

For immediate release

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Urban Ministries of Durham To Hold Open House

Durham, N.C. –December 16, 2009 –Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD), a community-based shelter in downtown Durham, will be holding an open house December 18 and 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., December 20 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and December 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. UMD is located at 410 Liberty Street. Light refreshments will be served.

“We are approached by people who want to know how they can help people in need in Durham,” said UMD Executive Director Patrice Nelson. “We are holding these open houses so that people can visit our facility and bring items that will help us sustain and support those in need throughout the coming year.”

For individuals and businesses that would like to help, UMD has created the following wish list of items that are constantly needed:

- powdered lemonade
- large cans of ground coffee
- sugar
- plastic cutlery (knives, forks and spoons)
- 45-gallon trash bags
- twin sheet sets
- blankets, towels, face cloths
- bus passes from Durham City Transit Company (\$2 daily, \$36 monthly)
- Tracphones
- Gift cards to Wal-Mart, Costco and Target
- Male and female adult backpacks
- Hats, gloves, scarves
- Travel-size toiletry items

As temperatures drop, more people look to UMD for a hot meal, warm clothes and a place stay. UMD is currently serving close to 600 meals a day and has consistently served 18,000 meals a month throughout 2009. For further information or details on how to help, contact Faye Morin at (919) 682-0538 x25, or via email at fmorin@umdurham.org.

About Urban Ministries of Durham

Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) is a private, non-profit organization that has provided emergency services such as food, clothing, shelter and counseling to people in need in Durham since 1983. Its community kitchen serves nearly 550-600 meals per day. Its shelter houses 80 beds for men, 26 beds for women and nine rooms with private baths for families. In emergency situations the shelter can house up to 175 people and averages 130 a night. UMD also assists those in need through its community closet and food pantry. UMD provides additional services such as its Hope-Believe Recovery Program, a live-in drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. For more information on the many services provided by UMD, please visit www.umdurham.org.

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