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NEWS RELEASE

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DETROIT HOMELESS MEN ADOPT LOCAL FAMILIES FOR CHRISTMAS

Homeless men from the Mariners Inn shelter and treatment center in downtown Detroit are once again launching an effort to help needy families this holiday season.

The homeless men will provide Christmas to four families with money they collect from friends and local businesses or that they earn. Through the Adopt-A-Family program, the men plan to raise \$500 for each family to provide clothing, toys, household items, and food. This is the third year that the men of Mariners Inn have provided Christmas to local families in need. Richard Drewery, one of the clients heading up the campaign, stated, "If people had not helped me during my time of need, I don't know what would have happened. I just want to sort of give back what they gave me."

"These men may be homeless but they are not hopeless," says David Sampson, COO for Mariners. They know what it feels like to be ignored, not just at Christmas, but year round because of their circumstances. They are sons, they are husbands, and they are fathers that have found a way to look beyond their own situation to help somebody else in need. They represent the true spirit of the holiday season and we are supporting them every step of the way.

In addition, the Mariners Inn staff seeks to raise \$20,000 to provide everything from food and clothing to prescription drugs for our clients. The staff is also looking for donations of men's winter coats, hats, gloves, thermal underwear, socks, personal hygiene products and book bags or duffle bags. All donations are tax deductible and may be dropped off during normal business hours. To make a donation or learn more about how you can help, please contact Doreen Webb at 313-962-9446 (ext. 230) or at webbdmi@comcast.net.

Mariners Inn is a non-profit, 24-hour, residential substance abuse facility for homeless men located at 445 Ledyard in Detroit's historic Cass Corridor. The agency provides free shelter and substance abuse recovery services to men from across the state. Men show up sober at the time of registration and are tested regularly for alcohol and drug use. Our zero tolerance policy helps support the determination these men have made to finally break their addictions. At Mariners, men get the help they need to return to society clean, sober and eager to support their families and community.

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