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For Immediate Release

Contact Joanna Loomis, Director of Development

Knights of Columbus Council 259 Team Up With Watertown Urban Mission, NNYCF To Begin “Snow Pants & Boots For Kids”

Items, Funds Being Collected to Keep Local Kids Warm

WATERTOWN (November 30, 2015)—The Knights of Columbus local Council 259 wants to collect and purchase as many pairs of snow pants and boots as possible for the Watertown Urban Mission’s critical needs program, in an effort to help keep local children warm during the brutally cold North Country weather.

Beginning this month, Council 259 is collecting new and gently used children’s snow pants and boots in donation bins located at the four Watertown Catholic parishes of St. Anthony’s, St. Patrick’s, Holy Family, and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. Council 259 has also partnered with the Northern New York Community Foundation, which will administer funds which have been designated toward this initiative. The Council will use the funds to purchase new children’s snow pants and boots. All collected and purchased items will be given to local struggling families in the greater Jefferson County area through the Watertown Urban Mission’s annual winter wear distribution, which has already given well over 1,000 warm winter items so far this season.

Grand Knight John Morgia of Council 259 stated the initial idea for the drive, which he stated he hopes will be conducted each year in perpetuity by the local council, was a no-brainer. “We know all too well how long and frigid our winters can be, and unfortunately, how many children in need live right here in our own community. We at Council 259 wanted to find a way to help keep local kids in need warm, not only in their day-to-day exposure to the elements but also so that they may enjoy the simple joy of playing in the snow with their peers.”

The Watertown Urban Mission welcomes Council 259’s initiative, and notes the need for children’s snow pants and boots in particular. Joanna Loomis, the Mission’s director of development, stated: “We have found that families struggle to secure all types of winter wear for their children, but snow pants and boots seem to present a particular challenge, in part because young children tend to grow out of them so quickly. So, when Council 259 reached out to us to conduct a drive, we saw it as a perfect opportunity to emphasize these two items.” Ms. Loomis added, “We are so grateful to have the support of our local Knights of Columbus in what will be a huge help to area children.”

While boots and snow pants for elementary school-aged children are the focus of this drive, Council 259 welcomes donations of all winter wear items. The drive will continue through the winter season. Items may be dropped off at the four Catholic parishes listed above, or directly to the Watertown Urban Mission (please mention the donation is on behalf of Council 259). Monetary gifts toward this initiative may be mailed to

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Northern New York Community Foundation, 120 Washington St., Suite 400, Watertown, NY 13601, or online at www.nnycf.org (please list "Knights of Columbus Council 259" on the memo line). For more information about the Watertown Urban Mission's programs, please visit www.watertownurbanmission.com or call 315-782-8440.

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