



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Jefferson County

For Immediate Release

Contact Morgan Spencer, Director of Development

A Community Garden Will Harvest Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to go to The Watertown Urban Mission's Food Pantry. The Group is looking for Volunteers.

Community Garden is a Collaboration between Watertown Urban Mission, Chapin Living Waters, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County.

WATERTOWN (June 5th, 2018) – In an exciting collaboration between Chapin Living Waters, the Watertown Urban Mission, and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, a community garden behind the Chapin Living Waters Office will harvest fruits and vegetables to be donated to the Watertown Urban Mission's food pantry for the second year in a row.

The project began last year when Doug Carlson, executive director of Chapin Living Waters, approached the Watertown Urban Mission with the prospect of turning the empty plot of land located behind the Chapin Living Waters Facility, into a community garden. Cornell Cooperative Extension became involved after being asked to contribute with their tremendous knowledge and expertise in gardening.

In most community gardens, participants purchase plots that they plant and harvest for personal use. What makes this community garden unique is that all vegetables harvested will directly benefit the Food Pantry of the Watertown Urban Mission, which serves an average of 450 local households a month. "We are grateful for this joyous collaboration that brings fresh fruits and vegetables to people in need in our community. The food that is grown is packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that are essential to overall health and well-being," says Morgan Spencer, director of development at the Watertown Urban Mission.

This is the second year that the Community Garden is being planted and harvested. Many meetings have deliberated over how the garden can be bigger and better than last year. "After harvesting over 1,000 pounds of produce last season, we are planning to surpass that number this year. We are trialing several new crops including potatoes, strawberries and onions. Planting is currently underway," says Sue Gwise, Horticulture Educator at CCE Jefferson.

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The community garden is located at 364 N. Colorado Ave in Watertown, NY. The committee has an interest in getting individuals, groups, workplaces, and other organizations on board as volunteers. Volunteers will attend a one-hour orientation where they will learn tips and tricks on how to get the most out of gardening. For more information, contact Morgan Spencer, director of development at the Watertown Urban Mission at 315-782-8440.

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