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For Immediate Release

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2016 Watertown Urban Mission Auction to Feature 90 Premium, Unique, & Antique Items, plus Featuring Gift Baskets Made by Local Churches

Fourth Annual WUMBA Basket Award, Friendly Competition Competing for Your Bid

Celebrity Auctioneers Johnny Spezzano, Mel Busler & Alex Hazard to Host Family Fun Event

WATERTOWN (March 21, 2016) – If you are looking for a fun family event with some friendly competition then come join the excitement of the 8th Annual Watertown Urban Mission Auction on Saturday, April 2nd at St. Anthony’s Bingo Hall.

With a great slate of celebrity auctioneers, 90 premium, unique and antique items to bid on, a Silent Auction, a “Cash & Carry” jewelry and designer handbag sale, 50/50 drawings and the 4th Annual WUMBA award, that will feature more than a dozen gift baskets made by local churches competing for your bid, this will sure be an event that you will not want to miss.

“We look all year long for the perfect items to put in our annual auction. We hope that people will be pleased with the selection that we have this year,” said Tammy Olivas, Impossible Dream store manager. “While sorting and looking through the donations of unique, rare and valuable items we can put in the auction, along with the many WUMBA baskets made by local churches, it is a lot of fun with great excitement. With only 90 items going into the live auction, the Impossible Dream Thrift Store will hold a “Pre-Auction Sale,” putting many of the items that did not make the selection for this year’s live auction on sale March 1st through March 31st. “

As well as the many premium, unique and antique items for bid and the Silent Auction is a “Cash & Carry” sale for precious and costume jewelry and a large assortment of designer handbags from Coach to Vera Bradley that are sure to please all.

The Live Auction will start at 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 2nd at St. Anthony’s BINGO hall & Gymnasium, 850 Arsenal St., with 9:00 a.m. preview. Photos of many items have been added to the Mission’s Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/YourMission, and the 2015 Watertown Urban Mission Auction event on Facebook.

The WUMBA gift baskets are filled with everything from baby, kitchen and baking items, to a stocked fire pit filled with fire side goodies. These auction items are more than just baskets; they truly show a big commitment to helping to make this event special year after year.

In addition to these baskets, there is a wide array of items up for bid in the auction to offer something for everyone. The items range from 1861 Civil War Commemorative Folio, a Boyd's bear collection, antique chairs and radios, to a Gemeinhardt Flute and Egyptian drum and tambourine.

The celebrity auctioneers that will conduct this year's live auction of 90 premium items will be Johnny Spezzano of 106.7 The Border, Mel Busler of WWNY -TV 7, and Alex Hazard of WWTI-TV50/InformNNY.com.

"We look forward to our celebrity auctioneers who will make this event exciting and successful," Ms. Olivas added. "We would like for the public to know that this event is open to everyone, so please come and enjoy this event."

"The Auction is an extremely important and successful annual event and fundraiser for the Watertown Urban Mission, which serves your neighbors in need over 35,000 times each year," Joanna J. Loomis, executive director, added. "The Mission depends on this event to raise money for its many programs that help people to rise above difficult circumstances, which, in turn, strengthens our community as a whole."

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. For more information about the Mission and its auction visit www.watertownurbanmission.com.