Watertown Urban Mission Bridge Program's 3rd Annual Running for Recovery from Addictions event.

This year's event is in memory of Robert "Bob" Burkard who was killed by a drunk driver on June 28, 2009. Mr. Burkard's family has been an integral part of the promotion and planning of the event.

The run/walk will feature prizes for top finishers in seven age categories, door prizes, a silent auction, raffles and a 50/50 drawing for which people, including the Burkard Family, have been selling since June. Registration, which is \$25, starts at 7 a.m. Saturday with the race slated to start at 10 a.m.

"The Burkard family has taken this tragedy and channeled their energy into creating something positive in Bob's memory. We're so grateful to Kathie for all she's done, her sisters Linda and Christine, and the entire Burkard family," said Erika F. Flint, Watertown Urban Mission executive director. "This event really highlights the importance of recovery and the impact that addiction can have beyond the life of the addicted person. Here at the mission, the Bridge Program gets at the root cause of tragedies like this by addressing the addiction that ruins so many lives."

The Watertown Urban Mission's Bridge Program helps people who face legal issues because of alcohol or drug abuse by providing them with treatment options and case management to empower them over their addictions. Clients are sentenced to the Bridge Program by the courts in order to restore and rebuild their lives free from addiction.

The primary sponsors of the event include Total Property Management (our lead sponsor), Aaron's Inc., Alpine Fence, Hefferon Real Estate, The Burkard Family, Tobacco Prevention, Awareness and Cessation Coalition, and Sam's Club. About 70 local businesses, individuals and organization have stepped up to be sponsors of the event.

"Before the race even begins, this has been a tremendous success and I'm just so happy that on the day of our event hundreds will come out in memory of Bob and in support of the Watertown Urban Mission," Ms. Flint said. "Your support enables us to do what we do for so many in our community."

The Watertown Urban Mission brings more than 40 member churches together with local community-minded organizations, businesses and individuals to help people through difficult times with programs that feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless, visit the imprisoned, give aid to the sick, and more. With generous donor support the Mission helps people rise above their circumstances and in turn, this strengthens our community as a whole.