The Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative has become so vital in meeting needs in the Flint, Mich., area, that the Genesee/Shiawassee Regional Command’s leadership, advisory board and key personnel completed a yearlong planning effort with a consulting group to formulate a five-year strategic POH plan.

“Implementation of the plan began in mid-2017 with an end goal of enrolling 100 families in POH by 2022,” said Captain Caleb Senn, the command’s regional coordinator and Flint Citadel corps officer. The plan is comprised of five strategic priorities with action goals and a progression of milestones starting with 25 families enrolled in POH by the end of 2018.

The priorities include improving fund development; increasing the diversity, engagement and education of advisory board members along with implementing an Echelon group of young professionals; expanding the marketing and brand identity of The Salvation Army and POH; broadening POH services, and increasing the involvement of soldiers in providing spiritual care.

Making inroads with new potential funding partners has already begun, and Captains Caleb and Stephanie Senn have conducted a workshop series at the Flint Citadel Corps called “Pathway of Hope” in order to engage soldiers and friends in this vital anti-poverty initiative.

“We are envisioning bringing in the whole family,” said Lt. Brandon Lewis, who leads the corps with his wife, Lt. Megan. “We want to equip families in our area with the tools for solving problems at home.”

From designing and building functioning door hinges to creating doorstops, kitchen utensils and flowerpots, the 3D process encourages creativity. “It’s giving people the idea of making your own future and thinking outside the box,” said the lieutenant. “It really inspires people to take that extra step and solve it themselves and be proud of the unique solution that they come to.”

The makerspace includes a hands-on crafting area where kids are challenged to come up with creative solutions and new ideas. Open source tool storage places dozens of tools around the room on specialized brackets. A shadow painted behind each tool helps kids find, use and replace tools with ease, giving children as young as five or six the confidence to seek the best tool for the task at hand.

Eight computers currently fill the new makerspace, each equipped with software students can use to work on homework.

Captains Caleb and Stephanie Senn with Pathway of Hope caseworker Gloria Watson

The Sheppard Consulting Group was engaged to conduct in-depth research including interviews with donors, clients, advisory board members and key staff. Formulating the plan took shape over three advisory board retreats during which board members formulated a vision and subsequently set goals for POH.
Candy Crush can wait!

by Commissioner Heidi Bailey
Territorial President of Women’s Ministries

I sat down at Gate 67 in the Kansas City International Airport following an amazing “Welcome Home” weekend with the Kansas and Western Missouri Division. Having a few minutes to spare, I thought I’d try to conquer Candy Crush Level 242 again. At that moment the woman sitting across from me softly called my name, having read it on the nametag on my uniform.


My reply, “Yes, in a way; Heidi is my namesake,” was sufficient to encourage Judy to share her story. Her eyes welled with tears as she quietly said she was flying back to Kenya to bury her mother, a Salvationist from Nairobi who died while visiting her.

When her mother’s cancer had re-occurred, Judy’s brother insisted she contact the Olathe Corps, which felt safe and familiar because of their Salvation Army Kenyan childhood. Lts. Heidi and Kory Strand quickly and sensitively responded to Judy’s cry to visit her mother in the hospital as her health rapidly declined. The lieutenants supported and prayed with Judy and, following her mother’s passing, even acquired a white dress similar to the white soldier uniforms in Kenya for her mother’s burial.

There at Gate 67 time permitted one spontaneous phone call before boarding our plane for Chicago. I handed Judy my cellphone and said, “Someone wants to speak with you.” We watched her eyes brighten as she heard the voice of her “Olathe Heidi.”

In the pushing and shoving of passengers boarding the plane, we stood still beside Judy, eyes closed, as Lt. Heidi prayed with her one more time.

We flew to Chicago, deboarded together and watched as Judy, strong in faith and encouraged in spirit, continued her journey to Kenya. When she turned to thank us, it was clear she was really thanking The Salvation Army in Olathe, Kan.—and every community in the Central Territory whose officers and soldiers take time to hear and respond to the stories of others. Brad and I turned to each other, grateful as well.

The Salvation Army in Kenya had planted the seeds. Lt. Heidi and Kory in Kansas had watered them and God had caused the growth.

Freely you have received, freely give. Matthew 10:8, NKJV

Let’s keep planting and watering seeds of opportunity freely, and God will continue to cause the growth. Candy Crush can wait.

Darla does it all!

Darla Hyde, a lifelong Salvationist and veterans services volunteer with The Salvation Army in the Black Hills region of South Dakota, was honored for the 100 hours of service she has provided while ministering at the Fort Meade Veterans Administration (VA) Center in Sturgis, S.D. She was presented with an attractive gold pin designating her accomplishment at a VA volunteer appreciation and recognition luncheon.

“I feel privileged to volunteer my time and efforts,” said Darla, who’s been volunteering for this ministry since 2002. “Veterans have sacrificed so much—their entire lives for us and our freedom.” Her volunteer efforts include visiting with the vets and distributing gifts at Christmastime and Labor Day, as well as attending events and special services.

“Darla is such a cheerful and sweet person. She loves to help others and does so selflessly,” said A/Captain Michelle Johnson, Black Hills special services and Rapid City corps officer, with Darla Hyde.

In addition to her full-time job as a Salvation Army caseworker in Rapid City, Darla volunteers as a sunscreen leader and works with her granddaughters on the corps’ annual “Turkey Roundup” which provides turkeys for Christmas food baskets.

Right time, right place!

Donald “Benny” Benedict met The Salvation Army during a time of personal crisis when a tornado nearly wiped out his hometown of Washington, Ill., in November 2013.

While attending an entrepreneurship conference in Los Angeles after selling his Peoria-based business, he received a text saying a tornado had hit the town where his parents, sisters and other family members still lived. Although Benny’s calls to them weren’t getting through, he wasn’t too concerned because strong storms often affected communications. Besides, he reasoned, the last tornado to hit Washington was in 1940.

But when Benny turned on the TV in his hotel room, he watched in horror as the news showed what little was left of Washington. His heart sunk out of fear for his family. As footage panned across the rubble, Benny couldn’t identify a single landmark.

He finally received word his family was safe but felt compelled to go home. He flew back to Peoria and drove out to Washington. Police blockades prevented him from seeing his family, but he noticed a flurry of activity at a large church where at least 500 survivors, most covered in grime and some still crying, were streaming in and out.

Benny walked in hoping to help somehow. When he saw the pastor frantically trying to get organized, Benny’s business strengths kicked in. A delivery person wanted to know where to put pallets of water. A restaurant owner arrived with 600 pounds of chicken. Benny spent the next several hours bringing order to the chaos. The pastor asked Benny to attend a meeting for disaster recovery agencies that afternoon.

The Salvation Army’s incident commander had seen Benny in action and, learning he wasn’t with an agency, gave him a Salvation Army emergency disaster services (EDS) shirt and said, “You’re with us.” Benny spent the next two weeks managing canteens and distributing meals, food boxes and supplies.

The satisfaction he felt and the responses he got to the EDS shirt he was wearing piqued his interest in The Salvation Army. Within months he was assisting at another tornado site and within a year had become not only a trained EDS volunteer but an incident commander himself, serving at numerous disasters in the Heartland Division and beyond.

Benny is now the assistant EDS director for the division and last fall was on the first territorial team deployed to Puerto Rico for hurricane relief.
Territorial women’s conference on horizon

Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. Isaiah 60:1, NIV

by Sarah Micula

The Central Territory’s 2018 Arise and Shine Women’s Conference, October 12-14, 2018, is for women who want to go deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ and each other. It promises to be unlike any Central territorial women’s conference you’ve experienced.

The conference venue, Hyatt Regency O’Hare, just outside of Chicago, opens up the possibility for more than 2,000 delegates to attend. This year it’s not just for women’s ministries leaders. It’s for everyone.

Come and bring your mother, daughter, sister, friends, neighbors.

Registration opens March 12, 2018
Early Bird Registration Fee (until July 1, 2018)
Conference: $99
Pre-conference + Conference: $129
Standard Registration Fee (July 2-October 1, 2018)
Conference: $99
Pre-conference + Conference: $159
Cancellation deadline: September 14, 2018

*Attendance required by all Central Territory women officers and cadets.

Divine appointments

Two men—one a divisional gift advisor following up on a potential donor lead, the other a divisional headquarters officer who’d been a guest speaker at a corps—had no idea they’d been sent by God on “divine appointments” last year that not only would benefit a Cedar Rapids, Iowa, man but that city’s corps.

Vernon* had spent the previous year watching his beloved wife of 36 years succumb to cancer. After her passing, he visited the Cedar Rapids Corps for the first time on a Sunday when Heartland Divisional Secretary Major Jon Augenstein happened to be the guest speaker.

As Major Jon spoke about his daughter’s extended, unsuccessful struggle with cancer, Vernon found his words both inspirational and comforting. But, the part of the story that particularly struck Vernon was the major having to deal with a boldly atheistic brother during that challenging time.

Vernon contacted the corps to say he was “interested in doing something” for The Salvation Army, Bruce Clark, a Heartland divisional planned giving advisor, followed up on the inquiry and visited Vernon’s home. After hearing about the heartbreaking ordeal Vernon had gone through with his wife, Bruce could see he was still deeply upset, so they spent the afternoon just talking about the couple’s life together.

When Vernon told Bruce about his pro-pititious visit to the corps [now led by Majors Alan and Kimberly Hellstrom] and the message he’d heard, he said, “That’s the power of faith!” Vernon’s experience that morning compelled him to help The Salvation Army in its mission to help others.

Major Jon said, “I was surprised and humbled to learn God used my struggles to bless and encourage Vernon. It really underscores the way God orchestrates things for His purposes.”

Bruce concluded, “It was very rewarding to work with someone who’s had such great heartache to be able to turn it into something so positive in a simple yet powerful act. Making a financial gift and connecting deeply with The Salvation Army has brought Vernon much needed joy.”

*Donor wishes to remain anonymous
At home in the world

In the pulsing modern metropolis of London, steepled in history at every turn, Lt. Colonel Evie Diaz is comfortably at home. Those who know her aren’t surprised. Her faith and worldview are outward looking and have served her well in appointments stretching from Chicago to Latvia.

With surprising swiftness, she was moved nearly a year and a half ago from leading the Kansas and Western Missouri Division to serving as assistant chief secretary for administration at International Headquarters (IHQ).

In her capacity, she spends her days ensconced in a modest office, with a peripheral view of St. Paul’s Cathedral, tending to the business of IHQ. Her job involves many meetings and administration, much of it coordinating work between IHQ departments, handling human resources for the headquarters, planning and coordinating international events, plus a dash of strategic planning which she looks forward to more in the future.

With her unique role and responsibilities she occasionally works with the Chief of the Staff and the General. For instance, she was charged with bringing to life their vision for the recent International Conference of Leaders in Los Angeles, Calif. In essence, she acted as project manager, handling planning, logistics and on-site support. This spring she will have a front-row seat to history in the making while assisting with arrangements for Lt. Colonel Evie Diaz with goddaughter, Abigail Evie, and family hiking in the Ashdown Forest.

The statement—compiled by the International Management and Social Issues Council (IMASIC), part of The Salvation Army’s International Social Justice Commission (ISJC)—includes context and theological grounds for the position as well as offering practical steps that can be taken to combat racism in personal lives, within The Salvation Army and in the wider society. "As we pray for God’s will to be done on earth as in Heaven," it says, "The Salvation Army will work towards a world where all people are accepted, loved and valued."

The ISJC website describes a positional statement as “an articulation, crafted with careful and prayerful thought, of the official viewpoint of The Salvation Army... [expressing] the scriptural and theological grounds for the statement and the underlying principles.” Each statement has to be reviewed and endorsed by The Salvation Army’s International Management Council before being approved by and published on behalf of the General. Once approved, an IPS is treated as the official viewpoint of The Salvation Army, meaning officers and others who represent The Salvation Army must speak consistently with the position.

The racism IPS includes strong words to acknowledge there have been failings in the past: “While many Salvationists have acted firmly and courageously against racism,” it says, “The Salvation Army acknowledges, with regret, that Salvationists have sometimes shared in the sins of racism and conforming to economic, organizational and social pressures that perpetuate racism. The Salvation Army is committed to fight against racism wherever it is experienced and will speak into societies around the world wherever we encounter it.”

These failings also are addressed in the practical suggestions to combat racism, such as: “Salvationists are expected to take personal action against racism motivated by their obedience to the example of Jesus and their respect of the image of God in every person” and “Salvationists are expected to seek to influence the attitudes of others by expressly rejecting racial stereotypes, slurs and jokes.”

Membership of IMASIC, established in 2008, is currently formed by seven women and eight men: 10 officers and five soldiers from 15 territories and commands. Dr. James Read (chair) and Lt. Colonel Dean Pallant (secretary) have been on the council since its beginning, along with Dr. Roland Steitler, corps sergeant-major at the Basel Corps in Switzerland. Commissioner Marie Wüllermeier (vice-chair) joined in 2017.

International Positional Statements can be downloaded at www.salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips
Seizing every opportunity

In the tiny Minnesota town of Brainerd, where poverty is prevalent and resources few, The Salvation Army is a beacon of light where children and teens thrive as they learn about the love of God, develop their social skills and participate in character-building programs and singing company.

“We use our social service programs as opportunities to invite kids to youth nights,” said Lt. Jaclyn Holloway, who along with her husband, Grant, leads the Brainerd, Minn., Corps.

Each week leaders pick up 40 children for Thursday evening programs. There’s a whirlwind of activity as Lt. Grant leads a combined devotional time for everyone before dinner is served. Then they split up into character-building classes, with sunbeams and explorers working together on completing complementary emblems, girl guards engrossed in study for their discovering emblems, and boy scouts occupied with service projects and emblems. Throughout the evening, leaders help children focus on listening and social skills to reinforce positive behaviors.

“It’s really a great group of kids, and we’re blessed to have them,” said Lt. Jaclyn, reflecting on how the boy scouts in particular enthusiastically help any way they can, whether clearing tables after dinner or cleaning up after crafts.

The lieutenants also have formed a singing company and held fundraising challenges for World Services/Self-Denial, both of which have been wildly popular.

Intentionally integrating ministry into every aspect of youth night, Lt. Grant teaches praise and worship songs kids might hear on a Sunday morning as part of singing company.

The lieutenants and leaders create and seize every opportunity to reach out to parents, scheduling singing company performances, a yearly Court of Awards for character-building and, in 2017, a Christmas program held on Christmas Eve.

“It was the perfect opportunity to get the kids to church and invite their parents,” Lt. Jaclyn concluded. “We weren’t going to pass it up.”

In the tiny Minnesota town of Brainerd, where poverty is prevalent and resources few, The Salvation Army is a beacon of light where children and teens thrive as they learn about the love of God, develop their social skills and participate in character-building programs and singing company.

“Banishing the winter blahs

Winter is in the air in Omaha, Neb., where The Salvation Army in partnership with Midtown Crossing, a vast complex comprised of seven buildings in the vibrant Midtown neighborhood, has come up with a unique way to increase holiday giving while offering fun for entire families.

The Rink on Farnam has transformed a section of Midtown into a winter wonderland, complete with an all-weather “synthetic ice” skating rink, bleachers, fire pits and food vendors.

“This is our answer to the ‘winter blahs’ — a family-friendly experience,” said Molly Skold, Midtown Crossing’s vice-president of marketing and communications. “The Rink on Farnam is pure fun that matches the energy, vibrancy and excitement that we’re seeing throughout Midtown. The best part? We’re touching the lives of the less fortunate in our community.”

The $5 donation collected upon entry goes directly to help the nearly 100,000 men, women and children served each year by The Salvation Army in the Omaha Metro area.

“The Salvation Army is honored to partner with Midtown Crossing in one of the most dynamic neighborhoods in Omaha,” said Major Greg Thompson, Western divisional commander. “We are thrilled this opportunity will offer Metro residents a greater awareness and understanding of the poverty issues that plague our community so that local residents, our nonprofit partners and The Salvation Army can work together to better meet the needs of the people we serve.”
A world full of opportunity

From the Philippines to Zambia and Hungary to locations right across America’s Midwest, more Salvation Army short-term mission opportunities are available than ever. It could be just what you’ve been seeking to expand your worldview, explore a new culture, deepen your faith and make a difference. Interested? Read on!

Summer Mission Teams (SMT)

Developed as a leadership training and service program for young adults (18-28), SMTs provide a life-enriching summer for those who are serious about their faith and passionate about sharing the gospel.

Whether conducting a vacation Bible school in Haiti, trekking through the mud to visit a remote village in Papua New Guinea, feeding underprivileged children lunch at a park in Milwaukee or presenting the Bible through drama at camp, SMT members encourage and assist fellow Salvationists in ministry. It’s life changing for the people they serve and themselves.

“I was out to change the world,” said Captain Erin Eddy of her SMT experience to Bolivia in 2004. “I went with a ‘fire in my bones’ to make their lives better, and in the end it was my life that was changed… The Bolivians taught me what Jesus and His love really means. Those moments and lessons have remained with me over the past 13 years and have changed my entire life.”

Many team members find direction, whether a course of study at college, a new position of service at their corps or even their calling. In fact, more than one third of all SMT members have committed their lives to full-time service, most with The Salvation Army since 2001.

Samantha Barnes reflected on how her 2015 SMT experience at the Detroit Harbor Light catapulted her faith into action. “Until this point I’d never really prayed with someone who needed it. I was always the one being prayed for,” she said. “Being on the other side, giving advice, asking questions and praying… it was outside of my comfort zone, but I was able to grow spiritually.”

Samantha now works as youth development coordinator in the Good Soil Initiative program at the Joliet, Ill., Corps. “I’ve always been a part of The Salvation Army, but SMT really gave me a clear idea of the path I wanted to take,” she said.

“SMT was an opportunity to see the strength and vibrancy of the international Salvation Army,” said Captain Valerie Carr, who led a team to Spain in 2003. “The summer was a great learning experience about the value of team work and the cross-cultural nature of the gospel message. That summer set me on a path in my officership that I never imagined; in 2008 God would bring me a family back as corps officers to the same corps where I had served on a SMT.”

Cadet Kenneth Jones shared of his 2012 SMT experience in Hungary: “One of the greatest joys came from a corps officer during an open-air ministry. There was a particular town hit by a tornado that was still recovering years later. During his altar call he got down on his knees in the dirt and began to pray with the people. I couldn’t understand him, but I could feel God’s presence. His humility in meeting people where they were inspired me to one day have that kind of incarnational ministry which I’m now pursuing.”

The SMT application deadline is February 21, 2018. Get details and submit an application at centralmissions.org/smt2018.

Global Mission Teams (GMT)

Global Mission Teams (GMT) present service-based opportunities for active people who want to use their skills for the Lord. In the process of labor-intensive mission, such as renovating corps and children’s homes, GMT members develop relationships with soldiers and officers and are inspired by their witness and dedication.

Members return home fulfilled in a job well done and knowing they’ve made a lasting impact on the communities where they served. Themes like joy regardless of circumstance, recapturing boldness for Christ, learning flexibility and reliance on God are often heard in their conversations.

“While in Kenya this is what I noticed—joy, lots of joy, a complete reliance on God by the people of Kenya and a passion for prayer,” said Jill Johnson, who was part of a GMT to Kenya in 2015. “There is real contentment with what they have. I am reminded daily as I get ready in the morning for work that I have it good, real good! I do not deserve it but thank God every day for the comforts I have and pray for those who do not.”
‘My time on a GMT was life-changing,’ reflected Lt. Vital Lee on his experience in Tanzania in 2017. ‘My first opportunity overseas, GMT provided for me an affirmation God is leading me into international service. To witness the sacrifice, passion and resilience of The Salvation Army gave me a new love for our Army and desire to follow God wherever He may lead.’

This year GMTs will serve in the Philippines, the Caribbean and a medical mission team to Moldova. For more information, visit: centralmissions.org/global-mission-teams.

Territorial Women’s Teams

The newest missions opportunity specifically empowers women to make a difference. Offered by the territorial women’s ministries department, a team of up to 10 women is deployed each year for 7-10 days specifically to minister to other women and children.

‘Since women’s ministries groups often have been the leaders and advocates in World Services/Self-Denial fundraising, we wanted to empower them and give them first-person experience so they could speak with knowledge and confidence to the needs overseas,’ said Sarah Micula, territorial women’s ministries department program specialist.

Teams have been sent to Kenya, Grenada, Uruguay, Alaska and, most recently, Moldova. Whether participating in women’s rallies or retreats, leading Bible studies or other activities, performing community outreach or taking on refurbishments such as painting corps, these experiences build the women’s faith and help them to share the difference giving makes.

The next women’s team opportunity will be in 2019 due to the territorial women’s ministries conference this fall.

Divisional and Corps Teams

Soldiers and officers sometimes have the additional opportunities of divisional and corps mission teams. While they vary in size, purpose and time commitment, the teams are all empowering partnerships. Locations are frequently a Partner in Mission which provides participants an opportunity to see their World Services/Self-Denial giving at work and to develop crucial relationships to help move the mission forward.

Often the teams are similar to GMTs in terms of projects undertaken but occasionally they have a very unique purpose. For instance, the Northern Division sent a 10-person team in 2012 to the Turks and Caicos to help advance the Army’s work when it was new to the islands.

Sometimes teams have a sole ministry focus such as music. Since 2007 the Chicago Mayfair Community Church [Corps] Band has been holding music schools at the Windsor Lodge Children’s Home in Jamaica. Nearly every year 10-12 bandmen participate, donating not only their time and talent but the instruments they take; while there, they hold vacation Bible school and take on a construction project. Last year the Kansas and Western Missouri Division sent a team to Bolivia to support that division’s music camp for 100 students, two of whom then attended Central Music Institute. The Western Division has made a three-year commitment of sending teams to conduct music camps and provide instruments to the Ecuador Division with the goal of establishing stronger musical forces.

This year the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps will again send a mission team to conduct a day camp for children in Freeport, Grand Bahamas, maintaining a 23-year tradition that has incorporated 158 corps members; 42 subsequently have participated on SMTs, and 10 have become officers. Even more importantly, dozens of Bahamian youth have accepted Jesus as their Savior.

‘We are especially blessed when we get to see so many campers from the past as adults with their own homes, jobs, families and church involvement who come to visit us and share the impact of their camp experience and relationships with team members,’ said youth leader Lisa Jordan.

Enthusiastic supporters of World Service/Self-Denial, the Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps also is sending a team this year to their Partner in Mission, the Kenya East Territory. Having ministered in the Bahamas several times, the corps is excited after seven years to finally participate again this way in the Army’s international mission. Corps officer Captain Catherine Mount concluded, “We always encourage our soldiers to pursue mission team opportunities, whether corps, GMTs or SMTs, when they arise so our congregation can have a connection to service around the world.”
Elizabeth drove aimlessly around the unfamiliar city feeling hopeless and alone. Recently released from jail, she was unemployed and homeless, couch surfing among the homes of friends and acquaintances in the area. With the clothes on her back, her only possessions and having lost custody of her two children, she wasn’t sure what to do next.

When she saw The Salvation Army shield outside the Green Bay, Wis., Corps, she recognized it as a place she could find help. She pulled into the parking lot, knowing if anyone could or would help her she would find them here.

Elizabeth Clark, lead case manager, introduced her to Pathway of Hope (POH). POH is a strengths-based and goal-setting case management approach that helps families break the cycle of crises and intergenerational poverty. Since starting Pathway of Hope in July 2017, Elizabeth has been working toward stability and reunification with her children. The two women created goals that guide Elizabeth’s efforts to get where she wants to be—healthy, stable and reunited with her children. They included finding employment and adequate housing and addressing her addiction and mental health challenges.

“The supportive services, guidance and resources Elizabeth [Clark] gives are beyond words,” said Elizabeth. “She digs in and fights with me. She challenges me and gives encouragement and constructive criticism.”

Elizabeth’s hard work is paying off. Since starting POH she has found a part-
time job, rented an apartment and accepted Salvation Army referrals to state and local agencies for healthcare, counseling, and alcohol and drug treatment. Her dedication to being reunited with her children is demonstrated in the fact that she’s never missed an appointment.

“She’s her own advocate and persists until she gets the answers she needs,” the case manager said. “She’s come a long way.”

Elizabeth concluded, “Pathway of Hope has renewed my soul and spirit. I have gained my confidence, faith and hope back.”

Note: POH enrollment requires a dependent under age 18 living with the parent. In situations where children aren’t in the household but are likely to be reunited with their parents within a year, the adult may enroll.

PATHWAY OF HOPE

Renewed hope

A life-size portable display has been created to introduce staff, members and visitors at Central Territory Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers to the history and multifaceted ministry of The Salvation Army. It is hoped the display not only will educate these audiences but spark individuals’ interest and lead to their engagement in the Army’s mission.

Created in tandem by the territorial Kroc department and the Central Territory historical museum, the display features 12 double-sided, interlocking panels which touch on different ministries from social services to camps to corps programs. Panels can be used free-standing individually, in segments or as a whole depending on the educational goal and available space.

“Our goal in creating these panels was to help promote the greater Army mission to the diverse groups of people who come into the Kroc Centers every day,” said Jonelle Bailey, territorial Kroc mission engagement manager. “Most people who come into the center only know a small component of what The Salvation Army does. These displays provide a window for them to glimpse what the Army can do.

The first Kroc centers to utilize the display are the Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center and the Quincy, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center.

In addition to Kroc Centers, the display will be available to corps or adult rehabilitation centers (ARCs) for use in educating people who come into their buildings, during special occasions or for outreach to their communities when set up in libraries or local businesses. Interested corps or ARCs may contact the museum at 847-294-2136 or uscmuseum@usc.salvationarmy.org.

TErritorial Social Services Conference

Make plans to join us

Mobilizing to serve the present age

March 20-22, 2018

Hyatt Regency Downtown

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Registration: uscmobilizing.org

Make Your Hotel Reservations Now!

Conference Rate Deadline February 19, 2018
aws.passkey.com/go/SALV2018
or Call: 1-888-421-1442
The song "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" has held significant meaning for me since my time in Bible college, but as a corporal it became my anthem. God’s faithfulness has been displayed over and over again in my time in Marion, Indiana.

Last summer I received a call on my way back from camp. My administrative assistant was on the other end of the line saying, "The food pantry workers said that there isn’t enough food for tomorrow. Should we close it?" I hate having to close our pantry, even just for a day.

Though a shipment of food was coming in two days, to close the pantry for even one is a difficult decision. We eventually restocked our pantry, but not without expense.

Fast-forward to that weekend when the local radio station was putting out on our fourth annual radiothon. I came in pushing for a $6,000 goal, which would have been more than we’d ever raised, while others conservatively expected only $5,000. For 12 hours we asked the community for their support, especially for our struggling food pantry. God was faithful! We ended the day with over $6,500—far exceeding expectations!

But God wasn’t done.

The next week, one of our office volunteers came to my door. "Lieutenant," she exclaimed, "a truck is on its way with 23 cases of frozen chicken for the pantry!" Praise the Lord! The chicken would stock our freezer and help us feed even more families. When the truck pulled in, the small crew we assembled to unload eagerly awaited, but there weren’t 23 cases of frozen chicken onboard. No, there were more than 60 cases of chicken—over 2,300 pounds! God was faithful! We quickly unloaded the truck and filled our walk-in freezer with the chicken the Lord had provided.

God is faithful! I was sweating over the pantry one week and rejoicing it was full the very next. Since then, God has continued to bless us. Some days I turn a corner and am surprised with another way He has provided. Being reminded of His faithfulness is what brings me joy in officership.

Officership is never easy, and life as a single officer isn’t any easier, but God reminds me of His faithfulness. He has everything under control.

By 2015, Jason had reached the end of himself. He was facing another six years in prison, but in a last-ditch effort, the judge agreed to allow him to enter the ARC.

"I got down on my knees and surrendered to God," he said. "I was ready and willing to do whatever it took." Jason took the program seriously and worked hard. He prayed, read the Bible and developed friendships.

"God took away my obsession for drugs," said Jason, who graduated from the program in February 2016. "He’s been giving me an abundance of life ever since."

Today, Jason works as a truck dispatcher for the Minneapolis ARC’s nine area stores. When he isn’t at work, he mentors men enrolled at the ARC. In addition, he talks with his own sponsor every day.

"Two years ago, I never imagined I’d be living a normal life, saving money, taking care of my credit," Jason said. "The Salvation Army saved my life. They gave me the opportunity to find out what Christ has in store for me, and they’ve given me the resources I need to live a sober, happy life."
Kamaria Gage, a soldier at the St. Louis, Mo., Temple Corps, is trusting the Lord to guide her path. Since graduating from Saint Louis University in May 2017, she’s had some big life decisions to make. Yet God has given Kamaria peace.

In the fall of 2013, everything had fallen into place for Kamaria to attend her first choice of universities. She was awarded a Paul and Kay Rader scholarship and was accepted into the elite Micah program, a campus community where faith, social justice and service are central to the college experience. An academic all-star who had served on a Central Territory summer mission team to Hungary the previous summer.

Going with God’s flow

Kamaria saw God’s hand in bringing her to Saint Louis. At the time, the Temple Corps was led by Captains Steve and Ketsia Diaz. Kamaria began attending and immediately felt welcomed into the corps family.

“I love that The Salvation Army is everywhere. They were my family away from family,” said Kamaria, who was originally from Springfield, Ill.

Testimony in service

For the Jacksonville, Ill., Corps community care ministry (CCM) team, building relationships is key to making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

“Community care can mean an abundance of things,” said Major Katie Pinkston, corps officer, adding that her team gives countless hours to volunteering in the food pantry at the corps’ feeding program and through visits to nursing homes and rehabilitation centers.

During the holidays they go into overdrive, helping with Angel Tree signups and even volunteering to ring bells at outdoor kettle locations on the coldest days of the year.

“It’s just amazing to me that they are willing to do that!” said the major, who is grateful their dedication extends beyond the warmth of the corps building.

In the last year, the 15 members of the CCM team have started to break out of their shells, evangelizing as they engage in their volunteer activities. They’ve begun to share the gospel with visitors to the corps social service office and invite them to Sunday worship and corps programs, following through with the invitation by providing transportation if it is needed. In addition to serving meals at the corps’ feeding program, they sit among the guests and visit with them. Instead of only handing out food bags on pantry days, they offer to pray with recipients.

The major praises the Lord for the boldness He’s given the team in evangelism. People who once shied away from sharing their testimony of faith are now confident in it.

“These times have become true relationship building ministries instead of just social service programs,” concluded Major Katie. “Evangelism started coming naturally to the team as they realized that just being there is a testimony. It’s the little things that make a difference.”

“I especially leaned on Philippians 4:6,” Kamaria recalled. “It’s about not being anxious but letting God take care of you.”

There are still decisions to be made, but for now Kamaria is content in knowing God has brought her to where she is today and will guide her future path. She continues to be involved at the Temple Corps, now led by Captain Dale and Major Rebecca Simmons, where Kamaria enjoys leading a Wednesday evening ‘beats’ class for youth, teaching them to play percussion instruments, participating in Sunday services and volunteering in the food pantry.

Kamaria concluded, “I’m learning to go with the flow and let the Lord lead me in what He wants for me.”

YOUTH FROM THE CORPS JOIN THE ADULT CCM TEAM FOR A SERVICE PROJECT.
The Salvation Army’s domestic violence shelter in Indiana began spearheading these potentially life-saving partnerships on behalf of the Eastern Michigan and Wisconsin/Upper Michigan divisions in 1983 through a partnership with Consumers Energy, which had asked The Salvation Army to administer its new ‘PeopleCare’ short-term emergency aid program. Serving most of Michigan’s counties, the program is funded by the company’s customers, employees, retirees and charitable foundation.

With the divisions determining eligibility and aid needed, PeopleCare has distributed more than $52 million in assistance to over 340,000 Michigan families in the last 35 years. In 2000, The Salvation Army partnered with the Michigan Agency of Energy to cover the state’s remaining counties including those in the Upper Peninsula. These relationships laid the foundation for subsequent partnerships with other companies, such as DTE Energy and Michigan Gas Utilities, which has allowed the Army to offer case management services, full payment assistance and company subsidy enrollments through its Energy Assistance Services program.

By Samantha Hyde

Rachel holds up a photo of her son, his freckled face grinning. She sees him for the blessing he is, the son whose life she gave up everything to save. Six years ago Rachel boarded an airplane with a baby, $75, a few suitcases and a ticket to a state she’d never visited. Leaving behind her native California, she sought a new life without fear, a way to move beyond tragedies of her past.

Years before, Rachel had survived a vicious attack by her ex-husband, only to awaken in a hospital to the news he had murdered her mother and three young daughters before taking his own life. She was alone and wracked with guilt, and her life spiraled out of control. Eventually, she pulled herself together and promised herself she’d never again be a victim. She fell in love with a soldier, remarried and gave birth to a son. But when her husband returned from a tour overseas showing signs of post-traumatic stress disorder, her new life began to unravel.

“I knew the signs,” Rachel recalled. “This time I didn’t want my child to be buried.” She fled to police custody and found her way to a local shelter, where an employee told her about The Salvation Army’s domestic violence shelter in Indianapolis. Leaving behind California for good, Rachel headed to Indiana and the welcoming arms of the staff at the Ruth Lilly Women & Children’s Center.

“It was scary and humiliating because I was used to having my own home, a really good job, my own car,” she explained. “Even the weather was really difficult to deal with at first. But they were nice, and they helped me get into every single program possible. They gave me a safe place to stay, security and stability.”

Rachel spent a year in the shelter, finding assistance and employment, getting counseling and rebuilding her life. The experience was humbling, but the support network at the center made sure Rachel knew she was loved and worthy of that love. Today Rachel is back in a home of her own and working full-time while earning a college degree with a focus in domestic violence issues. Her son continues to receive counseling, but the passage of time is healing them both.

The Salvation Army helped me so very much,” Rachel adds. “I want to help women in my situation get out or get help. You can make it. It takes a little struggle, but after the struggle, it’s nice to see your kids happy and not worrying about what bad thing might happen today. I buried my children because I didn’t have enough guts to get up and leave. I pray that I’ve been through it’s nice to see your kids happy and not worrying about what bad thing might happen today. I buried my children because I didn’t have enough guts to get up and leave. I pray that I’ve been through enough that I can make better choices. You don’t have to be a victim. You can rise up and show your kids that you can do this.”

March Prayer Calendar

Pray for The Salvation Army

My Prayer List

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Bible Reading</th>
<th>Pray for The Salvation Army</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Thursday</td>
<td>Job 17-18</td>
<td>Oak Creek Centennial, Wls., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Friday</td>
<td>Isaiah 45:50</td>
<td>World Day of Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Saturday</td>
<td>Matthew 23-25</td>
<td>Southeast Michigan ARC*</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Sunday</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 1-2</td>
<td>Port Huron, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Monday</td>
<td>Genesis 36-39</td>
<td>Biblical Education Tour to Israel</td>
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<td>6 Tuesday</td>
<td>Ruth</td>
<td>Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Wednesday</td>
<td>Psalms 27-29</td>
<td>New Albany, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Thursday</td>
<td>Job 19-20</td>
<td>Western Michigan &amp; Northern Indiana DHU*</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Friday</td>
<td>Isaiah 51-55</td>
<td>St. Joseph, Mo., Corps</td>
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<td>10 Saturday</td>
<td>Matthew 26-28</td>
<td>Joilet, Il., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Sunday</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 3-4</td>
<td>Junior Soldier Enrollment &amp; Retirement Sunday</td>
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<td>12 Monday</td>
<td>Genesis 40-43</td>
<td>St. Louis Excel Ave., Mo., Corps</td>
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<td>13 Tuesday</td>
<td>1 Samuel 1-6</td>
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<td>16 Friday</td>
<td>Isaiah 56-61</td>
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<td>Mark 1-2</td>
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<td>18 Sunday</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 5-6</td>
<td>Royal Oak, Mich., Corps</td>
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<td>19 Monday</td>
<td>Genesis 44-47</td>
<td>Territorial Social Services Conference</td>
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<td>20 Tuesday</td>
<td>1 Samuel 6-10</td>
<td>Springfield Creek Lake, Ill., Corps</td>
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<td>21 Wednesday</td>
<td>Psalms 33-35</td>
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<td>22 Thursday</td>
<td>Job 23-24</td>
<td>Norridge Citadel, Il., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Friday</td>
<td>Isaiah 62-66</td>
<td>St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Saturday</td>
<td>Mark 3-4</td>
<td>Major Jenneth &amp; Rachel Stouer (England)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Sunday</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 7-8</td>
<td>Annual Day of Prayer for Children</td>
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<td>26 Monday</td>
<td>Genesis 48-50</td>
<td>Rochester, Minn., Corps</td>
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<td>27 Tuesday</td>
<td>1 Samuel 11-15</td>
<td>St. Joseph North Side, N., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Wednesday</td>
<td>Psalms 36-38</td>
<td>Miles, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Thursday</td>
<td>Job 25-26</td>
<td>Quincy, Il., Kris Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Friday</td>
<td>Jeremiah 1-6</td>
<td>Reflect on Christ’s sacrifice for us daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Monday</td>
<td>Mark 5-6</td>
<td>Racine, Wls., Corps</td>
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Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

---Mustard Seeds---

Alexa...let God know that I'm running a bit late and I won't have time for my daily devotions...

I had no idea that intelligent personal assistant technology has advanced to this level...
Service recognized

The Salvation Army of the Black Hills held its first Department of Corrections (DOC) appreciation Sunday at the Rapid City, S.D., Corps. Major Robert Gauthier, territorial correctional services director, led the service while men from the DOC program participated by lighting the advent candle and giving testimonies.

After the service a luncheon was held honoring the dedicated service of inmates who work at Salvation Army facilities through the DOC’s work-release program. Throughout the year inmates perform tasks such as receiving donations, loading and unloading trucks, sorting goods and stocking shelves. They also work on seasonal projects such as the float for an annual parade event and Christmas basket distribution.

“The men are a valuable work force and have become part of our ministry and extended family,” said Major Nathan Johnson, Black Hills area coordinator.

The DOC program has provided the opportunity for The Salvation Army to minister to inmates on a deep level, building meaningful, life-changing relationships. The men are visited regularly, encouraged and thanked for their service. They are offered a listening ear and prayer support for any concerns they are facing.

The ministry flows both ways. “Last year when I was hospitalized, the men who meet in the prison for prayer were bringing me before the throne of grace to request healing and a speedy recovery,” said the major. “A prayer I am grateful was answered.”

Promoted to Glory

Major Carol Bicknell

Major Carol Bicknell was promoted to Glory on November 27, 2017. She was 57 years old.

Carol’s last appointment was as the administrative director of Booth Manor in Minneapolis, Minn., a position she loved given the many opportunities she had to plan activities and build relationships with the older adults who are residents.

Commissioned in 1993 with the “Heralds of Jesus” session, she served 22 years in corps appointments throughout the territory in both rural and urban settings. In addition to corps appointments, she served as the social services chaplain for the Milwaukee City Command. Two years as community care ministries secretary at Northern Divisional Headquarters immediately preceded her appointment to Booth Manor.

Throughout her ministry, Carol was known for her passionate witness and desire to bring others into a deeper knowledge of God through Bible study, not only in small groups but also one-on-one. She enjoyed engaging with all kinds of people as she served on the front lines of mission and ministry.

She is survived by her brother, Eric, and sister, Lori. She will be fondly remembered not only as an authentic follower of Christ, but as a friend of animals, including her beloved cat, Rory, and an avid Detroit Tigers fan.

Assisting without reservation

Compounding an already existing shortage of housing in Pine Ridge, an Oglala Lakota Native American reservation in South Dakota, a series of disasters, including straight-line winds, tornadoes, hailstorms and floods, severely damaged or destroyed hundreds of homes over the last few years.

Within the last year tribal leadership allowed select groups onto the reservation to begin rebuilding homes. In order to help this greatly underserved population, The Salvation Army has partnered with Mennonite disaster services to build a number of homes on the reservation. The three-bedroom, one-bath homes are a blessing for families who’ve had to live in their cars or damaged, tarp-covered houses and trailers during South Dakota’s brutal winters, breeding summers and wet springs and falls.

Salvation Army funding covered the costs for three of the five houses and seven storm shelters built this year. Under the management of accomplished Mennonite builders, teams of volunteers representing all ages, both genders and many walks of life participated in the construction. Additional funding came from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, Lutheran Disaster Response and the Pine Ridge Long Term Recovery Committee. The storm shelters will be converted to housing in the future.

A number of agencies also have collaborated with the tribe to develop expertise and expand capacity for strategic management, mitigation and emergency planning and operations. This has enhanced the tribe’s ability to compete for funding from government, non-profit and private-sector programs and allows it to become better prepared in its response to and recovery from future disasters.

Creativity abounds

Continued from page 1

“We have an advisory council member who has taught life skills courses that are open to the public,” Lt. Brandon added. “This makes space will be a part of that, as well. It will provide another tool for them to use for creating budgets and helping people find jobs and submit resumes.”

The Seven I Am Sayings of Jesus

In the Gospel of John we find seven things Jesus said about Himself that connects Him to God—the “Great I Am” of the Old Testament.

Through readings, dramas, music and sermons each week during Lent, this worship series will help worshippers know God more.

See your corps officer for more information.