



**For Immediate Release**

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### **WARMING CONSORTIUM MAKES PLANS FOR THE WINTER**

**December 3, 2015—Olean**—The City of Olean, Cattaraugus County, Greater Olean Area Association of Churches, the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, Genesis House, and the Cattaraugus County SPCA are working together as the Warming Consortium to ensure that assistance is available to those in need during the upcoming winter.

The Consortium will activate the Cold Weather Warming Site at the John J. Ash Community Center on North Barry Street if inclement weather necessitates such action.

The decision to open the Cold Weather Warming Site will be determined by Olean City Fire Chief Robert Bell and Chris Baker, Director of the Cattaraugus County Office of Emergency Services. In addition, referrals to the Greater Olean Area Association of Churches could trigger the activation of the Warming Site.

The Consortium continues to tighten up plans to provide those in need, including the elderly, with space heaters, energy tips, and neighborhood leaders who will look out for people in distress. Anyone needing assistance due to the weather can call the Olean Dispatch Center at 376-5677 or the Warm Line at 585-307-7975; the back-up number if the Warm Line is not available is 716 378-2987. A referral system will be in place to offer support to those in need.

“We always hope for a mild winter, but as we are located in the Northeast, we have to be realistic and prepare for the worst,” Mayor Aiello said. “The Warming Consortium makes sure that our most vulnerable residents are comfortable in the event of a nasty cold front. It is refreshing to work with so many individuals and groups who are concerned about our residents.”

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