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For Immediate Release

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Generous Volunteers Gearing Up to Jumpstart the Christmas Shopping Season at the Impossible Dream Thrift Store

First United Methodist Church and North Country Library System Volunteers to Set Up Christmas Shop in Watertown Urban Mission Community Room for Nov. 21-Dec. 9 Sale

WATERTOWN (November 17, 2011)—Volunteers from First United Methodist Church and the North Country Library System will be transforming the Watertown Urban Mission's Community Room into a holiday wonderland this weekend to prepare for a Christmas and Toy Sale from Nov. 21 to December 9.

"Sales at our Mall on Factory Street support the work we do every day to help people at the Watertown Urban Mission," said Erika F. Flint, Watertown Urban Mission executive director.

"Thanks to the tremendous gift of time, energy and effort from these wonderful volunteers, this Christmas shop and toy room will give all bargain conscious shoppers the convenience they want to peruse great low cost options for the holiday season this year. We could not do this without our volunteers and we are just so grateful to have them."

For the congregation of First United Methodist Church, helping the Watertown Urban Mission is part of how the church plans on celebrating its 190th Anniversary. The church has a tradition of being very active in missions, especially in its support of the Watertown Urban Mission.

"We know how much good the Watertown Urban Mission does for our community and my church has always cared deeply about Mission work to improve lives," said Rev. Joyce Woodcock, pastor of First United Methodist Church and chairwoman of the Watertown Urban Mission's Impossible Dream Thrift Store Committee. "By decorating the community room and putting merchandise out to sell, we have a great opportunity to have fun, commemorate our church's long history in this community, and also take an active role in making our community a better place."

Volunteers from the Library System helped out last year and everyone enjoyed it. When co-workers asked around for this year, once again people said they are eager to help, according to Marcia Gray, technical services supervisor for the North Country Library System.

“We’re somewhat a nonprofit agency ourselves and we know what it’s like to have to set your budget up by what you might get each year. We fully understand about organizations having to get everything done with very little money and very few bodies,” Marcia said. “I personally don’t feel that it’s unselfish to volunteer, because you do get the good feeling of helping. It’s a nice feeling, whether you help a person find their car in the parking lot at the mall, or you’re helping an organization provide things for families. It has a trickling effect and a lot of people benefit from it.”

Decorating the room will be done on Friday, Nov. 18th by Library System Volunteers and on Sunday, Nov. 20th by First United Methodist Church volunteers who will make their way over after Sunday services to complete the set up.

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