

For immediate release

Media Contact:
Amy Barefoot
Barefoot Public
(919) 451-3515
amy@barefootpublic.com

Urban Ministries of Durham Receives New Commercial Oven, Tables, Chairs

Durham, N.C. –December 14, 2009 –The holidays arrived early for Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) this year. The community-based shelter received a new commercial oven, tables, chairs, trays and mugs thanks to the generosity of local businesses.

Several months ago, the top level of UMD's two-level commercial convection oven broke. Around Thanksgiving, the lower portion stopped working. With the oven being more than 20 years old, replacement parts were not available. UMD provides close to 600 meals a day and the loss of the oven was huge setback at one of the busiest times of the year for the shelter. As temperatures drop and after a year of recession fallout, the number of men, women and children depending on a hot meal at UMD has increased.

Word spread throughout community that UMD was in need of a new oven. The trial attorneys and staff at Twiggs, Beskind, Strickland & Rabenau P.A. answered the call and donated a new commercial oven along with funds for new tables. The current tables, donated from the Northgate Mall food court 15 years ago, cannot seat the increased volume of people at each meal. The 16 new round tables will be able to comfortably seat 150 people at a time.

Additionally, the law firm of James Scott Farrin has donated funds for new food trays to replace the old, extremely worn trays. Because of the increased volume of meals, the kitchen would run out of trays before completing a meal service. UMD will also be receiving new chairs and mugs courtesy of Durham-based ad agency, McKinney. In a holiday program to benefit UMD, employees at McKinney can "adopt a chair" and assemble it or purchase mugs to replace the disposable Styrofoam cups currently being used.

"People in need in the community typically look to UMD for help," said UMD Executive Director Patrice Nelson. "It's nice to know that when UMD was in need, members of the business community stepped in to help out at such a crucial time."

Attorneys and staff from Twiggs, Beskind, Strickland & Rabenau P.A. will test drive the new oven on Tuesday, December 15 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. as they bake cookies and holiday treats for the UMD family holiday party and open houses later in the week.

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.

###