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For Immediate Release

Contact Jessica Piatt, Director of Development

Watertown Urban Mission to Hold its Annual Backpack, School Supply Distribution on August 16th, 17th and 18th

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

WATERTOWN (August 4, 2017) – The first day of school is fast approaching, and so too is the Watertown Urban Mission’s annual back-to-school distribution. The event will be held at the Watertown Urban Mission’s community room, and will take place from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm on August 16th, 17th and 18th.

Last year, your donations ensured that over 1,000 local 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 2016.

“The summer season is a tough time, often over looked, for families with school-aged children,” said Watertown Urban Mission executive director, Joanna Loomis. “Many parents in our community find themselves struggling financially between extra childcare expenses during the summer months, and having to supplement breakfasts and lunches that their children normally receive during the school year. In addition to these stressors are the added expenses of back-to-school needs. Each year, your support directly helps children in need receive backpacks with a starter kit of supplies. In this way children in our community are able to walk into their first day of classes ready to learn.”

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.

This year’s distribution will be held over the course of three consecutive days to maximize awareness of the event to the public, and to provide multiple opportunities for individuals to seek our services. 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.

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. Items such as folders, composition notebooks, scissors, and pencils are always needed. 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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