

For immediate release

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Urban Ministries of Durham Expands Board With Four New Members

Durham, N.C. –April 11, 2011 –Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD), a community-based organization that provides food, clothing, shelter and supportive services recently welcomed four new members to their Board of Directors. The new board members include Monica Barnes, Community Affairs and Programming Director at WTVD ABC 11; Sheena Johnson Cooper, Director of Communications and Marketing for the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce; Byinna Crowder, Director of Marketing and Development for Measurement, Inc.; and Abdul Waheed, a local business person affiliated with the W. Deen Mohammed Islamic Center.

“We are so fortunate to have an organization such as Urban Ministries of Durham serving those in need in our community,” said Cooper. “I believe it is essential that all people who live in our community are afforded the opportunity to succeed. UMD is truly making a difference in Durham and I am honored to be part of this organization and proud to help further its mission and goals.”

UMD board members serve a three-year term that can be renewed once. Board members are an integral part of UMD. In addition to attending board and committee meetings, members also participate in long-range planning, budgeting and fundraising events and activities. Board members also support UMD’s day-to-day staff, volunteers and residents by being an advocate for the organization in the community.

“We are fortunate to have a strong and diverse group of 18 board members,” said UMD Board Chair Susan Amey who also serves as Director, Member Value, AICPA. “Monica, Sheena, Byinna and Abdul bring individual perspectives, talents and skill sets that will serve UMD and our residents well. We are grateful and appreciative of their commitment to helping others in need.”

UMD board members are currently assisting with the final push of the Stewards Fund Challenge. If UMD is able to raise \$50,000 from first time donors or any increased gift from current donors before the end of May, it will be matched dollar for dollar by the Stewards Fund.

“Having a strong board in place, who are actively involved with fundraising enables UMD to reach goals like the Stewards Fund Challenge,” said UMD Executive Director Patrice Nelson. “

About Urban Ministries of Durham

Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) is a private, 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing food, clothing, shelter and supportive services to neighbors in need since 1983. UMD is the initial access point for services through Durham’s homelessness continuum of care network. UMD focuses on homelessness prevention, homeless re-housing, emergency assistance and collaboration with community partners to assist people in need. In addition to the Community Café, Shelter, Food Pantry & Clothing Closet, UMD provides structured case management services for shelter residents through the Journey Program. This program assists families, residents struggling with addiction, those with special medical/mental health conditions and residents seeking to enhance their job skills to secure employment and housing. For more information on the many services provided by UMD, please visit www.umdurham.org.

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