



247 Factory St., Watertown, NY 13601—(315) 782-8440 - (315) 782-8441  
[www.WatertownUrbanMission.com](http://www.WatertownUrbanMission.com) – Find Us on Facebook

**For Immediate Release**

Contact Drew Mangione, Director of Development

## **Walmart Makes a Difference in Our Community with \$25k Grant to Support Watertown Urban Mission Critical Needs Program**

Foundation grant provided direct help to neighbors in need of housing, prescriptions, supplies

WATERTOWN (May 30, 2012) – A \$25,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to the Watertown Urban Mission’s Critical Needs program impacted the lives of about 1,000 individuals and families throughout Jefferson County over the past year, the Mission announced today.

“We are so grateful for the support of the Walmart Foundation,” said Erika F. Flint, Watertown Urban Mission Executive Director. “The generosity of Walmart and Sam’s Club together with our local churches, individuals, businesses and organizations empowers your Mission to provide the hand up that so many of our neighbors need to overcome the struggles of life.”

The Walmart Foundation grant provided \$25,000 last June to the Mission’s Critical Needs program to help cover prescription and medical transportation costs, provide for families in need of help with household expenses and to purchase personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies.

“This funding directly benefited people to help them overcome some difficult situations,” Erika added. “The impact of Walmart’s generosity is very real. It’s clear every day that the outcome of every donation to our Critical Needs program is a tangible improvement in the lives of our neighbors in need.”

Cindy, a young lady who works at a local fast food restaurant, was helped through this grant. She makes too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford these types of unexpected expenses. She fell ill and without health insurance, came to the Mission for help paying for her prescription antibiotics. With the funding designated by this grant, the Critical Needs program was able to help her recover and return to work.

Phil, the father of six with a steady job as a mechanic, found his family in danger of falling behind when his youngest, only a month old, needed emergency surgery in Syracuse. His wife came to the Mission for help because the family could not afford to make the trips to be with their son. Through the Walmart grant’s funding for medical transportation, the family was given gas vouchers to make trips to Syracuse.

Ricky, who works at a retail store in Watertown, started to fall behind when his son fell ill and had to see a specialist about an hour away from where they live. Prescription costs piled up, along with gas expenses. The family did what they could to keep up. Then Ricky fell ill. He was hospitalized for 10 days himself and including recovery, he missed work for almost all of January. Even though Ricky works full time, he has never made enough to absorb this kind of hit. However, because of the generosity of the Walmart Foundation and this community, the Watertown Urban Mission was able to empower Ricky to persevere by helping him cover his housing costs and the price of some vital prescriptions.

In all, the Walmart foundation grant was used to help about 1,000 individuals and families with emergency assistance. The Critical Needs program helped 225 of our neighbors with prescription costs and transportation vouchers. Approximately, \$1,500 in cleaning supplies and personal hygiene products were purchased with the grant to help more than 20 individuals per month. More than 200 families were also helped with emergency household expenses.

The Critical Needs Program at the Watertown Urban Mission provides emergency assistance to individuals and families in need. It is a safety net in our community to help fill in the gaps for struggling individuals and families. The Walmart Foundation strives to provide opportunities that improve the lives of individuals in our communities including its customers and associates.