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For Immediate Release

Contact Drew Mangione, Director of Development

Less than 100 days!

Fourth Annual Run for Recovery Planned for September

Annual 5k/10k Event Raises Awareness of the Dangers of DWI, Supports Bridge Program
Sponsored by Alpine Fence, This Year's Run to Remember Two Men Lost in DWI-Accidents

WATERTOWN (June 1, 2012) – The Watertown Urban Mission will celebrate Recovery Month with the 4th Annual Run for Recovery on Sept. 8 at the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds, Watertown. The run/walk starts at 10 a.m. with registration starting at 7 a.m.

Pre-registration is still just \$20 for an individual and \$25 on race day. New this year is team participation with a discounted price of \$110 per six member team and 10 percent off both individual and team registrations for our military as an official Operation Yellow Ribbon event.

An awards ceremony will follow with free food, a silent auction, face painting, a DJ and more. Awards will be given to the top walker, the top team time, and the top male and female runners in seven age categories.

For 5k/10k registrations, go to www.WatertownUrbanMission.com/runningforrecovery.htm.

“Last year, we had more than 200 runners and walkers participate and it really was a fun time for all involved,” said Erika Flint, executive director. “We know that this will be a fun event for the whole family again this year and we are grateful for all of our sponsors, including our lead sponsor Alpine Fence, and the families of the two men who we will remember at this year’s event.”

The 5k run/walk and 10k run raises awareness about the real consequences of driving while intoxicated. This year the event will be run to remember Brian L’Huillier and John Ruggiero, both of whom were killed in a DWI related accident. The families of the two men have been closely involved in the planning of this year’s event.

“Being able to share our family’s experience in losing Brian has given our family some closure by giving his death purpose – saving others from the same personal tragedy,” said Lisa L’Huillier. “My husband (Charles Ruggiero) also lost his brother to a drunk driver in Florida. We are honored to have this year’s Run for Recovery dedicated to our brothers’ memory and proud to be a part of raising awareness in support of the Mission and the Bridge Program.”

All proceeds from the race support the Mission’s Bridge Program, which helps individuals facing jail time to address their addictions, make restitution, and get their lives back on track.

This year's event is sponsored by Alpine Fence of Watertown. Owner Nick Washburn knows firsthand how the program helps people to rise above their struggles in life. He is one of the program's many success stories.

"The Bridge Program has helped me and thousands more throughout this community," Nick said. "It's important that we come together as a community in support of this event and the Bridge Program. I'm proud to give back to make this event a success."



Nationwide, just 44 percent of the people enrolled in treatment programs complete their treatment, according to a 2005 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration report. Yet, more than 70 percent of the individuals sentenced by a court to Bridge complete the program, which not only requires alcohol or drug treatment as needed, but also includes volunteer service, full payment of fines and restitution, and participation in regular group meetings, including the Mission's Victim's Impact Panels. The panels provide a forum for families touched by the tragedy of a DWI to share their stories and put a human face on the consequences of DWI.

With between 20 and 30 individuals per year enrolled in the Bridge instead of jail or prison time, the program saves county and state taxpayers between \$600,000 and \$1 million per year, based on New York's standard cost of \$100 per day per inmate. Instead, the Bridge Program operates on an annual budget of about \$65,000, with limited state funding of \$26,100 per year.

The program depends on this event to raise money in support of the program. To join Alpine Fence as a sponsor, please call Drew Mangione, Development Director, or Sal Ciulo, Bridge Program Director, at 782-8440.

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Pictured left to right: Sal Ciulo, Bridge Program Director, Nick Washburn, owner of Alpine Fence, Lisa L'Huillier, Charles Ruggiero, and Erika Flint, executive director.