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For Immediate Release

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Dollar Dinners Back for 7th Season

Low cost dinners offer meal and fellowship thanks to NNYCF, local churches and organizations

WATERTOWN (October 25, 2011)—Thanks to the generosity of the Northern New York Community Foundation and the hospitality of local churches and organizations, the Watertown Urban Mission is gearing up for another season of “Dollar Dinners” beginning Nov. 2.

Started in 2006, the dinners have now grown to draw about 10,000 people to more than 30 dinner locations each season. The hot meal is just \$1, or free with coupons available for individuals and families using the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry. The price is low so it is affordable, but these dinners are intended for everyone, without regard to income.

“What we do at the Watertown Urban Mission is empower one neighbor to help another neighbor overcome a difficult time in their life,” said Erika F. Flint, Executive Director. “These Dollar Dinners not only offer that opportunity to help, but also an opportunity to share in fellowship. We live together in this city and county, this is our chance to dine together as one community.”

“The Northern New York Community Foundation has been pleased to have supported the program since its inception,” said Rande S. Richardson, Executive Director of the Community Foundation. “We see it as a very meaningful extension of our overall efforts to address hunger issues in our community and it is a great partnership with the Watertown Urban Mission, the churches and other organizations.”

This year, the schedule kicks off at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church on Gotham Street from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and more than 30 dinners are scheduled through April 22, with more dates available or in the works with other churches and organizations. The grant from the Northern New York Community Foundation provides for a stipend to offset costs of the dinners. Of course, donations from dinner goers which are above and beyond will be welcome, too.

“We are so grateful to the community foundation and each of our hosts, as well as our hundreds of volunteers who do a tremendous job to make these dollar dinners a success,” Ms. Flint said. “Past volunteers have told us how this program enriched their lives and opened their eyes to poverty in our community.”

In addition to the Universalist Church, dinners already scheduled this year will be hosted by Asbury United Methodist Church, Brownville United Methodist Church (at Asbury United Methodist), First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, Jefferson Community College, Jefferson Leadership Institute Class (at First Presbyterian Church), Knights of Columbus (held at IHC’s intermediate school), Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, St. Anthony’s Catholic Church (at former school), St. Patrick’s Catholic Church (at Immaculate Heart Central’s Intermediate School), and Trinity Episcopal Church.

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