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For Immediate Release

Contact Drew Mangione, Director of Development

***You Helped More Than 850 Kids Start School Right Last Year...
Will you help again this year?***

WANTED: BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Don't discard or store this year's backpack...Donate it!

Your Mission is Gearing Up for the 2012-13 School Year, Collecting Backpacks, School Supplies

WATERTOWN (June 21, 2012) – As the school year comes to a close, your Watertown Urban Mission is getting ready for next year—collecting backpacks and school supplies to be given to needy families for the 2012-13 school year.

“Here at the Mission, your gently used backpack can be filled with school supplies to help a less fortunate student to start next year with items they need to be successful,” said Erika Flint, executive director. “Your generosity last year helped more than 850 students. So again this year, we ask that before you throw away or pack away this past year’s backpack, consider instead how your backpack can make a difference in the life of a student in need.”

In 2011, more than 850 backpacks were given out with school supplies. Each bag was tailored for different age groups so that pre-K and Kindergarten students received age appropriate supplies the same as high school students received what was appropriate for their needs. This program depends entirely on donations. In addition to backpacks, the items needed to fill these bags include 1” Binders, spiral notebooks, dry erase markers, pencil boxes, highlighters, rulers, pens, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, calculators, index cards, rulers and scissors.

“We are so thankful for the generosity of this community. Your donations meet a truly critical need among our neighbors to give every child the opportunity to succeed,” Erika added. “We are so grateful for the help we received last year from individuals, churches, families, businesses and the media who helped spread the word. You touched so many lives and we thank you again in advance for your support this year.”

To donate your backpack or other school supplies to the Critical Needs Program, simply bring them to the drop off zone behind the Watertown Urban Mission and Impossible Dream Thrift Store at 247 Factory St., Watertown, or contact Joanna Fassett, Critical Needs Coordinator, at 315-782-8440. Distribution will be in late August.

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