



Our Mission, Our Dream

Your Newsletter for the Watertown Urban Mission
& The Impossible Dream Thrift Store

Fall 2011

Recovery Mission

You Gave A Man Purpose, He Matched Your Gift With His Time

You may not know Todd Ludwig, but he knows you.

At least, he knows your generosity.

"The Watertown Urban Mission gave me someplace to go," he said in an October interview. "It was someplace I could talk to good people. It gave me something to do, to keep me occupied. I really don't know what I would have done without the Mission."

In July 2009, Todd was arrested in southern Livingston County for possession of heroin and driving while under the influence. By early 2010, he was at a halfway house run by Credo here in Jefferson County, when he decided to volunteer at the Mission.

"At first it was a requirement, but then I started coming down for more hours than I was required

to," he said, noting that the requirement was five hours a week. "Once I started coming down, I was coming at least 15-20 hours a week or more."

In July of that year, he was scheduled for release from the halfway house and faced a choice: Go back home just a year after his life had fallen apart or stay in Watertown until he felt safe to go back. Todd chose to stay where he could complete his recovery, but the only problem was that he would be homeless. Once again, your Watertown Urban Mission was able to help.

"I went to the HEARTH Program at the Mission and they helped me with my security deposit and first month's rent," he said, referring to the federal grant program run through the Mission, known as Helping to



Todd Ludwig in the pantry where he gave his time to pay back your generosity.

Eradicate All Roads To Homelessness. "I wouldn't have had the money coming out of the halfway house to do that. I wouldn't have been able to pay for anything. I came out of there with nothing."

Todd may have come out of the halfway house with nothing, but your support of the Watertown Urban Mission ensured that he

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YOUR NEWS

What your gifts have done in your community in 2011

- **You saved 16 jobs**, by helping to provide families with reliable transportation.
- **You provided 110 vital prescriptions.**
- **You supplied more than 675 gallons of gas**, for medical appointments.
- **You distributed more than 8,800 diapers** to protect infant and toddler bottoms.
- **Your support gave 12,745 items** of clothing, furniture and supplies to individuals and families facing a critical need.

You Can Sponsor The Next Newsletter!

Help defray the cost of printing our newsletter and let everyone know how much you support the Watertown Urban Mission!

Contact Development Director Drew Mangione at 782-8440, or dmangione@watertownurbanmission.org about this great opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to our community.

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Your Mission, Building Your Community



Board President Laura Wendt joined the Watertown Urban Mission was elected president of the board in 2011.

Her husband Lars is a Battalion Commander stationed at Fort Drum and they have two sons.

This is an exciting time for you to be involved with the Watertown Urban Mission.

In 2010, we sat down to create and review our strategic plan. Now we're full speed ahead making sure that your Mission has the resources it needs to help our neighbors for as long as there is need in our community.

I first came to Watertown with my husband and oldest son in the winter of 1995. We had our second son here and endured the 1998 ice storm. The next year, our orders said we had to move.

We came back in 2004 and just months later I joined the board to help build a link between Fort Drum and Watertown.

I tell you this because I want you to know that this is my community. This is my home. My parents had a sign up in my childhood home which read, "Bloom where you're planted."

God planted me here and called me to be part of this exciting time. **But I'm not the only one He's calling. You can get involved too.** If your roots are long, or even if they are relatively short like mine, the Mission serves

your home and there's a way for you to serve the Mission.

Some of you already give financially, give your time, or both. Thank you. You know how important this Mission is to our well being as a community.

There really is no better way for you to help your community grow stronger than to join in providing food, clothing, shelter, and hope at the Watertown Urban Mission.

Join me. I can promise you that you'll get so much more than you give.

—Laura

More Savvy Entrepreneurs Roll Lemonade Success into Your Mission

Last newsletter, we told you about some young men who sold lemonade to benefit the Food Pantry. Well, some young women got into the act last summer too.



First Kate and Anna gave \$25 from their stand in July (top), then on Sept. 1, Chloe, Kayla and Kayli brought in \$34 they raised (left). Thank you girls!

Christian Care Café is Back!

If you haven't been to a Christian Care Café before, get ready for a good time.

On the third Friday of every month, you will see the community room at The Mission become a concert hall for local, and even not-so-local musicians, whose praise and worship music is sure to inspire you.

Please come join us for some coffee, fellowship, and fun from 7 to 9 p.m.

The upcoming schedule includes:

Nov. 18: Brothers of One
Dec. 16: Phil Dumond
Jan. 20: Sherry Lints



The Honey O's on Sept. 16

Your Mission's Story Corner

Your generosity helped us handle a busy summer this year, with more than 2,300 families through our Food Pantry and another almost 1,200 coming to Critical Needs.

But you can't see the impact you've had in these numbers alone, so we wanted to share a quick story. In June, a young man came to us saying he just got a new job, but didn't have the clothes he needed to dress appropriately to start working.

Thanks to your generosity, that young man received vouchers for clothing and shoes to start his new job. Now he's on his way to self-sufficiency, thanks to your support.

Beta Sigma Phi Raises \$2,000 for Your Food Pantry, Critical Needs Programs

The Beta Sigma Phi entertainment basket raffle and other sorority fundraisers raised \$2,000 for the Food Pantry and Critical Needs. Thank you to the ladies of Beta Sigma Phi and all of you who support the Mission. You help families every day.



Barb Harter presents two checks to Anita and Erika in our Food Pantry for more than \$2,000.

At Your Dream: Bargain Toys and Christmas Decorations

Support your local community when you decorate your home, buy toys in new Dream Christmas Store

Thanksgiving is around the corner and before you know it, it's Christmas. This year, however, you can spruce up your home and save money on your gifts, all while supporting your local community.

The Impossible Dream Thrift Store will showcase its money saving inventory for you this year with a spectacular Toy and Christmas Decoration Store in the community room of the Watertown Urban Mission from Nov. 21 to Dec. 9. **Every decoration and toy will be ON SALE!**

"We've received so many great donations and with the holiday sea-

son set to begin, we're gearing up to clear out that inventory," said Tammy Kirch, Store Manager. "You won't find a better deal than at our Mall on Factory St."

The set up will be done by great volunteers from the North Country Library System and First United Methodist Church in Watertown.

Sales at the thrift store support Watertown Urban Mission programs. For more on our sales, or to schedule a pickup of items you want to donate, call the store at 782-0090.

Don't forget, the store switches to winter hours December 1.

Where Every Good Deal is a Good Deed for Your Community

Christmas Shop Opens Nov. 21!

Tuesday

20% off for Senior Citizens (55+)

Wednesday

Check *Facebook* every week for Wacky Wednesday Deals

Thursday

20% off for Military Appreciation

Store hours:

*Starting Nov. 1: Mon-Sat, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sundays 12-5 p.m.*

Your Generosity in Action...

Your Support Helped 850+ Students Start the School Year with Backpacks and New School Supplies

Your tremendous outpouring of generosity enabled us to help more students than ever before with backpacks and new school supplies this year.

"You truly made it possible for more than 850 children to start the school year right," said Ann Lyman, Critical Needs Coordinator. "A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of our donors and volunteers who made this possible."

The demand was great this year. In the first 45 minutes on Aug. 30, your generosity ensured that we could serve 325 children in need and another 225 that day alone.

Over the next few weeks with more families still coming in for supplies, you came through. Just when we thought supplies were going to run out, you brought us more.

Hundreds of you gave

through your church, dozens more of you stopped by with bags of supplies or gave your time. The Fort Drum Chaplains, Best Buy, Jreck Subs, Tunes 92.5, The Shriners' NYLA Temple #238, and several other businesses and organizations stepped up too, both with supplies and as volunteers.

"So many among us are in need, and the simple act of helping a student pre-

pare for school means so much," said Erika Flint, Executive Director. "You showed you truly understand what it means to love your neighbor."

When we needed notebooks, you brought notebooks. When we needed pencils, rulers and glue, you brought those items. Your intuitive giving is truly a sign of our blessed calling to work together to better our community.



Look at all of those backpacks waiting for a young person...



...here are some of the kids, grateful for your generosity.



Three of our lemonade boys spent an afternoon stuffing supplies



Best Buy GM Demand Winfree and his son packed backpacks (right)

The Tale of the Tape: 863 kids served, 550 on the first day, more than 40 volunteers participating, and countless supporters like you!

Recovery Run a Runaway Success

About 200 runners came out on Sept. 10 to run in the 3rd annual Run for Recovery from Addictions 5k/10k.

The event was an overwhelming success, raising \$13,000 for the Bridge Program, which helps people at risk for jail time to overcome their addictions.

The race was run in honor of Robert Burkhard, who was killed by a drunk driver in 2009.

At an appreciation party at the Mission two weeks later, the family was presented with a photo album and photos of the event. For more info, go to our Web site.



Campbell's Point Blanket Bee

Some friends who summer at Campbell's Point came by in August to give us the fruits of some early lessons in kindness at their lakeside "blanket bee."

Katie Nugent brought her children to drop off the blankets for the Critical Needs program. She said the children throughout the 50-cottage lake community in Sackets Harbor learned wonderful lessons tying together the no-sew fleece blankets and collecting other supplies. Thank you so much.

Katie said it best: "Little hands and big hearts are learning young what it is to reach out and give back."



You Can't Beat 'Em: Dollar Dinners

Thanks to the generosity of the Northern New York Community Foundation, our local churches, community organizations and you, "Dollar Dinners" are back, beginning Nov. 2.

More than 30 dinners are scheduled with a few more in the works. For more info and a complete schedule go to WatertownUrbanMission.com/DollarDinners.htm.

Shop for Christmas and Support Your Mission at Our Holiday Craft Fair

Want to get a jump start on your holiday shopping with some one-of-a-kind gifts and great deals?

Then you can't miss the 2011 Holiday Craft Fair to benefit the Watertown Urban Mission. You'll find a great selection of handbags, jewelry, unique art, fun crafts, and more.

The fair starts at 10 a.m. Sunday November 27

at the Dulles State Office Building on Washington St. in Watertown, and runs until 4 p.m. It's the same day as the holiday parade.

Admission will be only \$2 per person—a donation to the Mission. We'll have a 50/50 raffle and other fun prizes.

Crafters and other vendors interested in participating should call Drew Mangione at 782-8440.

You Can Make A Difference

As we enter the holiday season, we are sure to see an increase in need among our neighbors.

Yet, year after year you come through in this season with your gifts to enable us to meet this need. Thank you.

So once again, we ask you for your help.

Your donations—\$5 to \$5,000—enable us to keep our neighbors warm, give food, help with medicine, and offer dignity in the form of a happy Thanks-

giving and Christmas.

Our community has always pulled together because you have shown you care.

Your gifts do make a real difference. So as we start giving out winter gear and toys, while continuing to help with basic needs, please remember us with your financial support, your gently used winter coats, gloves and scarves, and your food donations.

Thank you again.

Are You Doing an Event to Benefit the Mission?

Contact Development Director Drew Mangione at 782-8440 or dmangione@watertownurbanmission.org to see if the Mission can help you to make it an even bigger success.

Recovery Mission (continued from page 1)

had a roof over his head, supplies for his new apartment and food to eat. But your generosity didn't just ensure Todd received these items so he could stay here to complete his drug court requirements. You sparked in Todd the desire to give back what he could give in abundance: his time, even when he had absolutely no requirement to do so.

"Todd has been a part of our family," said Erika F. Flint, Executive Director. "We are grateful for all of the hours of service he's given us. We're sorry to see him go, but we're also so glad to have been part of his success story."

Now Todd is leaving the Mission to be reunited with his wife, his daughter and his family. He credits your generosity in supporting the Mission for this happy time in his life, putting behind him the mistakes that nearly cost him his life.

"I feel fine now," Todd said. "I've got a lot of time under my belt. I feel more confident of me and my wife getting along. I'm not worried about using. I have no desire to stick a needle in my arm any more. Drug court saved my life, and the Watertown Urban Mission made my life better and gave me a purpose. I really enjoy helping people."



Your Contribution Helps Your Community

Thank You For Your Generosity and Your Continued Support of the Mission

I would like to help my neighbors by making a donation to the Mission...

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To provide baby formula for a mother whose WIC check didn't cover the month | <u>Gift</u>
\$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To pay for two to three essential prescriptions | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To ensure a family of four has clothing, food, & basic items needed at home | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To provide 1,000 balanced meals through our food pantry | \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Because every dollar goes a long way, and I want to give (enter any amount) | \$ _____ |

Name _____ Total: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Church Affiliation _____

Your Team at the Watertown Urban Mission

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>President
Laura Wendt</p> <p>Vice President
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Joycee Hale, Assistant Manager</p> <p>Critical Needs Program
Ann M. Lyman, Client Advocate</p> <p>Food Pantry & Volunteer Program
Anita D. Ciulo, Coordinator
John McConnell, Pantry Assistant</p> <p>Christian Care Center
James Stanley, Coordinator</p> | <p>The Bridge Program
Salvatore J. Ciulo, Director</p> <p>Wheels for Work
Penny F. Mosher, Case Manager
Ed Madden, Mechanic</p> <p>The HEARTH Program
Salvatore J. Ciulo, Coordinator
Diana Filion, Intake Coordinator</p> |
|--|---|--|---|

In addition to the five officers, your Watertown Urban Mission Board is led by Beverly Brown, Deborah Cavallario, Lorraine M. Clement, Patrick L. Evans, Joan Krawchenko, Martha A. Loveland, Timothy W. Scee II, Susan M. Snell, T. Urling Walker, and Rev. Joyce Woodcock.



Are you on Facebook? So is the Watertown Urban Mission!
Check out our *Watertown Urban Mission and Impossible Dream Thrift Store* page and click "Like" to become a fan of your Mission and your Dream. You'll find all kinds of great up to the minute information and you'll get all the latest sales at our thrift store. **Please click like today and thank you for your support.**

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Facebook



Did you know our Web site has a new look?


Check out your Mission today:

www.WatertownUrbanMission.com



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At a Glance Calendar

Nov. 11-12: Bon-Ton
Community Days

Nov. 21-Dec. 9: Impossible
Dream Christmas Shop

Nov. 27: Holiday Craft Fair

December: Winter Hat,
Glove & Coat Distribution

February: Annual Meeting

YOUR FRONT PAGE NEWS...



**Recovery
Mission**

**You Gave A Man
Purpose, He
Matched Your Gift
With His Time**

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