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For Immediate Release

Contact Joanna Loomis, Director of Development

Watertown Urban Mission to Hold its Annual Backpack, School Supply Distribution on August 18th, 25th

The Program Provides Back-to-School Items to Over 1,000
North Country Students Each Year

WATERTOWN (August 13, 2015) – The first day of school is fast approaching, and so too is the Watertown Urban Mission’s annual back-to-school distribution. The event, which was held at the Salvation Army last year due to construction at the Mission’s offices, will this year return to the Mission’s newly-renovated community room, and will take place from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm on August 18th and 25th.

Last year, your donations ensured that about 1,200 students in need received backpacks with supplies to prepare them to get the most out of their education. This year’s school supply distribution is anticipated to help at least as many children as in 2014.

“Summer is often a tough time for families with school-aged children,” said Watertown Urban Mission executive director, Erika F. Flint. “Many parents find themselves having to pay extra for day care during the summer months, and they struggle with making up for the breakfasts and lunches that their children normally receive during the school year. On top of these stressors are the added expenses of back-to-school needs. Each year, your support directly helps children in need receive backpacks with starter kits of supplies, so that they are able to walk into their first day of classes ready to learn.”

This year’s distributions will be held on two consecutive Tuesdays to maximize awareness of the event to the public, and to provide staff and volunteers with the opportunity to pack additional backpacks in between the days of the distribution. “With two dates, we hope to help even more families, starting each day with a fresh supply of packed backpacks,” said Robert Bowen, Critical Needs Coordinator. Parents may simply visit the Mission during one of the distribution dates, and bring a form of ID or documentation for themselves and the children for whom they are seeking backpacks.

Each backpack is tailored for different age groups so that Pre-K and Kindergarten students receive age appropriate supplies, while elementary, middle school and high school students receive supplies appropriate for their needs. During the distribution dates, students have the opportunity to pick out their favorite backpack, giving each child supplies they need, while also maintaining a sense of dignity for the family.

Have a new or gently used backpack, or new school supplies that you would like to donate? There is still time! You may drop off items at the Watertown Urban Mission offices, or the drop off zone behind the Impossible Dream Thrift Store, both located at 247 Factory St., Watertown. Please visit www.WatertownUrbanMission.com and download the “Back to School Supply Drive” flier for a full list of needed items. Thank you for your support.

Your Watertown Urban Mission News continued...

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