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www.WatertownUrbanMission.com & www.Facebook.com/YourMission

For Immediate Release

Contact Tobi Darrah, Director of Development

You Helped More Than 1,100 Kids Start School Right Last Year...We Need Your Help Again!

Last Year's School Year has Come to a Close, You Can Make Next Year Better for Students in Need in Your Community

Your Mission is Gearing Up for the 2016-17 School Year, Collecting Backpacks, School Supplies
Don't discard last year's backpack...*Donate it for Distribution in Late August!*

WATERTOWN (July 18, 2016) – While you are on summer vacation, now is a great time to start thinking about your neighbors in need as you set aside your gently used backpacks and school supplies your child will not need for next school year.

“Many students are fortunate enough to start each school year with a new backpack and school supplies, but for thousands of their peers in greater Jefferson County whose families can't afford these supplies, the start of the school year is a struggle,” said Joanna Loomis, executive director of the Watertown Urban Mission. “We hope that, rather than throwing out your child's old backpack, you donate it to ensure another child has a backpack for next year.”

Every summer, the Watertown Urban Mission gives backpacks filled with school supplies to students in need. In 2015, more than 1,100 students received a backpack with a starter kit of school supplies in order to start the new school year out right.

“Over the last several years, we continue to see the need for school supplies and backpacks grow,” said Robert Bowen, the Watertown Urban Mission's critical needs coordinator. “Every year, this community steps up and you provide the school supplies to meet this growing need. We expect to respond to 1,100 or more requests for assistance and once again, we need your help to meet that need with school supplies and gently used backpacks, which we are collecting in July and August in preparation for this year's distribution in late August. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for your continued response to meeting these needs.”

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. These backpacks are pre-packed and the students have the opportunity just before the school year starts to come to the Mission in late August and pick out their favorite one, giving each child supplies they need, while also maintaining a sense of dignity for the family.

To donate your backpack or other school supplies to the Critical Needs Program, simply bring them to the drop off zone behind the Watertown Urban Mission and Impossible Dream Thrift Store at 247 Factory St., Watertown, or contact the Mission offices at 315-782-8440.

Your Watertown Urban Mission News continued...

Items that you can donate to help your neighbors in need include: backpacks (new or gently used), pencils, pens, crayons, markers, highlighters, colored pencils, lined filler paper, spiral notebooks, composition notebooks, index cards, 1" binders, calculators (simple or scientific), pencil boxes, rulers, scissors, glue sticks, pocket folders and hand sanitizer. Thank you for your support.

For more information about the Watertown Urban Mission, please visit www.facebook.com/YourMission and www.WatertownUrbanMission.com.

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