



247 Factory St., Watertown, NY 13601—(315) 782-8440 - (315) 782-8441  
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**For Immediate Release**

Contact Drew Mangione, Director of Development, & Betty Richmond, Red White and Blue Records

**12 Bands of Christmas Event to Help Needy Families**

**Country Music Recording Artist Rod Richmond, Red, White & Blue Records  
Bringing Local Musical Talent Together for Your Watertown Urban Mission**

Admission is just a donation of food, unwrapped toys, winter clothing, personal hygiene items

WATERTOWN (December 9, 2013) – Twelve bands, eight hours of great music and one great cause – the many thousands of your neighbors who need a hand up this holiday season.

On Sunday, December 15, many of the area’s top bands will join together in support of your community for the “12 Bands of Christmas” at the Exhibition hall of the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds in Watertown. All proceeds will go to support the Watertown Urban Mission and its programs to help families in need.

“We live in a great community here in the North Country, but still there are many families struggling to make ends meet,” said Rod Richmond, Red, White & Blue Records Recording Artist. “With so many great bands in the area, we wanted to use our talents to help families this Christmas and into the New Year.”

Admission is just a donation, including nonperishable food, new unwrapped toys, personal hygiene items, winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, or snow pants. Cash donations will be accepted as well.

“It’s great to see so many talented musicians in this community stepping up to give back at a show where admission is just a donation to help your neighbors,” said Erika Flint, executive director of the Watertown Urban Mission. “We are so thankful for all of their support. Rod and Betty have put together a wonderful event and the items collected will go a long way toward meeting the needs of many individuals and families just in time for Christmas.”

The event will feature the 12 bands – The Bandits, FFOG, SWaG, Oshier Country, Ian Wagner, Autumn’s Last Fall, Amarillo, Tom Mitchell, Brittany Cean, Divided Roads, the DT’z, and Rod Richmond & Whitetail – as well as vendors showcasing great local products. More info at [www.RodRichmond.com](http://www.RodRichmond.com).

“We are so thankful to the local businesses which have supported this event,” said Betty Richmond, event organizer. “We did similar events up until 2009 which were very successful and we hope to build on that success bringing this event back this year. Many families are struggling and this is a family friendly way to have fun and help those families. We hope to make this an annual tradition for the Mission.”

The Watertown Urban Mission brings community minded individuals, businesses, organizations and churches together to help families through difficult times with programs that provide food, drink, clothing, household items, assistance for the homeless, opportunities for the addicted and imprisoned, help with prescriptions, and more. Through generous donor and volunteer support, the Mission helps neighbors to rise above difficult circumstances, which, in turn, strengthens our community as a whole.