This year’s territorial men’s conference, April 4-6, is expected to draw 1,000 men from the Midwest. While it might seem staggering, it’s actually realistic based on the turnout for the conference in 2011. "We believe that the synergy of bringing 1,000 men together will be dynamic," said Major Richard Herivel, territorial men’s ministries secretary. "We’re hoping through this event men will become better followers of Jesus, and when they return home they will stand for Him." Aply, the theme “Stand!” will guide the event and teach men to better stand firm in their convictions, stand up for their faith and stand out in society due to their godly demeanor.

On the milestone of 25 years of ministry, members of the corps still begin every morning at 6:00 a.m. in a prayer service, putting God first and seeking His blessing for today and the coming years.
Embracing Booth’s vision

by Lt. Colonel Richard Amick
Territorial Secretary for Business Administration

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!—1 John 3:1 (NIV, 2011)

Embracing Booth’s vision during February a very special day occurs for blossoming romantic love: Valentine’s Day.

It’s hard to believe 30 years have passed since Tina Turner released, “What’s love got to do with it?” The song was number one on the Billboard chart for more than three weeks. In the song Tina sings, “Love is nothing but a second hand emotion, a sweet old fashioned notion,” then asks, “Who needs a heart, when a heart can be broken?” One would deduce love is pretty gloomy, messy and downright risky. Too often this is how people view it. Believe it or not, some people looking for love have found help in an unusual place—taxicab in New York City. Taxicab driver Ahmed Ibrahim, alias the “Cupid Cabby,” loves to set up blind dates for his single passengers. His matchmaking services have been featured on Fox News, The Wall Street Journal and NBC’s Today show. He doesn’t assist just anybody though; they have to be serious about looking to settle down. Ahmed loves to help romance blossom, and he even hands out roses on Valentine’s Day.

But the best place to find love is not in another person but a book, the Bible, which tells of God’s great love for us. It’s expressed in the best love note we ever received, John 3:16 (New King James):

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God loves us like no one else ever could. He showed this love when He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. So, what’s love got to do with it? Everything.
Friday, June 6

Noon  Retired Officers’ Luncheon+
1:00–6:00 p.m.  Registration
1:00–7:00 p.m.  Resource Connection and Museum Exhibits open
7:30 p.m.  All God’s Children Sing keynote session*
9:30 p.m.  Afterglow for teens and young adults

Saturday, June 7

9:00 a.m.  All God’s Children Seek with Ken Medema
10:30 a.m.  Bravo! solo events
11:00 a.m. – Resource Connection and Museum Exhibits open
6:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m.  Bravo! solo events
7:00 p.m.  All God’s Children Praise music festival*
9:30 p.m.  Afterglow for teens and young adults

Sunday, June 8

9:00 a.m.  Childcare for children 5 and under
9:30 a.m.  All God’s Children Worship
Holiness meeting/Commissioning and Ordination
2:15 p.m.  All God’s Children Serve*
Service of Appointments

* By invitation only  + Ticket needed

General Burrows book launch

During his visit to lead the Australia Southern Territory’s commissioning celebrations, General André Cox assisted with the launch of the book, The People’s General – A Tribute to General Eva Burrows, at the Melbourne Project 614 Corps, where General Burrows [Rtd.] is a soldier.

General Cox spoke of his admiration for the retired international leader before presenting her with a copy of the new book to a rousing ovation from the congregation.

The book, released by Salvo Publishing, marks the 20th year since General Burrows’ retirement. It includes more than 200 photos from throughout her life, including many previously unpublished images, some from the retired General’s private collection, as well as a new 60,000-word interview.

Launching the book, national Editor-in-Chief Captain Mal Davies explained: “The interview was filmed over three days by the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia for a website called Australian Biography that features the stories of prominent Australians. We obtained permission to edit the original transcript of the interview, and it is the most intimate and insightful interview with General Burrows ever completed.”

The People’s General can be ordered from Resource Connection, 1-800-937-8896, or at shop.salvationarmy.org

Humble helpers in Belleville

by Ashley Kuenstler

Dozens of people take advantage of the free community meal offered each week by the Belleville, Ill., Corps Community Center, but two of the regulars aren’t who you might expect.

Johnny and Gloria are consistent supporters of The Salvation Army. They make monetary donations both monthly and annually, and Gloria donates her time with the women’s auxiliary. The couple has the resources to eat wherever they’d like for lunch, but every Monday, Wednesday and Friday you’ll find them at the community lunch.

“I grew up in a family where my mother instilled the desire to always help others. It was very important to all of us children,” Gloria said. “She always told me that it wasn’t how much time or money you have, it’s how you spend it. And, we choose to spend our time here.”

Gloria has volunteered with the corps since 1997. She has spent countless hours in the office, food pantry, and with the women’s auxiliary. In 2006, she encouraged Johnny to visit the corps for the community meal.

“He was recently retired and had a lot of free time, so I figured, ‘Why not?’” she said.

And Johnny has been enjoying the fellowship and food ever since.

The fried chicken is his favorite.

“I’ve made some real good friends, and I always enjoy the food,” he said. “The people who come here are all very interesting, and they all have their stories. I just really enjoy the fellowship. It helps that I like to talk.”

The couple now spends three days a week at the corps, giving back to the community they have been a part of for most of their lives and enjoying a warm meal in the process.

“People need to know that they’re not lost, that they’re not alone,” Gloria said. “There are people right here in our community who are happy to help in any way they can, even if it’s just to be quiet and listen.

“We believe in The Salvation Army and their work and will continue to do what we can to help.”

General André Cox and Commissioner Silvia Cox with General Eva Burrows (Rtd.) by Ashley Kuenstler

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“We believe in The Salvation Army and their work and will continue to do what we can to help.”
We knew we were ordained for this moment and time," said Major Sherrie Welch, who led the mission trip. "God had indeed brought each of us together to be used by Him and for His purposes."

In one week the women painted the St. Georges Corps chapel and day care center. Daily they shared devotions during the pre-school program, assisted teachers with classroom activities and helped with day care. Each team member came prepared with a testimony to share, a children's activity to orchestrate, and a devotional to give. Not only did they find an opportunity to use what they'd prepared, God provided unique opportunities to witness.

The women ushered new people into the corps from off the street for services and programs, and each morning and afternoon the drive to the corps brought spiritual conversations with their bus drivers. One morning while purchasing additional dishes for a pre-school lunch, some team members had an opportunity to pray with a person in need at a market booth.

"We weren't anxious about anything; there was a sense of peace," said team member Carey Ferrantelli. "That only comes from the Holy Spirit."

One of the most significant experiences was a prayer time on the final day with St. Georges Corps Officers Auxiliary Captains Keith and Karen Haughton. Originally from Trinidad, the Haughtons had started this appointment only three months earlier.

"We thought our main help would be to paint and fix things up, but it really turned out we were the greatest blessing to the corps officers," said team member Diane Himes.

After the prayer, Auxiliary Captain Keith tearfully shared how important and meaningful it was to them. They felt they were following God's will, and it was confirmed through that prayer. In every one of their prior appointments God had brought someone to anoint them in this way.

"This trip renewed our vision, opened our eyes to those in need and softened our hearts to say 'yes' more often to serving," said Major Sherrie. "I know the ladies will bring this renewed sense of service back home to their corps."

New beginning in London

Major Wes Green has embarked on a new adventure! In late January he reported for duty at International Headquarters in London, England, to serve as the property and budget officer in the business administration department. He is responsible for overseeing a world-wide inventory of Salvation Army properties in conjunction with international property firms. He also reviews the budgets of all implementing territories.

The major is looking forward to experiencing life overseas. "One of the nicest parts is experiencing the international population of London like the one in Chicago. However, I'll have several adjustments to make in British customs, traditions and vocabulary!"

The major acknowledged God's provision of this appointment at a point in his life where he needed a new beginning. "God has brought me along some interesting paths, many of which I would not have chosen, yet have benefited from the passage...the benefit of 20/20 past vision allows me to see...the work God has been doing to prepare me. I'm eager to move into this new beginning."

The major most recently served as the business officer at Metropolitan Divisional Headquarters.
The third is always easier

Ever being content in how they serve God in ministry together has been the hallmark of Majors Jim and Judy Garrington’s officership. With long-time experience leading corps in Germany, interspersed with corps appointments here in their home territory—all while raising a family—the Garringtons have brought unique, well-seasoned insights to their appointments as territorial pastoral care officers since 2010.

After their most recent return from Germany in 2009, the Garringtons were excited to see how quickly the number of Hispanic ministries, corps and officers had blossomed in the Central Territory. Understanding how much easier—and more accurate—it is to share one’s deepest thoughts and feelings in one’s native language, especially within a crucial counseling setting, the Garringtons decided to learn Spanish as their third language!

Operating on the axiom that “learning a third language is always easier,” Jim and Judy started doing language immersion experiences can be, they asked Alfredo Martinez, territorial Hispanic ministries consultant, for guidance. Alfredo recommended a stay with his sister, Laura, a vibrant Christian and artist who loves company and lives in a large abode home on a beautiful mountain range about three hours from Mexico City. Even better, Laura doesn’t speak English!

After intense study sessions with Alfredo’s wife, Christina, who teaches college-level English as a second-language classes, the Garringtons spent a delightful week with Laura learning how to navigate life in Espanol. Armed with their “el diccionario,” they accompanied her around the community, going to stores, interacting with villagers, visiting Laura’s adult children in Mexico City and taking a tour of pre-Aztec ruins.

Judy reported her biggest surprise was discovering how similar learning Spanish was to German, even down to individual words! When Jim or Judy couldn’t find the right word to express themselves, they sometimes inadvertently slipped into German, only to find Laura nodding her head with them in understanding. Jim quipped, “All we had to do was add a Spanish accent!”

The Garringtons said they never would have made it without Christina’s concentrated teaching before they left, and learning proper pronunciation from Laura was crucial in their immersion experience.

“It was a little embarrassing to realize, however, that during our first few days with Laura, she’d been repeating everything we said correct before she’d reply!” said Jim. “If I’m being generous, we spoke at the level of a toddler!”

The Garringtons are engaged in a new tool for developing leadership skills. Believing “one way leaders grow and improve is through candid self-assessment and objective feedback provided by people who know their work,” the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, a department of Wesley Theological Seminary, has developed a 360° inventory based on the life and practice of congregational leaders. This inventory, which has been used by thousands of church leaders in many different faith traditions, recently has been customized for The Salvation Army.

This month approximately 250 officers in the Central Territory are engaging a new tool for developing leadership skills. Believing “one way leaders grow and improve is through candid self-assessment and objective feedback provided by people who know their work,” the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, a department of Wesley Theological Seminary, has developed a 360° inventory based on the life and practice of congregational leaders. This inventory, which has been used by thousands of church leaders in many different faith traditions, recently has been customized for The Salvation Army.

The Lewis Pastoral Leadership Inventory [LPLI] uses 75 criteria of effective leadership in three categories: character, competence, and contribution. The Salvation Army version [LPLI-SA] incorporates 20 additional criteria specific to the Army and extends beyond the work of the conventional congregational leader.

This is a great opportunity for officers to gain awareness of themselves and the effectiveness of their ministry for God’s Kingdom. The LPLI-SA is a simple online process which begins with an officer’s self-assessment. The officer then invites 6-10 observers, people who are familiar with his or her work, to assess their effectiveness by using a similar online questionnaire. These observers could be soldiers, local officers, advisory board members, divisional headquarters staff or employees.

When the online process has been completed by the officer and observers, the officer receives a customized leadership profile which integrates his or her self-appraisal with the feedback of the observers. The results help identify patterns of strength and weakness in work in order to improve effectiveness over time. Many people discover strengths of which they were unaware but which others see in them and learn ways they can use these strengths to shore up weak areas.

This leadership inventory is just one way officers are working to increase their leadership skills. As a group, they are committed to doing God’s will wherever they’ve been appointed. Growing in faith, character, competence and skill is part of that commitment.

Majors Jim and Judy Garrington visit pyramids built 1700-1800 years ago by the pre-Aztec civilization.

Majors Jim and Judy Garrington visit pyramids built 1700-1800 years ago by the pre-Aztec civilization.

Fishing in new pools

Working for the last three years as the Midland divisional candidates’ counselor, Lt. Colonel Nita Lodge helps to identify potential future officers, build a rapport with them and, when they’re certain of God’s calling, assist with preparing, equipping and mentoring them through the application process.

She first began working with prospective candidates almost two decades ago in the Florida Division after retiring there with her husband, Herb. Ministering to candidates has been her passion since their days as divisional youth secretaries in, of all places, the Midland Division!

After her husband’s promotion to Glory, she joined the Midland divisional youth department to again work with candidates under Colonel Malinda O’Neill, divisional youth and candidates’ secretary.

“It’s become clear there’s a need to identify new possibilities, to ‘fish in new pools,’” said Colonel Nita.

To encourage an influx of new people, Major Lonnie Richardson, Midland divisional commander, has encouraged Salvationists youth to bring a non-Salvationist friend to a troop rally in March and youth councils in April, with the division reducing the friends’ registration costs. Invitations to attend youth councils also were sent to former camp staff.

“The divisional candidates’ board has been praying fervently for these events,” said Colonel Nita. The youth councils will feature former Centralizes Captains Dan and Sarah Nelson, Southern territorial candidates’ secretaries, and music by Beautiful Eulogy.

“Young people can download their music prior to the event to get the momentum going,” the colonel added.
People always ask: If there are so many jobs in the oil boomtown of Williston, N.D., why do folks need help from The Salvation Army?

Answer: There are still lots of homeless people. So many, in fact, that the Williston Salvation Army’s social services expenses have quadrupled, going from $50,000 in 2010 to about $200,000 last year.

Williston is a hodgepodge of people from all over the country. Some arrive with little money, thinking they’ll immediately land a high-paying job in the oil fields. Many don’t and become homeless, with no money to get back home. And those who do find work can still end up homeless as housing is wildly expensive and hard to find, which forces some people to live in a tent, their car or elsewhere.

That’s where the Williston Salvation Army comes in, providing food, transportation assistance and other critical services to people in need.

One of the biggest needs is fuel. “We spend an average of $3,500 per month on gas vouchers for people living in their cars—they can’t afford to keep their vehicle running all night when it’s cold outside,” said Captain Joshua Stansbury, Williston corps officer. “That money also pays for propane for people living in trailers.”

“The Salvation Army spends another $1,500 to $2,000 per month on bus tickets to help homeless people return to their homes in other states. Another popular service: computers. The corps’ computer lab allows people to search for jobs online, create résumés and connect with their loved ones back home. All this, not to mention people need to eat.”

“Food is our biggest expense,” Captain Joshua said. “We spent $45,000 on food last year. That’s an amazing number when you consider most of our food is donated. I can put an ad in the paper saying we need food, and the next week our pantry will be full. But it’s not enough. We still have to buy plenty of food.”

Beyond fulfilling basic needs, The Salvation Army’s greatest service is the simple fact that it’s there. “We are a ministry of presence,” the captain said, adding that the Army is located near several bars, a casino and a strip club. “We want to be a safe place for people to come. We want to be a light of Christ.”

The Salvation Army in Williston served more than 5,000 people last year. About 65 percent were transients, 25 percent from Williston and 10 percent from outlying areas.
The Salvation Army Thrift Store in Williston, N.D., has righted the ship. After struggling the past few years, it finally has the employees and volunteers it needs to operate effectively.

Storage rooms that used to be piled high with unsorted donations are now empty and ready for more. The showroom has been reconfigured for better customer flow. Display racks have been stocked with products the hardworking oil boomtown needs, such as jeans, gloves and leather boots.

Comforters are popular, too. “We’ve sold a lot of those to guys living in tents or their cars,” said John Hulteen, a veteran Salvation Army manager and another part-time employee are needed, things are looking up.

Although most people in town are employed, the one percent who aren’t have few places to turn other than The Salvation Army. “Williston is unlike any other place. Everyone is so busy, and life moves so fast,” said Captain Joshua Stansbury, who’s been forced to manage the store by himself in addition to his other responsibilities. “Salvation Army stores need both employees and volunteers in order to operate, and it’s been hard recruiting either of them.”

Help is here

The captain and a small group of part-time volunteers have spent more than two years working hard to keep the store afloat. Their efforts are paying off thanks to fresh batches of volunteers and employees.

Two new workers were hired in November, including a fulltime manager. Though an assistant manager and another part-time employee are needed, things are looking up.

Brent Siu is like most people in Williston, N.D.—he’s from somewhere else, there to seek his fortune in the oil boom. He’s a good representation of the kind of people who come to Williston and end up needing help from The Salvation Army.

Brent, a career truck driver from Chattanooga, Tenn., heard about Williston last February while hauling $350,000 worth of boats to Canada. En route, he struck up a conversation with another trucker in Minot, N.D. Brent’s eyes lit up when the man explained how much money truckers get paid in Williston.

That was all Brent needed to hear. He arrived in Williston on March 29 and found a trucking job two days later.

Finding a house, on the other hand, wasn’t as easy. “The only place I could find was 20 miles out of town,” Brent said. “It had no running water, and it stunk like a dead rat. No sewage, either. Only an outhouse.”

One month of living there was all Brent could take. He moved out and bought a van to live in.

Unfortunately, his job didn’t last long, either. After hauling side-dump trailers for about six weeks, he quit because the working conditions were less than ideal. “There are lots of trucking accidents in Williston. The drivers are too tired or they don’t have enough experience,” said Brent, who witnessed a serious accident in which he believes someone died. “I was driving these beat-up old trucks, and it wasn’t worth all the money in the world. It gave me a different outlook on trucking.”

Brent decided to capitalize on the oil boom in a different way—by opening a painting business. It didn’t take him long to line up several jobs. But between the time he quit trucking and his first painting job, he was running low on cash.

“That’s when I started coming to The Salvation Army,” he said. “I got free bread, a food voucher and another voucher for $40 in gas. It’s the only time I’ve ever needed that kind of help.”

Brent planned to leave Williston for the winter and return this spring to resume his painting business.

“If I ever make it big, The Salvation Army will be getting a nice piece of the pie,” he said. “I really appreciated the help.”

John Hulteen organizes clothing racks.
Becoming a Pathway of Hope corps

by Lt. Colonel Dorothy Smith

I am excited about the Pathway of Hope particularly because our goal is to offer hope to the whole family, children as well as parents. In this way, we will be influencing two generations, circumventing not only generational poverty but also a generational poverty of spirit.

The Salvation Army always has reached out to children. It’s in our DNA to support, encourage and mentor children, introduce them to Christ and pray that at critical moments they will take the right path and experience an abundant, meaningful life. This is what we do. Numerous testimonies have verified it.

The Pathway of Hope approach offers the strengths and resources of our corps—meaning you and me—by the power of the Holy Spirit, to work together to build self-esteem, skills and spiritual strength through character-building programs, sports, music, literacy, etc. into children and parents.

It would be short-sighted to view the Pathway of Hope as merely a new case management program when it provides an intentional process for our holistic ministry. Let’s grasp it as an opportunity to demonstrate hope in community with the unlimited resources found through our hope in Christ.

Are you a Pathway of Hope corps? No matter your size, location or external resources, if you have vision, determination and the Holy Spirit, you can be!

Shaking fruit from corps tree

Sometimes corps growth has to start with shaking up the status quo,” said Major Chuck Yockey, who, with wife Major Betty Yockey, has been leading the Des Moines Citadel, Iowa, Corps since mid 2012. “We had to get people sitting on the roadside back into the car and driving!” said Major Chuck.

The Yockeys started with corps members who hadn’t been attending, then met with a group of 15 young-adult singles and couples for their input. One suggestion from this group was Sunday school classes for all ages; they met the majors’ challenge to become agents of change by leading those classes.

The group also met with the corps council, which led to increased levels of commitment to—and excitement about—the corps. And recent work on STEPs (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) has reinforced the corps’ vision for growth. Affirmation the corps is moving in the right direction came from one of its oldest members who said, “It sure is fun coming to church these days!”

Another change had an unexpected impact. By simply moving the Sunday morning schedule ahead by 30 minutes, Sunday school attendance jumped from an average 10 people to 47, and the average for worship increased from 48 to 67.

The renewed flurry of activity at the corps has been attracting new faces, and two new families have become regular attendees. Wednesday evenings regularly attract 30-35 youth for praise and worship, character-building programs and a teen Bible study.

Families also are bridged into the corps through its huge basketball program. Large signs in the gym and hallways ask, “Do you know we’re a church?” and the program’s annual awards ceremony is held on Sunday morning. The last one brought in 336 people! The corps also has one of the division’s largest day camps, which segue into vacation Bible school ending with a gospel concert for families.

A new men’s ministries group has a dozen members. One of their first service projects was a family fun night. “Consistency is the key to success,” said Major Chuck. “Continue to hold scheduled meetings even if only a few people show up.” For the first time in ages, the corps had eight men attend divisional men’s camp!

As a prelude to starting women’s ministries, Major Betty led a ‘brown-bag’ Bible study for eight weeks. Captain Deb Thompson, associate corps officer, is leading a popular study on Revelation.
Having been chartered just two years ago, the Black Hills, S.D., Women’s Auxiliary is going strong and continuing to build momentum. “They’re still relatively new to it, but that only seems to motivate them to work harder and get things done faster,” said Major Elizabeth Beardsley, in charge of Black Hills area special services. “It’s evident they’re proud to be Black Hills Auxiliary members.”

One of the first projects for the women’s auxiliary was to implement a Christmas toy shop. Although donations always had been distributed, clients weren’t able to “shop” for gifts, until now. At first the undertaking seemed huge, almost an impossible goal. “It was so much work, but so rewarding,” said Vasti Gibson, Black Hills women’s auxiliary secretary. “The way it turned out, and the feedback we got from the recipients, was incredible.” Vasti has been a Black Hills Women’s Auxiliary member from the start. Her desire to participate goes back to childhood when her mother, a Salvation Army officer, would take her to the women’s auxiliary service events in Chicago. “I remember that experience of helping and what a difference it made in people’s lives,” said Vasti. “When the opportunity to join an auxiliary myself came, I was ready and excited to see what we would do.”

In addition to the Christmas toy shop, the auxiliary assists with back-to-school shopping and the Angel Tree outreach. They’re starting to implement yearly fundraisers such as a bake sale and garage sale. With these funds they’d like to fill the Christmas toy shop with additional toys and clothes for older age groups. “It’s a hardworking group of good ladies, who are fun and have their hearts in the right place. I know we will go far!” said Vasti.

Our ladies want to impact people spiritually as well as physically,” said Major Claire Grainger, Springfield, Mo., corps officer about her women’s auxiliary. “They see beyond the immediate help to the opportunity to change lives.”

The Springfield, Mo., Women’s Auxiliary is 50 members strong. Each year they hold two major fundraisers: a geranium sale in the spring and a potted mums sale in the fall. The combination generates about $5,000 a year, some of which the ladies use to purchase Easter clothes for children living at the Army’s Family Enrichment Center.

In 2013 the women volunteered over 2,000 hours with The Salvation Army. Their two major projects are back-to-school and Christmas intake, which includes all of the pre-screening and interviewing of clients. It takes two weeks for each event, and Major Claire and the ladies work from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. daily. “During intake the ladies’ Christian witness really comes out,” said Major Claire. They offer to pray with the clients, take time with each person and work hard to make them feel relaxed and unrushed and are just there to talk if needed.

Vice President Carol Knopp joined the Springfield Women’s Auxiliary in 1999 at her best friend’s encouragement. “I have volunteered for several organizations, but nothing has meant as much to me as The Salvation Army. I love helping people, of course, but I especially treasure the dignity with which everyone is treated.”

Choosing much-needed shoes
Although adult rehabilitation centers (ARC) use the same work-therapy approach for recovery ministries, each center has distinguishing characteristics influenced by its location, culture and collaborative options, observed Captain Linda Barker, Kansas City, Mo., ARC administrator. What works well at centers in some cities may not work as well in others, she continued, but each ARC serves its population’s needs to the best of its abilities.

“A RC graduates find employment include vocational rehabilitation with the Kansas City Full Employment Council, as well as with a culinary arts school and a recovery program in St. Joseph, Mo., which assists with job placement while men transition into the next phase of their recovery.

Other beneficial collaborations are with a hospital and two Christian universities. Each week a nurse practitioner (who also volunteers at the ARC) brings several students who are learning medical care for homeless/addicted populations to conduct health screenings and provide minor care to the men. Likewise, university students in the counseling field get practical experience with the men while assisting the ARC with much-needed counseling hours for its 130 beneficiaries.

Collaborations also exist with two local corps. After Sunday morning worship at the ARC, some beneficiaries attend the Independence, Mo., Corps (Majors Richard and Barbara Correll, corps officers) or the Kansas City Northland, Mo., Corps (Majors Butterick and Lisa Frost, corps officers).

On Sunday evenings men can attend Celebrate Recovery through Christ meetings held bi-weekly at the Independence Corps, or a discipleship class held each week at the Northland Corps taught by Matthew Beatty, a soldier and ARC graduate. “He’s a true story of success and redemption,” said Captain Linda. Beneficiaries also enjoy attending divisional men’s camps. The center’s

I don’t walk alone
by Major Rachel Klammer

I started innocently enough with a slight tremor in my left pinky. Usually occurring when I was under stress, I dismissed it as nerves and continued my duties as a corps officer in Ypsilanti, Michigan. It didn’t go away.

So later that fall while visiting my brother, who’d been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease a few years earlier, I asked when he realized he had it. “It all started with a tremor in my finger,” he said. I shared my situation and made him promise not to tell our mother. He told her anyway, and I swore to her I’d get it checked out.

I scheduled a physical with my primary care doctor and within 15 minutes of meeting him was referred to the University of Michigan Geriatric Center. The word geriatric was a kick in the stomach; I was only 43! Still, I was sure it was nothing. I couldn’t have been more wrong. "You have Parkinson’s Disease," said the specialist. "There is no cure, but the symptoms can be managed so you should be able to function for a long time."

He told me about medications and the need for exercise, but I couldn’t hear him because I was trying to wrap my brain around this. I was only 43. The doctor asked if I had any questions; I shook my head. Actually, I had tons but couldn’t verbalize them. He handed me a prescription and told me to make an appointment for three months. My husband and I filled the prescription and went home to tell our children.

Stunned, they asked how I got it, was I going to die, should they tell others. I didn’t know. I assured them I would be okay even though I wondered how I could continue to be a wife, mother and minister. Researching the disease, I read that my face would show little or no expression, my handwriting would be small and cramped, and my speech would be soft and mumbling. But I was a preacher. How could I do that if no one could hear me? I cried and asked God why this was happening.

Frankly, I was too angry to listen. It was in Sardis on a biblical education tour to Greece and Turkey I clearly heard God say, “Get moving!” He had to bring me thousands of miles so I would listen. I gave up my right to self-pity and anger.

I’ve lived with Parkinson’s for nearly a decade. Life is a series of transitions. I’ve learned it’s how we handle them that defines us. Over the years I’ve found myself adjusting. Instead of losing my faith, I have found it a source of strength and hope. It hasn’t been easy, but I don’t walk alone.

I am now in the moderate stage of Parkinson’s and serve at the Kansas City Adult Rehabilitation Center with my husband as chaplains. The men know of my condition and that I have participated in the 5K for Parkinson’s research. As I prepared to enter my second walk, Major Troy Barker, administrator, challenged them to “pay it forward” and help raise funds. Even though they receive only a small stipend, they gave $410! I am humbled to realize some of them gave all they had.

Joined this year by Major Linda Barker, I walked for my friend, Jacque Hull, who also has Parkinson’s. As I walked amidst the sea of mustard yellow shirts I felt as if my brothers at the center were cheering me on. I thank my friends and family for their prayers and financial support. Together, we raised more than $1,000! I look forward to a day when a cure has been found. Until then, I walk so the next generation doesn’t have to.
Senior ladies registering for holiday assistance at the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps received the indulgent treat of a relaxing manicure by aesthetician students from Mario Tricoci of Chicago. “This was a real treat! The corps comes up with some interesting ideas,” she said.

Pamela Church-Pryor, community ministries director, asked Tricoci student Christina Bertsatos why she wanted to be a manicurist. “She replied, ‘I like making someone feel beautiful, even when they don’t spend a lot of time on their outer beauty. When I help them look beautiful, I can see their inner beauty and confidence,’” Pamela said. The students also did free haircuts for seniors before Christmas and “back-to-school” haircuts for clients’ children in the fall. "The major was thrilled to have [for her] this truly once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Major Lesa. "God just works it all out so the right people are in the right place at the right time!" Elisa Moffett first met the Army a couple of years ago when she attended a career training session at the corps. "Having a free manicure sounded like a fun adventure; it’s something I don’t do for myself. This was a real treat! The corps comes up with some interesting ideas,” she said.

Christina Bertsatos gives Major Lalthamuani her first-ever manicure.

**Employment Opportunity**

Executive Director of Development, Central Territorial Headquarters, Des Plaines, Ill.

Responsible for leading and managing staff of fundraising/development professionals in providing comprehensive resources and services for the benefit of the commands and field units in the territory. Also responsible for establishing and meeting operating budgets, developing sound organizational policies and maintaining good relationships with clients, agencies, vendors, donors, volunteers and the general public. Must have a bachelor’s degree in business management, communications, public relations or related field, but advanced degree is highly desirable. Minimum 15 years experience in increasingly responsible fundraising and community relations/development positions with an organization. At least 7 years experience in executive level personnel management. Valid state driver’s license. Please submit resume and MNRF report required. CFRE certification highly desirable. Resume and letter of introduction to:

USCHumanResources@usc.salvationarmy.org

**March Prayer Calendar**

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<td>Job 17-18</td>
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<td>27 Thursday</td>
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<td>28 Friday</td>
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<td>29 Saturday</td>
<td>Job 25-26</td>
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<td>Jeremiah 1-6</td>
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<td>31 Monday</td>
<td>Mark 5-6</td>
<td>Racine, Wis., Corps</td>
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Go to www.salarmycentral.org

If you follow the prayer calendar in the next year, you will have read through the Bible!

---Mustard Seeds---

**Captain...I appreciate you planning the activities for this retired officers weekend...But...**

**Let’s not do the mechanical bull next year...**
Herson, Kimani, shared the importance of after-school activities, tutoring, Head Start programs including music education, video rent, food, clothing, served through the Army’s many assistance programs which provide rent, food, clothing, utility assistance and shelter to families in crisis.

Spurred on by generous matching gifts from lead sponsors Jewel-Osco and State Farm, as well as other corporate partners in caring, donors opened their hearts and their wallets to raise more than $250,000.

During the day WB BM radio listeners heard stories from those served through the Army’s many programs including music education, after-school activities, tutoring, Head Start and more. Eunice Fleming and her son, Kimani, shared the importance of after-school programs which would not be enjoying the academic success which provided him an opportunity for a culminating internship this summer.

Lt. Colonel Ralph Bukiewicz, Metropolitan divisional commander, accepts a $100,000 gift from Missy Wyatt of Jewel-Osco.

WB BM radiothon brings awareness and donations Representatives from Jewel-Osco were on hand in the early evening to talk about the company’s partnership with The Salvation Army through several initiatives including a coat drive, food distribution program, and, of course, the iconic red kettles. Jewel-Osco also presented a check for $100,000.

A Salvation Army brass ensemble, the Volta School ensemble, the Chicago Kroc Singing Company, the Harbor Light Youth Hip Hop group and the Madison Street Choir provided musical entertainment throughout the day.

Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Major Elizabeth Anderson

Mrs. Major Elizabeth Anderson was promoted to Glory on November 7, 2013. She was 80.

Elizabeth was the youngest of 10 children born to Earl and Mabel Chapin in Fond du Lac, Wis. Elizabeth comes from a proud heritage of folks who’ve served in every United States war from the American Revolution onward.

With her mother, she joined The Salvation Army as a young person and entered training in her early twenties. She was commissioned in 1954 as part of the “Shepherds” session, and married the love of her life, Lester Anderson, in 1955. Their marriage was blessed with three children.

They served in 17 appointments, which included assignments at divisional and territorial headquarters as well as overseas. One of her most meaningful appointments was when she served as director of the Amilia de Castro School for the Blind in the Republic of Panama.

The Andersons retired from the Salvation Army in 1978 and blessed with a son.

Major David Higgins

Major David Higgins was promoted to Glory on November 27, 2013. He was 73.

David was the ninth of 10 children born into a Christian family, who attended the Bicknell, Ind., Corps. There he gave his heart to the Lord as a child.

David met his future wife, Darlene, when she was appointed as a lieutenant to assist at the Bicknell Corps in 1956. Four years later they were married, and blessed with two children. After entering training together, the Higgins served commissioned in 1965 and appointed to Junction City, Kan.

The Higgins served in 15 appointments in the Kansas and Western Missouri, Midland, Indiana and Heartland divisions. They served twice as corps officers in Bedford, Ind., from which they retired in 2002.

David loved to preach God’s Word and worship God through song with Darlene.

Major Higgins is survived by his wife; children, Karen VanLansing and David (Stacey) Higgins; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and sister-in-law Major Donna Hutchings.

Major Ralph Ashcraft

Major Ralph Ashcraft was promoted to Glory on December 7, 2013. He was 62.

Ralph was born to Ralph, Sr. and Mary Ashcraft in Kokomo, Ind.

As a competitive roller skater, he spent a good deal of his childhood at the rink.

After high school and some college, Ralph entered the U.S. Navy, where he felt a stirring to pursue ministry and began to take classes. In 1975 Ralph married JoAnn Suits, and together they entered officer training. They were commissioned in 1978 and blessed with a son.

Ralph especially felt called to preach and assist during disaster situations. He helped start a Thanksgiving community dinner in Cape Girardeau, Mo., which grew from feeding 450 to over 2,000 people. The Ashcrafts retired early due to health in 2011.

Major Ralph was known for his servant’s heart and loved spending time with his grandchildren, who were the joy of his life.

The major is survived by his wife; son Joshua (Noodle); two grandchildren, and a sister and brother-in-law.

Territorial website for Salvationists!

Check out the new territorial website dedicated for Salvationists at salarmycentral.org. It’s fun, helpful and user friendly.

In addition to regular, territory-related content and Get Connected materials, the site features links to Central Territorial events and programs. It’s also been optimized to automatically resize to all mobile devices. Now you can easily view issues of the Central Connection using your phone, tablet or PC.

Additionally, you’ll have access to a sortable directory of websites in the Central Territory and the opportunity to submit links for your programs and websites.

For those with mobile devices, it’s now possible to save this new page as a web app using your device’s bookmark feature.