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For Immediate Release

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Watertown Urban Mission Auction to Feature New WUMBA Competition, Great Selection of Valuable Unique & Antique Items for Bid on April 20th

Area Churches, Organizations Donating Baskets, Highest Bid Wins New WUMBA Trophy
Live auction to feature antique, vintage and modern items to raise money for vital programs

The Auction will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 20th at St. Anthony's BINGO hall & Gymnasium, 850 Arsenal St., with a 9 a.m. preview. Photos of items will be added to the Mission's Facebook page over the coming week at www.Facebook.com/YourMission.

WATERTOWN (April 11, 2013) – The Watertown Urban Mission's 5th Annual Auction on April 20th will again feature many great new, vintage, antique and unique treasures for bid, but with an added twist in 2013 – the first-ever WUMBA Competition.

Area churches and organizations this year were asked to donate a basket for bid in the live auction as part of a new competition to see which one will raise the most money. The winning church or organization will receive the first ever WUMBA, or Watertown Urban Mission Basket Award.

“Last year, a prayer group at St. Anthony's Church offered to do a basket for our silent auction, but they had so much fun putting it together it grew so big we moved it to the live auction,” said Erika Flint, executive director. “This basket of Italian goodies and gift certificates went for \$210. Off that success, we decided to put this out to all of our churches and any group that wants to be a part of the competition. We have at least a ½ dozen baskets slated for the auction and we hope to see some serious competition for this very prestigious new award.”

In addition to the baskets, this year's auction will feature 100 items total. Many donated items have been set aside because of their unique, antique, rare and/or valuable qualities. Bidding will start at 10 a.m. with the first of three community auctioneers keeping the action going. The gymnasium will be open to the public at 9 a.m. for a one hour preview. Items will also be posted online at www.Facebook.com/YourMission in the days leading up to the event.

“We see so many wonderful things donated to the Mission and the Impossible Dream Thrift Store throughout the year, but the truly special or unique treasures are set aside until the auction,” said Tammy Kirch, Impossible Dream Thrift Store manager. “From those items, we pick the top 100 to go into the live auction.”

From gold U.S. Postage stamps collected by the family of the late Mary Morgan, former executive director, to a street vendor hot dog cart, with everything in between, the 2013 Watertown Urban Mission Annual Auction is sure to have something for everyone. The lots will include several mystery boxes, vintage firefighter helmets from North Country departments, a collection of rose colored depression glass, oak pews, high quality art pieces, and furniture, from a restored antique rocking chair to an intricately carved top table.

“This is an extremely important fundraiser for us and your support will not only land you some amazing items, but also support your neighbors in need,” Erika added. “The auction has been a successful annual event for the Watertown Urban Mission over the years and we depend on it to raise money for programs to uplift your community.”

The Watertown Urban Mission brings together community minded individuals, businesses, organizations and churches to help families through difficult times with programs that provide food and drink, offer clothing and other household needs, assist the homeless in finding housing, give the addicted and imprisoned a chance to get their lives back on track, aid the sick with prescriptions and help getting to medical appointments, and more.

With generous donor and volunteer support, the Watertown Urban Mission helps people to rise above difficult circumstances, which, in turn, strengthens our community as a whole.

PRE-AUCTION SALE

With only 100 items going into the live auction, the Impossible Dream Thrift Store will hold a “Pre-Auction Sale” on April 18th & 19th at the Watertown Urban Mission’s Community Room with hundreds of items that were set aside for the auction, but didn’t make the final cut.