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For Immediate Release

Contact Fr. Steven Murray, President of the Board (782-2468)

Watertown Urban Mission Names Joanna Loomis as Executive Director

Current director of development to serve as the organization's next director

WATERTOWN (November 2, 2015) – The Watertown Urban Mission's Board of Directors appointed Joanna J. Loomis as the organization's next executive director. Ms. Loomis will succeed Erika F. Flint, who last week accepted a position as DSRIP Director with the North Country Initiative.

Ms. Loomis has served in two capacities at the Watertown Urban Mission, first as critical needs coordinator and recently, as its director of development. She is a co-president of the North Country Council of Social Agencies, recently completed a 3-year term on CAPC's Head Start Policy Council, and is active in the Emerge Professional's Group (formerly the Greater Watertown Jaycees). Ms. Loomis earned her B.A. from St. Lawrence University and her M.A. from SUNY Empire State College, and is a former Fulbright grant recipient.

"We are pleased to announce Ms. Loomis as the Watertown Urban Mission's executive director," said Fr. Steven M. Murray, president of the board. "In addition to having worked closely with the people we serve, she has experience in development within the organization and is eager to continue bolstering her involvement with other community agencies. Most importantly, she holds the Mission's values dear and has vision for the future of the organization and its programs."

"I am honored to have this opportunity to represent the Mission," said Ms. Loomis. "I am grateful to have learned from Erika as a mentor and a leader, and I look forward to smoothly transitioning into the position." She added, "Thanks in many ways to Erika and her leadership, the Mission is in a strong and stable place, and I will work to continue its stability and sustainable growth in the coming years."

Ms. Loomis will prepare for the new role with Ms. Flint over the next two months. She will fully transition from her duties as director of development to those of the executive director on or by January 4, 2016.

Ms. Flint stated, "A responsibility of all directors is not just what you were able to be part of while serving the organization, but also how you left it. Joanna is the perfect choice and I could not be more excited to support her and the Mission in whatever way possible over the next two months and beyond."

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