

October 14, 2008

## News Release

**Contact: Craig Grant**  
(315) 724-4197  
(Cell phone) (315) 796-2512

**For Release: Immediately**  
email [cgrant@unhs.org](mailto:cgrant@unhs.org)

**2008 Urban Mural initiative**  
**Make A Difference Day Early Start**  
**Saturday, October 18, 2008**

Graffiti vandalism has been on the rise in Utica's inner city neighborhoods. To combat this, The HomeOwnership Center (HOC) in conjunction with area volunteers are partnering to continue the 2008 Urban Mural Painting Initiative in Utica, NY.

The partners are getting an early start for "Make A Difference Day" by endeavoring to guide youth into socially acceptable forms of artistic expression. This project will create an opportunity for learning and expression for area youth as well as helping to clean and beautify our inner city neighborhoods.

Volunteers are needed this Saturday, October 18, to help with the 2008 Urban Mural initiative. The fun starts at 10:00 A.M. -2:00 P.M. at *City Liquors (the North Wall) on Oneida St. in Utica.* For more information please contact *Craig Grant, Community Coordinator, at (315) 724-4197.*

Please wear appropriate old clothing for painting. Please bring paint brushes, rollers, pans, and extension handles if you have them. Paint will be provided. You will need to have transportation to the graffiti sites either individually or in carpools. Adult supervision is required.

### Background information

#### WHAT IS GRAFFITI?

Graffiti, or "tagging" as it is commonly referred to on the street, is the etching, painting, covering or otherwise placing a mark upon public or private property, with the intent to damage such property. Graffiti can either be painted or applied with a marker, crayon, pencil, pen, or other homemade tool. Some vandals etch their tags into plastic, glass, metal, or wood surfaces with a drill bit, metal object, sandpaper, or a rock.

**TYPES OF GRAFFITI** **Hate graffiti** is the making of any offensive slogans or symbols towards a person's race, color, religion, ethnicity, culture, or sexual orientation.

**Gang Graffiti** is used by gangs to mark territory, send warnings to rivals, or for economic gain. It may include letters, symbols, or numbers known to gangs and law enforcement agencies.

**Satanic Graffiti** appears throughout the City illustrating occult and satanic symbols. Pentagrams, crosses, inverted chalices, satanic words, and skeletal figures are a few examples of this category of graffiti.

**Street Graffiti** consists of "tags," "throw-ups," and "pieces." A "tag" is the vandal's street signature, applied quickly and repetitively. A "throw-up" is a more elaborate version. A "piece," short for "masterpiece," is a large mural-like drawing.

**Generic Graffiti** includes random markings, declarations of love, graduation events ("Class of 2005"), and other non-threatening messages.

#### GRAFFITI IS A CRIME

Graffiti vandalism is a crime punishable by a jail term, monetary fine, and/or community service. Any person caught defacing property without the express permission of the owner will be arrested.

**Make A Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others -- a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October.**