



For Immediate Release

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Watertown Noon Rotary Steps Up to Address Local Hunger

Local Rotarians to celebrate the holidays collecting food for Watertown Urban Mission
Drop off locations set for 3 city locations, rotary members encouraged to set up more

WATERTOWN (November 16, 2011)—The Watertown Noon Rotary has chosen to celebrate the holiday season by sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Watertown Urban Mission's Food Pantry.

The Rotary group will collect non-perishable food items today through December 31 in drop boxes located at WPBS on Arsenal Street, The Best Western Carriage House Inn on Washington Street, and the Watertown Urban Mission on Factory Street. Rotary members are also being encouraged to put boxes in their place of business also.

"We have seen the increasing demand for food services in our community, which is why we have chosen to do a food drive this year," said Lynn Brown, head of the Noon Rotary's public relations committee and executive vice-president at WPBS-Watertown. "The Watertown Urban Mission is an organization on the frontlines of fighting hunger and poverty among our neighbors. We are proud to back their efforts through our Rotary Club."

Ms. Brown said the Noon Rotary will partner with Watertown's Sunrise and Evening rotaries, and the Watertown High School Rotary Interact Club. She said Rotary members will also be asked to bring a nonperishable food item to weekly meetings.

"The generosity of our local Rotary groups is a tremendous blessing for so many of our neighbors who often do not have enough food for themselves or their families," said Erika Flint, executive director of the Watertown Urban Mission and Rotary member. "We have seen a growing demand in our community and your donations in these boxes will have a direct impact in helping your neighbors overcome a difficult time in their lives. We want to thank the Watertown Noon Rotary for the work they do to strengthen our community."

The Rotary Club of Watertown was chartered in 1914. It is one of 66 clubs that belong to District No. 7040, which includes Northern New York and portions of Eastern Ontario, Western Quebec (including Montreal). The Club has a diversified membership of approximately 150 individuals who live in and/or work in the Watertown Area.

The Watertown Urban Mission brings together local community-minded organizations, businesses individuals and 40 member churches to help people through difficult times with programs that feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless, visit the imprisoned, give aid to the sick, and more. With generous donor and volunteer support, the Mission helps people rise above their circumstances and in turn, this strengthens our community as a whole.

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