

Watertown Urban Mission Presents Money Talks, a 6-month Financial Education Series

Partnership with Northern Credit Union brings various topics on the last Tuesday of each month.

Watertown NY – (January 17, 2018) – The Watertown Urban Mission and Northern Credit Union have partnered to provide the community with *Money Talks*, a financial empowerment series aimed to assist the public with increasing their financial wellness and achieving goals such as buying a car or home, saving money on everyday purchases and increasing credit scores.

“Many people in our community struggle to make ends meet, and every dollar counts,” said Joanna Loomis, executive director of the Watertown Urban Mission. “While addressing income inequality requires action on many fronts—including at the institutional, community, and policy levels—there are things individuals can do to become financially savvy, thereby making the most out of their income. This series is a fun, free, and engaging way to learn tips and tricks for achieving your financial goals. We are proud to be able to partner with Northern Credit Union to bring this opportunity to our community.”

The first session of the series, which is open to the public and will be held on Tuesday, January 30th, 2018 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Watertown Urban Mission, is Keep the Cash: All About Checking and Saving Accounts. The talk will cover:

- What to look for when choosing a checking or savings account (ATM fee refunds, no monthly maintenance fees, etc.)
- How to balance a checkbook (and why you should keep track of your purchases)
- Top tips for savings
- How to avoid overdraft fees and other fees

Future topics include:

- Budgeting Basics
- Credit & Debt: The Duo You Need to Know About
- Wheels & Deals: What You Need to Know to Buy a Car
- Buying A Home: It Can Be Attainable & Affordable!
- Money Saving Strategies: Get More Bang For Your Buck
- Protecting Yourself From Identity Theft and Fraud

According to the North Country Health Compass (<http://www.ncnyhealthcompass.org/>) the following staggering statistics reflect the need for financial empowerment in Watertown:

- 14% of Watertown residents do not own a car
- 13.6% of Watertown residents are at risk for foreclosure when only 42% of residents own a home
- 15% of Watertown residents live below the census poverty level.
- 60% of Watertown renters under the age of 24 spend 30% or more of their income on rent

If you are interested in attending any of the talks, please RSVP at www.mynorthern.com/moneytalks. Everyone who attends the talk will be entered to win a \$10 PriceChopper gift card. If attendees come to all seven talks, they will be entered to win a \$100 PriceChopper gift card.

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, visit www.watertownurbanmission.com.

