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For Immediate Release

Contact Stephen Todd, President of the Board

Joanna Loomis to leave Watertown Urban Mission

Mission's 6th executive director to join North Country Initiative; Search for new director now underway
WATERTOWN (July 26, 2018) – Joanna J. Loomis, executive director of the Watertown Urban Mission, recently announced her resignation from the position, and will soon join the staff of the North Country Initiative.

Ms. Loomis has served the Mission for about five years in several capacities, as its critical needs coordinator, director of development, and executive director. Under her leadership, the organization has enhanced its services, including an expansion of the Bridge program, an alternative-to-incarceration program that fosters recovery from addictions; an expansion of its Wheels to Work services, which empowers low-income people to secure and maintain employment through vehicle supports; the addition of a community garden with the partnership of Chapin Living Waters and Cornell Cooperative Extension, to improve access to fresh, local vegetables for low-income households; and offering "Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World" workshops in partnership with Community Action Planning Council and the Volunteer Transportation Center to empower people in poverty to achieve self-sufficiency.

Ms. Loomis joins the North Country Initiative as its director of provider strategy and transformation, where she will work collaboratively with healthcare providers in Lewis, Jefferson, and St. Lawrence Counties to foster continuous development of a high-quality, value-driven regional healthcare system.

"I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to serve my community through the Mission's transformative good works," said Ms. Loomis. "The Mission leaves an indelible mark on the lives of those who visit it, and so too, it will forever be a part of me. I see my new role as a way to facilitate systemic change in a field that impacts quality of life for all members of our community."

Stephen Todd, president of the board of the Watertown Urban Mission, stated that recruitment for a new executive director is underway. "We thank Joanna for her leadership and dedication, and know that her efforts in this new role will be beneficial to those the Mission serves. We look forward to welcoming the next leader of this organization, whose six major programs collectively serve people in need in our community more than 45,000 times each year."

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