



Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory
News and Views from the Midwest

"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

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Springfield ministries flourish despite pandemic

Despite the ongoing challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic, Salvation Army ministries in Springfield, Mo., are remarkably healthy. From their two homeless shelters and noonday feeding program to corps programs and social services, Major Jon Augenstein, corps officer, reports excellent staff, hard work and a willingness to be flexible and adaptable ensures the mission continues to move forward and meet critical needs.

"The dedication and passion of the staff is really why the Army here has been able to flourish in this pandemic," he said. "It's a well-running Army that understands and is living the mission. It's truly a blessing."

Maintaining a full range of services requires ongoing adjustments, but the staff remains passionate and committed to their purpose of being a beacon of hope for those they serve.

"What's really motivated me is knowing the difference it makes to have someone reach out and say we're here for you, we care about you," said Jamie Millikin, case manager at the Harbor House men's shelter. "It brings hope to people. If we don't care, no one else is going to care, no one is going to reach out and give them dignity and hope. We are here to be a place of safety and shelter."

Family Haven also has continued to offer a safe place for families and individuals to stay while they work toward finding a stable income and housing. Unique to these facilities are grant-funded "respite beds"

which provide homeless individuals being discharged from the hospital a safe and sanitary place to fully recover, at which point they can move forward in the program with the help of a case manager.

Front Line Feeding, a daily lunch program which serves meals to the Harbor House residents and other homeless in the area, now distributes boxed meals outside the facility since they can no longer safely accommodate everyone in the dining room.

"If people need help, we're going to figure out how to help them, virus or not," said Bryon Brown, Harbor House director. "We might not be able to get people out of the weather to eat lunch, but at least we can still give them a meal and ask how they're doing."

Emergency social services assistance, the corps food pantry and a weekday seniors' luncheon have carried on with the use of social distancing and masks. Corps staff have adjusted several times to meet the need in the safest and most practical ways possible.

For example, the food pantry transitioned to a drive-thru with prepacked food boxes in the initial stages of the pandemic but has returned to an indoor grocery store model, requiring health checks, masks and social distancing, to allow clients to choose food items their families will most enjoy.

Harbor House staff deliver sack lunches to the homeless.

During the early days of the pandemic Springfield community leaders asked the corps to expand their afterschool program into a day camp for the children of essential workers as schools and daycare centers closed down. In response the community center staff created a full day program with time and space set aside for online learning. When schools resumed using a hybrid model in the fall, they used grant money to hire college students to provide educational support and tutoring, which has led to strong relationships with schools and teachers as children thrive despite not being physically in the classroom every day. Although the program

Photos by Jeffrey Smith



Volunteers load groceries in drive-thru pantry.



A young student plays an educational game during day camp.

Ferguson Community Empowerment Center:

a place for resources and hope See pages 6-7



Youth Development Specialist Landon King with a child at the center



Major Vicki Buttrey accepts a food donation from Convoy of Hope.

has had a couple of short breaks in service when staff members tested positive for the virus, thanks to early and continued use of safety protocols they have not experienced any outbreaks and have been able to reopen.

In addition to their ongoing services to the community, the corps has remained open for worship in person and online, with Sunday school, Bible studies and youth programs resuming last fall. Corps members happily welcome visitors from the shelters who often choose to attend when they learn of the many opportunities for worship, growth and community offered by the corps.

Major Jon concluded, "We are grateful for the incredible support of this community that allows us to run a breadth of programs."

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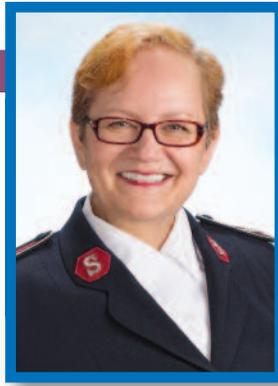
Treating every day like Valentine's

by Lt. Colonel Vicki Amick
Territorial Secretary for Retired Officers

What plans do you have to celebrate Valentine's Day? It might look different this year due to the lingering pandemic, but the answer also depends on your age. If you're a child, it probably will involve making Valentine cards



for your classmates. If you're a teenager... well, I have no idea. If you're an adult, it might usually fea-



ture a meal out with your sweetheart and possibly flowers, chocolates and a love note from your valentine.

Whenever I think about Valentine's Day, I find myself smiling. Who doesn't enjoy cards, flowers

and chocolate, but the most importantly, love? We love "love." But what exactly is it?

The Bible tells us "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a, NIV)

That is quite a list. When I read it, I find myself sometimes lacking these attributes. I can't say that I am always patient, never angered or that I keep no record of wrongs. To love well, I believe we need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us—every day!

I enjoy a song called, "Love God, love people." Its refrain goes: "We have to love God to love people." To love others is not easy, and although we're well-meaning we fall short if we don't love others through the power of the Holy Spirit. However, if we call on God to share His love with others through us then it is possible because we don't do it in our own strength.

What if we decided to show love not just one day of the year but every day? We can by:

- Mending a quarrel
- Writing a note or sending a card
- Forgiving someone
- Keeping our promises
- Listening intently
- Apologizing
- Encouraging others

Think about how you can show God's love. The list is seemingly endless.

Let's make Valentine's Day last all year long by loving God and loving others.

Choosing God's path

Standing alone outside a cabin on Lake Huron and gazing up at the universe of stars, Major Keith Bailey felt a stirring in his heart. He will never forget it. It was the summer of 1979.

"I felt God ask me, 'Do you want to build cars, or do you want to build people?'" Keith knew the answer, but it would be a few years before God brought this calling to fruition. Keith's wife, Colette, needed to be on board.

"I was sure Keith had lost his mind," Major Colette laughed. "He didn't understand what it really means to be an officer."

Colette, a lifelong Salvationist whose parents served in local officer positions at the Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps, was content being a soldier and lay leader. She simply didn't feel called to fulltime ministry.

For the next few years, the Baileys continued to be involved at the corps while Keith worked for General Motors and Colette taught preschool. Then, on Candidates' Sunday in 1980, Colette, too, became convinced of her calling.

Though they'd both grown up in Flint, they had very different up-bringsings. While Colette had accepted Christ at her mother's knee as a young child and grew up in-



involved in corps programs, Keith was raised going to a Catholic church and had a somewhat troubled youth. He attended mass and served as an altar boy, but it wasn't until he met Colette in college and started attending the corps that he took a hard look at spiritual matters.

"I would go to mass on Sunday morning and the corps in the evening," he said. "During a salva-

tion meeting in the summer of 1975 Major Herb Luhn preached on John 3:16, and a lightbulb came on. I went home that night and asked Jesus to be my Savior."

At 20, Keith was the oldest person in the recruits class, but he was proud to become a soldier.

"I absolutely fell in love with The Salvation Army," he said. "I read everything about its history I could find in the corps library."

The Baileys entered officer training in 1983 and began a life of ministry and service, raising three children, leading corps and investing in people along the way. After 35 years of service, they are thankful they chose the path God laid out for them.

"I would absolutely do it all again," concluded Major Colette. "Is it hard? Yes, sometimes it is. But when the Lord calls you to do something, you do it, and He will help you persevere."

Editor's note: The Baileys will retire this July.

Windows on Easter 2021 Lenten Resources

The "Windows on Easter" Lenten worship series provides a fresh perspective on the Easter story by looking through the "windows" of people who were there.

The seven-week series includes sermons written by Captain Karen Holness for the five Lenten Sundays, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter services. Available in English and Spanish, the series includes music options, dramas, readings, videos and other resources.

Online: samusiccentral.org/lent-2021

Video components at: wsvr.viscomapps.com

See your corps officer for more details.



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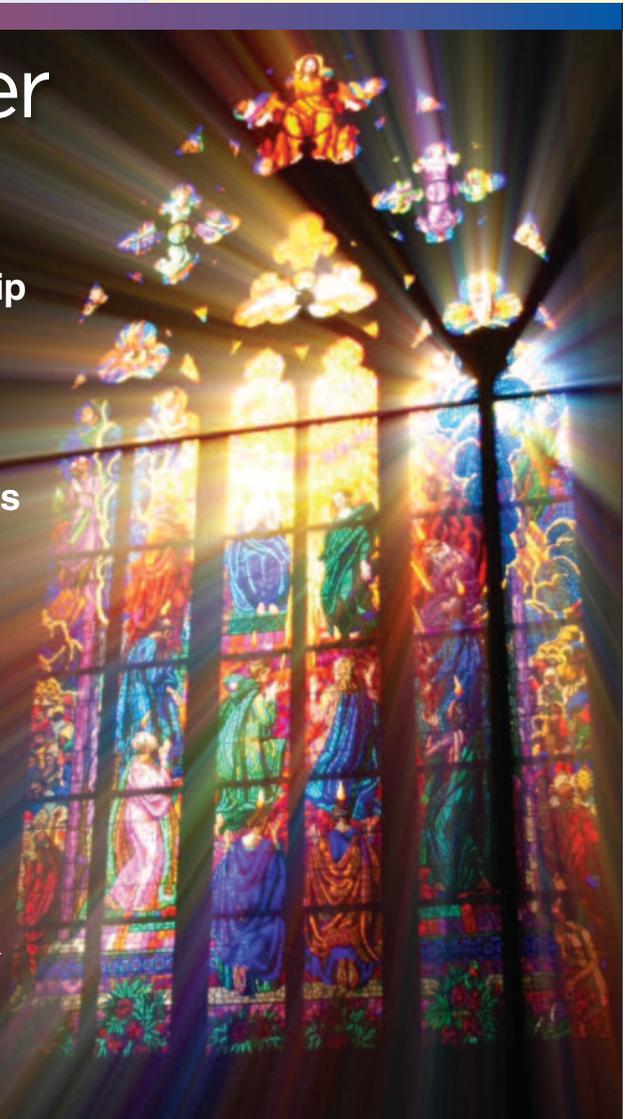
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E-learning centers buoy youth and families

by Captain Denesia Polusca

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” This iconic phrase from Charles Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities* resonates deeply. As the beginning of a new decade, 2020 especially began with promise. Here in the Kansas and Western Missouri (KWM) Division, we had great hopes to revitalize youth ministry and increase summer camp attendance which has declined in the last five years.



However, our well-laid plans were disrupted by COVID-19. Instead of summer camp at Three Trails Camp we hosted a shelter for homeless individuals exposed to COVID-19. Youth ministry was confined to screens, drive-by visits and new efforts coined “_ in a box.” The innovation and resilience demonstrated by officers and staff has been amazing.

Here in KWM, we hold to the promise of Ephesians 3:17, believing *God can and will do more!* As last summer ended, we recognized school would look different; families began to utilize terms like hybrid, virtual and in-person modes. The challenges working parents faced spurred us to find solutions, resulting in a ministry of E-learning centers that have been supporting approximately 300 children and their families.

A Time to Thrive

Carrie Dixon, Three Trails marketing and guest relations director, knew camp could offer assistance to its Independence, Mo., community. A desire to help middle and high school students flourish gave birth to Thrive Camp. On the week they are in virtual learning mode, 50 youth come to Three Trails Camp and receive assistance from Thrive staffers in a safe space conducive to learning; the camp can scale up to host up to 100 as needed. Thrive campers

say it’s been helpful, enjoyable and better than being at home. Just as impressive, their grades have improved!

“We knew that we needed to use camp to meet the needs of our community. We began looking for ways that we could fulfill our mission outside the summer camp box,” Carrie explained. “Thrive Camp came from that intentional decision to find ways to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our community kids. We are so blessed to come alongside middle and high school students to take away the stress of virtual learning. We are watching them thrive!”

A Time to Collaborate

The Kansas City Eastside, Mo., Corps, led by Major Janice Love, has developed a wonderful partnership with Global FC, a non-profit which focuses on helping immigrant families transition to American life. The organization’s three major goals are English as a second language, mentoring and soccer which acts like a glue to hold the three together. Many immigrant families they work with are first-generation refugees which often means families come from situations where education was interrupted or non-existent. When in-person education wasn’t possible at public schools, the organization had no where to provide afterschool tutoring even though it was needed more than ever.



The Eastside Corps’ partnership with them means this vital service has continued. Global FC now tutors 90 children at the corps. Ciella Mupda, a Van Horn High School sophomore and volunteer, said she’s gained valuable experience as she’s observed children flourishing from the provision of a safe space to



learn, grow and engage in community. Eastside Corps soldiers also have embraced the opportunity to support the E-learning center, and some volunteer daily like Barbara Zumwalt, who says she wants to demonstrate the love of Christ.

A Time for Expansion

Subsequently, the Kansas City Westport Temple Corps and Northland Corps began working with their school districts to offer E-learning centers to families. Each location can serve up to 20 children.

According to Major Jim Mungai, Northland corps officer, their focus is on serving middle school students who meet in the large fellowship hall which has a dedicated WiFi network to better enable virtual learning and homework. Each student has a designated area which they are free to decorate. Throughout the day learning alternates with lunch and breaks like foosball—all sanitized—are available. They plan to extend recreation options to the large gymnasium and even offer indoor archery. Families have heard of this opportunity through fliers distributed by the school district, and the E-learning center is underwritten by the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act.

The Wichita, Kan., Command also began collaborating in November with schools to provide a safe place for E-learning for up to 120 children at the Citadel and West Orchard Corps and Hiawatha Camp and Retreat Center. According to Major Jim Curl, Wichita area commander, the SAL-Centers (Salvation Army Learning Centers) are patterned after those in Kansas City and serve middle school students doing hybrid learning. After tremendous job losses in the county, this new service is filling a

gap for parents who have been able to find desperately needed employment. Site monitors help youth stay engaged in virtual learning and focused on their schoolwork. The command is planning to expand the service at corps into summer day camps, in conjunction with Hiawatha which features extensive outdoor space, recreation equipment and venues, which then could roll back into learning and other programs at the corps.

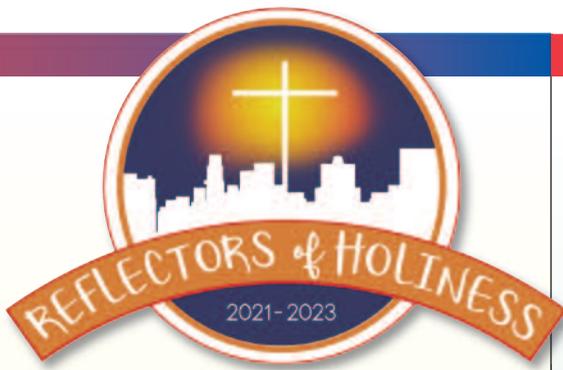


A Time to Believe

In KWM, we believe God can and will do more and are witnessing this truth. Ministry last year certainly did not unfold the way we had imagined or planned, but God never stops working on our behalf. Our goals of increasing youth ministry in corps and awareness and utilization of Three Trails Camp were fulfilled in unexpected ways with new opportunities, ministries and collaborations that have extended our reach. As a Sunday school chorus simply puts it, “My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there’s nothing my God cannot do.”



Newly accepted candidate



Jimmy Prichard

First-generation Salvationist

Lansing Citadel, Mich., Corps ♦ Western Michigan/
Northern Indiana Division

Majors Jim and Pat Irvine, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Administration ♦ Leadership ♦ Serving

Ministry Passion or Experience

Children/Youth ♦ Worship

Spiritual mentors

Major Bill Spyker ♦ Major Alan Hellstrom

730... AND BEYOND



2,055 days and counting

by Lt. Abraham Marin

Sometimes it can be complicated to see something positive when everything seems stressful and filled with darkness and uncertainty. Even so, as corps officers of the East Chicago, Ind., Corps for the last five years, my wife and I believe 2020 was one of the most fruitful years in our ministry, spiritually speaking.

Yes, you didn't read me wrong. I am talking about 2020. Yes, I am talking about the year we faced one of the worst pandemics in history. Yes, the year when our imagination and creativity levels were, and still pretty much are, gone. But this is the interesting and beautiful way God works in our lives and our officership.

I am optimistic because in the midst of all the negativity that surrounds us, I read in Romans 12:11-12 (NIV): "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." This is the way to confront our present ministry in the middle of crisis.

Last summer during a class I was taking, a teacher said, "Every crisis is an opportunity." He was right. Our pastoral ministry has been re-



talized in the middle of this crisis. The connections and bonds we have created with our corps and community have grown exponentially during the pandemic. Our in-person worship service has three new people coming faithfully, and we are in direct communication with more than 80 people who come for a plate of food in our daily lunch program.

Even though there will be times in our ministry as officers when everything seems dark and full of uncertainty, with many responsibilities in different areas of our lives, we have to keep in mind that God never makes a mistake in our calling. God is there with us. And we must remember always to "be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

A ministry of presence

by Michelle DeRusha

The Salvation Army is often associated with emergency disaster relief. Distributing food, water and supplies to first responders and survivors in the wake of disasters is an important part of the Army's mission. We don't always see behind the scenes where Salvation Army officers, and others who are certified, often serve in a quieter but no less important role of providing emotional and spiritual care (ESC).

Such was the case following the tragic shooting at the Sonic Drive-In in Bellevue, Neb., on November 21, 2020. In addition to dispatching a canteen unit to provide food and hydration to first responders overnight at the scene, Omaha, Neb., Ray and

Joan Kroc Corps Community Center A/Captain John Gantner, who also serves as volunteer chaplain for the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office, provided emotional and spiritual care to those impacted by the shooting.

"It's a ministry of presence," said A/Captain John. "We pray, if that's something that's requested, but we are also just there to be with them and offer comfort in those hard moments."

A/Captain John sat in the waiting room at the University of Nebraska Medical Center with two families while their loved ones who were shot in the incident were in surgery. The following evening at a community vigil, he offered prayers to the

crowd of approximately 100 mourners who gathered to remember the two Sonic employees who lost their lives and to pray for the two survivors still recovering in the hospital.

"It's heartbreaking," he said. "But the families are strong, and as we saw during the flooding in 2019, the Bellevue community is strong. We are here to stand alongside them as they walk through this tragedy."

The Kroc Center also held a remembrance service for shooting victim Nathan Pastrana. Approximately 100 mourners, including friends, coworkers and Nathan's mother and stepfather, attended the service. "It was a time for



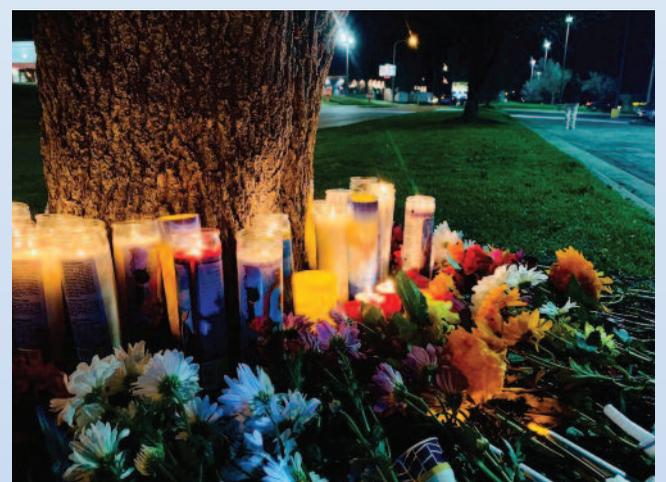
Photos by Granny Gantner

those who knew and loved Nathan to gather together to talk, to cry, to laugh and to find comfort among one another," said A/Captain John.

The Kroc Center's officers and staff will be available as the community continues to grieve.

"The Salvation Army's purpose is to meet human needs in Jesus' name, and that very much includes emotional and spiritual needs," the captain concluded. "We

walk alongside people in their pain, and in doing that, we share the presence and love of Christ. That's always at the heart of what we do."



Revolutionizing youth ministry

by Captain Chrissy Cooper

Youth ministry is challenging at the best of times. Maintaining relevance in the lives of young people who are inundated with secular world-views and information coming from all sides (or should I say screens?) is a constant battle. Throw in a worldwide pandemic that limits in-person contact, and you have a recipe for disaster.

In Eastern Michigan, we have dedicated ourselves to finding revolutionary ways of reaching youth for Christ. The world might be in turmoil, but our mission to preach the Good News has not changed. It has taken creativity, flexibility and a whole lot of faith to move forward, but God has blessed our efforts and we are encouraged by what we've been able to accomplish in the face of ongoing change and uncertainty.

When the pandemic struck, our first challenge was summer camps. While the regular camping season was canceled, we were able to hold three residential camps following strict safety protocols including requiring a negative coronavirus test result from every camper and leader.



Captains Jonathan and Chrissy Cooper get messy during their virtual youth councils.

Each camp was limited to 20 students and 10 staff members, but we were thrilled to hold senior and junior music conservatories followed by a youth evangelism and discipleship camp called "Lead the Cause."

"I love that students were able to still come together, learning, praying, playing and sharing with each other," said Mike Mowers, young adult and youth specialist.

With the pandemic in full swing, in late October we held a virtual

youth councils that was attended by more than 250 delegates. In the week leading up to it, each student received a box in the mail with everything they needed to participate: a t-shirt, personalized notebook, gum, fidget spinner, pen and devotional book.

Corps held socially distanced watch parties for live meetings, and videos were uploaded to the Eastern Michigan Youth Department YouTube page for later viewing.

Officers were creative in making our virtual youth councils feel like the real thing. For example, Major Heidi Reed, Wyandotte Downriver, Mich., corps officer, posted videos and pictures of her teens enjoying video games and basketball on our Facebook page with the caption "Youth councils is not really youth councils without an afterglow!"

With no end to the pandemic in sight, in January we held a virtual youth leader weekend for 100 delegates with guest speaker Tom Shefchunas, executive director of Youth



Delegates from the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps take a break between youth councils sessions.

Specialties, to equip and encourage officers, employees and lay leaders in their ministry.

"The theme 'Revolution' addressed how youth leaders can adapt to the rapidly changing climate of the pandemic to keep reaching young people," said Captain Jonathan Cooper.

While 2020 was different than any other year and 2021 won't be the norm, we are so thankful for technology and new ways to reach people for Christ. As we press on through these challenging months, we are confident God will continue to bless us with opportunities, ideas and methods for spreading His Word in a world that needs Him.

College changes everything

Christian Johnson, a sophomore majoring in business intelligence and analytics at Concordia University Chicago, has ambitions of opening his own marketing firm someday. He's grateful for the Rader Scholarship which has made it possible for him to focus more time and energy on his studies.

"I didn't have to worry about working," he said. "I was able to spend my time doing class work."

Christian doesn't remember a time when The Salvation Army wasn't a part of his life. Even as a young boy he was involved in corps worship services, programs and activities. First attending the Macomb, Ill., Corps and then others as his parents served as envoys, Christian's faith was shaped by character-building programs, junior soldier classes and corps cadet lessons. He accepted Christ as his Savior while attending music camp.

As a young adult Christian began to create and present the audio-visual elements of Sunday services, running the sound board and slide shows during worship. He also vol-



Christian Johnson with his parents

unteered to help with Christmas fundraising and assistance efforts such as organizing, sorting and packaging toys for Angel Tree.

Although the pandemic has changed a lot of things, it hasn't stopped Christian from attending the Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps through online worship services or in person when he can in order to continue growing in his faith.

"I'm working on my improv and problem-solving skills. Nothing has been going to plan this [past] year," he concluded. "God is teaching me to trust Him."

Set your sights on the Rader Scholarship



Going to college? Need financial aid?

Qualified Salvationist minority students attending accredited Christian colleges may be eligible for scholarships of up to \$5,000 per year.

If you are or know a Central Territory college student who may benefit, contact your divisional youth secretary.

Endorsements must be obtained by your corps then divisional youth secretary for territorial review and approval, so don't delay for the 2021/22 school year!

Application deadline: May 15, 2021.

For more information contact Rob.DeGeorge@usc.salvationarmy.org or visit salarmycentral.org/ord/student-aid

Latest Rader Scholarship Recipients

Each year five outstanding minority Salvationists are awarded a Paul and Kay Rader Scholarship. These young adults have shown leadership in their corps and communities. We congratulate the most recent recipients.

Dakota Williams	Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps
AshLee Grant	St. Louis Maplewood, Mo., Corps
Alberto Rapley	Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps
Alexia Brown	Emporia, Kan., Corps
Christian Johnson	Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps

Ferguson Community Empowerment Center: a place for resources

by Sara Johnson

Moving into Ferguson, Mo., The Salvation Army has had the privilege to come alongside the community to work with and through partners for healing and restoration. Partnering with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis in response to the racial inequity and distress, The Salvation Army built the Ferguson Community Empowerment Center (FCEC) on the site of the QuikTrip that was burned down after the death of Michael Brown six years ago.

The approach to this new ministry has been intentionally paced, leaning heavily on findings from a needs assessment study and collaboration with residents, leaders and agencies. Three years after the opening of the FCEC, the benefits of thoughtful program design and staff recruitment are being experienced as the center has evolved into an important community asset.

Before programs were established, Major Gail Aho, then Midland divisional urban ministries secretary, and Jason Acklin, FCEC director of operations, worked to develop a credible presence for The Salvation Army in Ferguson by hosting a variety of engagement events, mobilizing staff for door-to-door visits, and attending community events and meetings. In making these connections, they built an advisory council that has grown to 13 members representing 10 community entities.



A Spark Academy visit to Temple Gardens to learn about gardening.

Since the FCEC opened in 2017, caseworkers have been onsite to assist with social services and Pathway of Hope (POH). They quickly exceeded the goal of enrolling 20 families. As of October 2020, 143 families had enrolled in POH to work toward improving their lives and breaking the cycle of generational poverty, giving their children a more hopeful future. In addition, the center has used a similar approach with 531 individuals to promote not only stability but sustained life change. The outcomes are not only due to their efforts but intentional community engagement and a gifted casework team.

"We've cultivated a space dedicated to holistic care where families receive resources and hope," said Jason.

An impromptu meeting between LaKeysha Fields, assistant divisional social services director, and Rick Stevens, president of Christian Hospital, generated an idea which has been

revolutionary for the community. They discovered many people who used the emergency room for primary care also sought financial assistance from The Salvation Army. As a result, the FCEC received a \$1 million grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health to launch Pathway to Health, an innovative partnership between community health workers from Christian Hospital and case managers from The Salvation Army. They work together with clients on health needs and the social determinants of health.

"We know that health disparities already existed in high-risk zip codes," said Dana Ballinger, Christian Hospital director of care co-



Director of Operations Jason Acklin



A Spark Mate with Youth Development Specialist Melva Paden-Moore



Sherman, one of the first Spark Mates

and hope

Photo by Wiley Price, St. Louis American



Food distribution by a volunteer

of the new space featuring a mural by local artist Billy Bill, over 1,000 books written by diverse authors, new tablets for educational use, and a cozy reading space furnished by Ikea.

As a result of COVID-19, Believe Project founders had to move in a new direction to meet their goals, which led to the filming of a literacy-based children's TV show to elevate Black authors and Black children's literature. The pilot episode was filmed in the FCEC reading room and features Veronica Edwards. The series aired on YouTube and on the Missouri History Museum website before being selected



Believe Project partners

ordination, "but COVID-19, it really shed light on the health disparities that exist. So, we have been able to impact housing, transportation, financial resources strength, food insecurity, access to physicians and medicine, just to name a few, and there has been a wonderful outpouring of appreciation from the community."

"The impact of the program in my life has been a tremendous help with finding a good career path, helping me budget finances and motivating me to be a better individual," said client Jennifer Waters.

In addition to offering holistic health management to 392 clients, Pathway to Health opened new collaborations with the community, including two health fairs with 30 participating organizations that reached over 500 residents and provided prostate and breast cancer screenings for more than 100 individuals in partnership with Siteman Cancer Center.

"Pathway to Health is a game-changer for this community," said Lt. Colonel Robert Webster, Midland divisional commander. "It's a dynamic program that has empowered this neighborhood to be able to be transformed."

The innovative program has generated nationwide interest, and they hope to expand it to include behavioral health.

In 2018 with funds from the Lutheran Foundation and the Thomas Lyle Williams Trust, the center piloted and then launched Spark Academy, an afterschool program for third and

fourth graders which gives them the opportunity to discover their gifts and talents as a foundation for growth. Since opening, 90 children have participated. At the end of each session, a celebration is held where children are given small Salvation Army pins which they wear, considering themselves ambassadors of the program at their school. These Spark Mates also show up for community events at FCEC to help promote and register other third and fourth graders. In response to their desire to continue as they moved to fifth grade, the FCEC began a program called Ignite! where they hang out together and learn more about God, their neighborhood and other sparks. Ignite! includes the Believe Project and will expand this year to include junior soldiers and character-building programs.

"I count it an honor to be able to pour into the young people who come through the doors of Spark Academy," said Veronica Edwards, Spark Academy program manager. "It brings me so much joy to be able to watch the transformation of the young people right before my eyes...Having them express how much they love coming to Spark warms my heart. I am grateful to God for allowing me the opportunity to serve in this capacity."

The Believe Project is a unique partnership between The Salvation Army and St. Louis Black Authors of Children's Literature that inspires kids to read by using culturally responsive books, art and technology in a space where kids are free to relax, explore, and—with confidence—be fiercely and fully themselves. With support from the Nine Network of Public Media (the local PBS), Ikea, and Scholastic, the FCEC was chosen as the first Literacy Lab site for the Believe Project, which opened in September 2019. Spark Mates were designated as the official ribbon cutters



Believe Project Ribbon Cutting: Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings, then Midland divisional commander, and Major Gail Aho, then divisional urban mission secretary, with children in the program



Spark Director Veronica Edwards in the Reading Room



Jason Acklin and Sara Johnson give Midland Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel Robert Webster a tour upon his first visit to FCEC

by the Fred Rogers Foundation to represent St. Louis as part of the "2020 Be My Neighbor Celebration." All four episodes are on PBS stations nationwide!

We knew from the very beginning that success in Ferguson would require support and collaboration from the community, which is why we prioritized getting to know our neighbors. The work can be slow, but without authentic engagement and hearts tuned to the Holy Spirit, our efforts are in vain. We're grateful for the opportunity to work alongside so many partners who are actively seeking healing and restoration in a community that carries immense burdens.

Photo by Wiley Price, St. Louis American

Photo by Wiley Price, St. Louis American

Photo by Sara Johnson

Photo by Wiley Price, St. Louis American

African American Salvationist changemakers

A new online exhibit by the Central Territory Museum features more than three dozen African American Salvationists who have been changemakers. While it includes many amazing people from the Central Territory, as well as icons like Commissioner Israel L. Gaither (the first African American to be Chief of the Staff and National Commander), it also includes many others you may not know who've made significant contributions like those featured here.



Envoy Kenneth Burton, O.F. Influencer and Motivator

A third generation Salvationist, Envoy Kenneth Burton's love of music began at an early age encouraged by the excellence of the Harlem Temple Corps Band. In 1976 his brother, Brett, and Lewanne Dudley cofounded a contemporary gospel group, New Sounds for Christ, to inspire, attract and retain African American youth in The Salvation Army. When they entered the School for Officers' Training (now College for Officer Training) two years later, Kenneth took over the leadership. Witnessing to Christ's love for 44 years, it's the Army's longest standing contemporary gospel group.

In 1977, Kenneth served as the first chairman of the Eastern Territory's Black Ministries Committee, which made recommendations to the Territorial Commission on Planning and Goals regarding Salvation Army ministries within the Black community. They developed a wide range of projects including inner-city and candidate seminars, tools to optimize Salvationism in the Black community and an inspiring curriculum for the School for Officers Training. He remains active as an ex-officio member of the group now known as the Territorial Committee for Salvationists of African Descent.

He was named Musician of the Year in 1988 in the Greater New York Division and territorial Man of the Year in 1992 with an award presented by General Eva Burrows. In 2004 he received the Army's highest honor when as a corps sergeant-major he was inducted into the Order of the Founder for outstanding service above and beyond the call of duty.

After retiring from corporate America in 2011, he became an envoy and was appointed to the Harlem Temple Corps. Envoy Kenneth's deep spiritual commitment to God and people, evidenced through the ministry of music and the desire to work for God's Kingdom, continues to drive him to be a leading voice for African Americans in the Eastern Territory.



Delilah Collier, O.F. Educator and Mentor

Delilah Collier proved more than a capable teacher, mother and Salvationist. In 1977, she helped launch the Eastern Territory Black Ministries Committee to discuss issues and advise goals for inclusion of Black officers. She and fellow committee members advocated for further training and curriculum to prepare Black officers for leadership positions. They spoke for and legitimized the Black community within The Salvation Army. In addition, she served on the curriculum committee at the School for Officers' Training (now College for Officer Training) as a voice for the unique challenges Black cadets would face once they became officers.

For more than 50 years, Delilah was a faithful and dedicated soldier of the Hartford Citadel, Conn., Corps unwavering in the support of her corps officers. She was a fierce prayer warrior and had the spiritual gift of hospitality.

She raised seven children and her three very young brothers after her mother died. Though living in public housing and receiving welfare, Delilah opened her home to others. She never turned anyone away or gave indication of limited resources. One year, her son who was a cadet invited 10 other cadets for Thanksgiving dinner; without blinking she said, "Of course, tell them to bring sleeping bags, and we'll figure it out." Cadets featured daily in her prayers and she would often send them cards of encouragement, tucking in money which, quite often, was exactly what they needed.

Delilah was admitted into the Order of the Founder (O.F.), the Army's highest honor, in 2002 for her multicultural work, local officer training and evangelism. Receiving the award, she said, "We don't know the full joy of the Lord until we can fully surrender all to Him. If we can just be faithful, if we can just be willing, if we can go in the power of the Spirit, God will take care of everything for us."



CHANGEMAKERS

Salvationists Building Inclusive Communities

**An online exhibit opening
February 1, 2021**

**Featuring more than three dozen
Salvationists across the U.S.
who have championed change
to build a more inclusive Army
and communities and improve
the quality of people's lives.**

**Visit
sacentralmuseum.org/exhibits**

you should know



Major Norma T. Roberts Innovator and Liberator

Known for her work in the Southern Territory during the era of racial segregation, Major Norma T. Roberts can be described as an innovator and liberator. In 1944, after being denied entrance to the School for Officers' Training in Atlanta, Ga., she changed direction and was welcomed into the Eastern Territory's training college where she embraced new opportunities to make an impact.

Always feeling her calling would return her to the beloved South, Major Norma was appointed to the Southern Territory in 1949 with hope and fortitude. When a Little Rock, Ark., reporter wrote an article about her ministry, the struggles faced by the local Black community were uncovered, and Major Norma and the Army went into action.

At an advisory board meeting to plan a new community center to serve the neighborhood, she said, "The Salvation Army strives to promote the spiritual and material welfare of people all over the world—regardless of race or color. In that spirit, it seeks to bring its service to my people in the Southland."

In 1952, the community center opened, and the community had a place to congregate, enjoy recreation and share in God's love. It served 5,000 annually. Through hard work, Major Norma helped to liberate the Army from antiquated thought patterns through innovative approaches linking Black communities and Salvation Army ministry.

Major Gwendolyn Jones Reformer and Advocate

Recognized as the first Black officer to be commissioned from the Western Territory School for Officers' Training (now College for Officer Training) in 1974, Major Gwendolyn Holmes Jones spent more than 40 years serving others in Christ's name and advocating for the Black community. She challenged those espousing racial disparities, was successful in breaking down barriers in areas that experienced racial strife and believed that effective ministry came through "bridging."

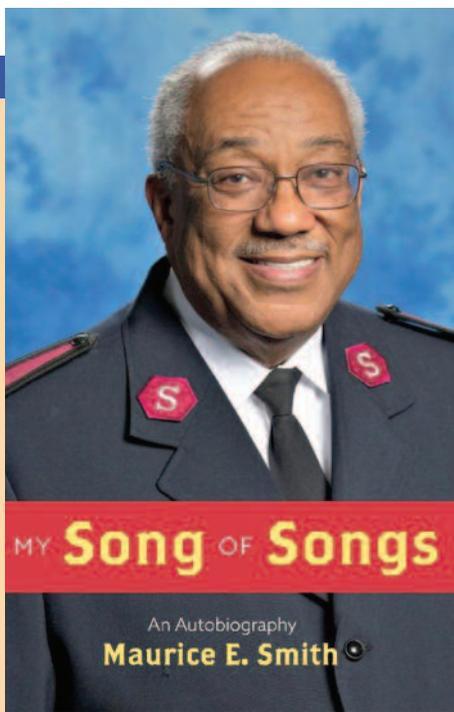
In a *New Frontier Chronicle* article, she said, "You need to be able to represent whatever community you are working for and help Salvation Army leaders understand what's going on in that community so we can better serve it. In the very beginning of my ministry, what attracted me to the ministry of The Salvation Army was the love that Salvation Army officers showed me and The Salvation Army programs. I could see how this love and the programs could benefit African American communities...and other communities that were in need."

Major Gwendolyn strove to connect those communities with the Army's life-changing gospel message, programs and resources. She proved a constant source of encouragement and inspiration to others.

One of the highlights of her officership was serving on an African American Multicultural Committee for the Western Territory where Major Gwendolyn "gave a voice to the minorities of The Salvation Army."



Photo courtesy of New Frontier Chronicle



Major Maurice Smith Idealist and Renovator

The son of pioneering officers, Major Maurice Smith became the first Black officer commissioned in 1968 from the Southern Territory School for Officers' Training (now Evangeline Booth College) in Atlanta, Ga. During his 40 years as an officer, he would serve in all four U.S. territories.

Some of his flagship work was done as a captain when he was transferred to the Western Territory in 1973 to reestablish the Compton, Calif., Corps which had closed around the time of the race riots in 1965. By the 1970s the city was plagued by high unemployment, poverty, gangs and crime. Despite racial disparity, he successfully created trust, and, like so many Black officers, built a bridge between The Salvation Army and the Black community. He also was the first Black officer to manage an advisory board.

Using an anonymous donation, then-Captain Maurice successfully supervised the construction and opening of a 1,900-sq.-ft. building. The Compton Corps enrolled in the War on Poverty campaign by President Lyndon Johnson and became a site for the Neighborhood Youth Corps. This strategy brought many youth into the corps where the captain offered them counseling and support.

After retiring in 2011, he taught at the South's Evangeline Booth College for six years. In 2018 the major published his autobiography, *My Song of Songs*, reflecting on his life through songs, a unique technique but not surprising given his keen vocal and brass musical abilities.



Lt. Colonel B. Barton McIntyre Leader and Visionary

Canadian Lt. Colonel Barton McIntyre began his work with The Salvation Army in New York, first as commanding officer at the Harlem Temple, N.Y., Corps, and later at the Brooklyn Bedford, N.Y., Corps. Following his marriage to Lt. Mildred Ernestine Bowen in 1939, they were appointed to Cleveland, Ohio, where they continued to serve the Black community. There, they led the "colored corps" for 16 years when, in 1949, Colonel Barton began his journey as a visionary. His request to change the name of the "colored corps" to the Central Area Corps was accepted immediately and sent waves of change throughout the Army. He knew it was a small but important step toward an equitable future.

Being reappointed to the Harlem Temple Corps in 1955, Colonel Barton demonstrated leadership with the theme "Watch Us Grow," and the corps grew enormously during his three-year tenure.

However, it was his work with other Black officers regarding race relations in the Army that made a lasting impact. He led the Eastern Territory Black Ministries Committee which gathered in 1969 to address issues concerning the inclusion of Black officers and the Black community within the Army. This meeting resulted in formation of the Multicultural Department (now Mission and Culture Department) in the Eastern Territory and the 12-point plan of inclusion for Black officers.

In 1969, he received the rank of Lt. colonel, the highest rank of a Black officer at that time.





PATHWAY OF HOPE

Steadfast, strong and successful

by Major Pat Irvine

Success stories are worth remembering; they encourage us to not give up and to step ahead in our own lives.

Yukialove Winston has one of those stories. Enrolled in Pathway of Hope (POH) in 2018 at the Lansing Citadel, Mich., Corps, Yukia has faced major barriers in life such as significant debt and legal settlements, a home in disrepair and back property taxes.

Although she was employed, managing life became overwhelming when she was hit hard with unusual circumstances, and she found there just was not enough income to take care of unexpected costs. Soon after buying a foreclosed home, she learned three years of property taxes were due. Then during a heavy winter storm, a large tree branch fell on the roof and caused serious damage to her home.

Yukia could not possibly continue to provide for her 17-year-old son and herself without support and guidance. When Jordan Lott, the corps' POH case manager, invited her to join Pathway of Hope she immediately said yes. She was ready to

roll up her sleeves and work steadily to successfully achieve her three goals.

The Salvation Army worked with Yukia to pay a large portion of the property taxes she assumed and helped her work to qualify for Habitat for Humanity in order to repair her roof, siding and porch. She is now also the proud owner of a new water heater and gently used refrigerator.

Jordan describes Yukia as a person who has resiliency, that quality that allows you to push forward one step even though life may throw you eight steps back. It's that willingness to look for solutions to life's problems. For instance, when Yukia's dog damaged his paw from a nail in the floor, Yukia decided to make bracelets to sell to help pay for the surgery her dog needed.

The scripture verse printed on Yukia's POH completion certificate reads: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go," (Joshua 1:9, NASB). It is the Lord's sustaining and guiding hand that gives us the courage to find and walk a path filled with hope.



Members of the Lansing, Mich., Capital Area Command celebrate Yukialove Winston's successful completion of Pathway of Hope program. Pictured (l to r): Major Pat Irvine, Lansing Citadel corps officer; Jordan Lott, Lansing Citadel caseworker; Yukia and her son Jacob; and Desirae Kelley Strong, Lansing capital area director of social services.

Photo by Major Jim Irvine

The Pathway in Heartland

by Michael B. Swanson

The Heartland Division. Amber fields of corn and soybeans meet postindustrial America. Ribbons of highway lead from impoverished "south sides" with gentrified poor to struggling communities that have been waiting a generation for the factory to come back. Heartland is where The Salvation Army has found a home and built community just above the waterline. Here battles are hard fought, but hope is as real as the trouble.

There has always been something about the Heartland Division that's gritty. It's a place where "rag tag" is worn as a badge of honor. Nothing is wasted, and at times we may go without. It is the perfect backdrop to the Pathway of Hope (POH) approach.

In the Heartland Division, POH functions as a guiding philosophy, a vehicle for relationship, a missional investment, a measurable effort and an integrated approach. It fits anywhere, is accessible to anyone, complements other programs and functions kind of like a language. It helps us get kids to camp and turns a Wednesday afternoon into a "Sunday morning."

When POH came to the Heartland Division in 2012, leadership had the foresight to develop a path without off ramps. The invitation to embrace POH was so complete that "opting out" would not be an option. Recognizing each appointment was sure to have its own unique constellation of challenges, initial efforts were focused on relationship and partner-



Lt. Dennis Jolly, Burlington, Iowa, corps officer, celebrates success with a POH client.

ship building at the hyper local level. Just as we aimed to tell every person coming through our front doors, "you are enough," we wanted that message to land in the heart of every officer and case worker in the division.

This grassroots approach was amplified when combined with unwavering support from the divisional team. There has been a wholesale adoption of the term "social ministry" (as opposed to social service) as an internal benchmark. If The Salvation Army cannot aim to provide services through a ministry mindset, perhaps the service would be better provided by other community partners. This cultural embrace was typified through the leadership of Colonel Evie Diaz and now Major Kelly Collins.

The championship of this approach always has depended on well-resourced and supported regional coordinators. They are charged to support the entirety of a corps' ministry and to work toward the full integration of POH.

Simply put, we have found when POH is who we are more than what we do, amazing things can happen.

New Pathway of Hope Annual Report

A 27-page color report about Pathway of Hope has just been released. You'll find this in-depth look at the initiative is not only interesting but can assist in ministry.



Features

Data and Outcomes • Success Stories • Training
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Uses

Educate your corps and community • Incorporate into fundraising plans
Use with partner agencies, businesses and churches

Download from centralusa.salvationarmy.org/usc/pathway-of-hope



Members of the POH team (l to r): Nan Pahl, social services director; Lt. Jessica Turner, corps officer; Elizabeth Clark, lead case manager; Deb Weaver, case manager; Becky Darrow, transitional housing case manager; and Major Matt O'Neil, Brown County area coordinator.

Green Bay excels at Pathway of Hope, expands use

by Nan Pahl

The Salvation Army of Greater Green Bay, Wis., was honored to be chosen in 2011 as one of three pilot sites for Pathway of Hope (POH). It was a tremendous experience, and the staff enjoyed working with this new strengths-based approach to case management with families. The social services department continued to work with POH to identify families who could benefit from it, meeting enrollment goals several times and seeing several families complete the initiative.

In early 2019 we began to explore with divisional headquarters the expansion of POH with our housing program. We already worked on long-term case management with our transitional housing families, so including POH seemed logical. Another significant factor was the transitional housing program's collaboration for more than 30 years with the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH), a network of more than 20 churches which provides and maintain the housing units. So, POH's spiritual component seemed a perfect fit.

We hired a new transitional housing team in fall 2019 to lead this initiative. They worked with Lt. Jessica Turner, Green Bay corps officer, to identify ways for the spiritual component to be incorporated in the work with families. Lt. Jessica is the first point of contact for families who want pastoral care. If they don't already have a church home and they are interested, she offers to connect them with the corps or one of the EPH churches.

"The families are open for me to pray with them and offer support," said the lieutenant. "It's encouraging to me that people are open to hearing the gospel and letting me be part of their lives."

By December 2019, the transitional housing team was enrolling its first families into the new and improved POH housing program. Utilizing the URICA (the University of Rhode Island Change Assessment Scale), the Herth Hope Index assessment and the Self-Sufficiency Matrix, in addition to regular intake materials, helped the team identify the families best suited for this new approach and the opportunity to reside in our transitional housing units.

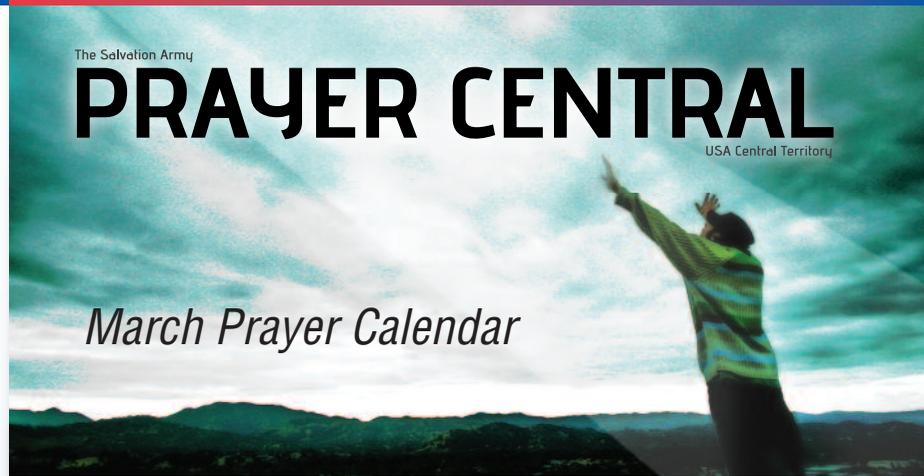
In its first year, the team enrolled 25 families in POH. Several families have completed the initiative and moved into long-term safe and stable housing in the community. This

progress happens based on the families setting goals with case managers and their hard work in the areas of employment, education, budgeting and financial counseling, parenting, personal counseling and spiritual care. Key to promoting success are the Army's long-standing community partnerships with University of Wisconsin-Madison for nutrition classes which are individualized and conducted in homes, Catholic Charities for budget and financial counseling and debt management programming, and with EPH for the provision of housing at no cost to the families while they are working hard in the initiative.

The pandemic has not dampened the spirits of our staff or families. Families adjusted to working from home and to teaching their children in virtual schooling. Several families exited POH positively during the first several months of the pandemic. Staff and Lt. Jessica worked to support families during this challenging time by providing services and making 245 spiritual/emotional care contacts virtually or by phone. They also got creative by delivering Easter baskets, summer fun care kits, learning sheets and food pantry via porch visits even while Wisconsin had a safer at home order, and Christmas cards and activities during the holiday season.

We were excited to be a POH pilot and now are equally excited about fully incorporating this approach into our housing program, knowing it will help families make significant, lasting change.

Editor's note: The Salvation Army in Greater Green Bay, Wis., was recognized in 2020 with the Achievement Award for excellence in Pathway of Hope.



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Monday	Isaiah 58:10-14	Albert Lea, Minn., Corps
	2 Tuesday	Exodus 5	Benton Harbor, Mich., Corps
	3 Wednesday	Genesis 3	Cape Girardeau, Mo., Corps
	4 Thursday	Exodus 7:15-24	Chicago Midwest, Ill., Corps
	5 Friday	Exodus 8	Sri Lanka Territory
	6 Saturday	Exodus 9	Retired officers
	7 Sunday	Exodus 10	Dubuque, Iowa, Corps
	8 Monday	Psalms 23	Farmington Hills, Mich., Corps
	9 Tuesday	Proverbs 12:15-18	Green Bay, Wis., Kroc Center
	10 Wednesday	Exodus 12:1-28	Hong Kong and Macau
	11 Thursday	Exodus 12:29-36	Divisional youth events
	12 Friday	Exodus 12:37-42	Independence, Mo., Corps
	13 Saturday	Psalms 25	Candidates
	14 Sunday	Proverbs 13:1-12	Kokomo, Ind., Corps
	15 Monday	Exodus 13:17-22	Livingston County, Mich., Corps
	16 Tuesday	Exodus 14:5-14	Mattoon, Ill., Corps
	17 Wednesday	Exodus 14:15-29	Malawi Territory
	18 Thursday	Exodus 15:1-21	Mitchell, S.D., Corps
	19 Friday	Exodus 15:22-27	Music ministries
	20 Saturday	Exodus 16	Ottawa, Ill., Corps
	21 Sunday	Psalms 27	Quincy, Ill., Kroc Center
	22 Monday	Proverbs 13:13-25	Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Corps
	23 Tuesday	Exodus 20:1-20	Sturgis, Mich., Corps
	24 Wednesday	Numbers 13:1-24	Denmark and Greenland
	25 Thursday	Numbers 13:25-32	St. Paul Eastside, Minn., Corps
	26 Friday	Joshua 1	Waukegan, Ill., ARC
	27 Saturday	Psalms 29	Sunday school teachers
	28 Sunday	Proverbs 14:1-12	Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps
	29 Monday	Joshua 3	Davenport, Iowa, Corps
	30 Tuesday	Joshua 6	Norridge, Ill., Corps
	31 Wednesday	Judges 6:11-23	Social justice

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

*ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

--Mustard Seeds--



A safe harbor in life's storms

by Kelly Carver

"In the beginning, I felt very ashamed and guilty for relapsing after being in recovery for five years. I felt like I let myself down, that I let God down," said Steve Grube about his journey to the Indianapolis, Ind., Harbor Light Center more than a decade ago. "I made the choice to come to Harbor Light because I knew people who completed treatment there," he explained. "I wanted to succeed with my recovery program, too."



When he arrived, staff greeted him with open arms, encouragement that he was doing the right thing and he could overcome his addiction to alcohol and strengthen his relationship with God. For instance, a few days after starting inpatient treatment, he seemed depressed but a Harbor Light employee and friend, Ricky, noticed. "Ricky encouraged me and told me I was doing the right things. He told me that I should feel good about myself for making the choice to come to rehab for my alcohol addiction."

At the Harbor Light Center, there are two sides to the recovery program. The first is medical treatment and emotional support to learn to live a life without drugs or alcohol, the second is spiritual healing.

"When you come into the treatment center, you walk in and go to the left side for medical treatment. To the right, you'll find the chapel," Steve explained. "Harbor Light offers support from a medical standpoint, but if you're looking for a relationship with God and to find happiness and peace within yourself, they can help you with that, too."

Once he completed the treatment program in 2015, Steve became an adherent of the Indianapolis, Ind., Harbor Light Corps, where he has worshipped and served faithfully wherever he's needed. He partici-

pates in the Harbor Light's Celebrate Recovery where he shares his story and how God is the source and power in his recovery.

"Steve is a great encourager, always remembering others' special days and occasions," said Envoy Charlotte Coffey, who leads the center. "He is faithful in pouring into others what God has poured into him."

"Being part of The Salvation Army means a lot to me because I can love others the same way I was loved. We don't judge here," shared Steve. "Harbor Light is so much more than a recovery center for me. I don't go to NA [Narcotics Anonymous] meetings anymore. I come here for spiritual food and my recovery continues because of my relationship with God, the church services and support found here."

Shortly after concluding treatment, Steve also began working in the Harbor Light kitchen. Since then, he has held several positions and today works as a security guard for the center, but it's not just a job to Steve. He wants to give back by showing others the same kindness he experienced. "I want people to know that they are welcome here and will have love and support while they are going through treatment. I want them to know they are not alone."

ANNOUNCING

THE *Salvation Soldier*

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February
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Promoted to Glory

Major Joyce Smelser

Major Joyce Smelser, nee Benner, 84, was promoted to Glory on November 5, 2020. Passionate about her calling to serve the Lord, she dedicated her life to ministering through His Word and loving people in His name.



Joyce was born and raised in Saginaw, Mich., where she accepted Christ at a vacation Bible school as a child. While attending Michigan State University she met George Smelser. They married in 1956 and started a family. The Smelsers first encountered The Salvation Army in 1965 and immediately knew it was where God wanted them. In 1966 they entered officer training and were commissioned in 1968 as part of the "Messengers of the Faith" session.

The Smelsers began and ended their years of service in adult rehabilitation centers (ARC), formerly men's social services. In between, they served as corps officers, at Western Divisional Headquarters and at Territorial Headquarters. They retired in 1995 from the Rockford, Ill., ARC where Joyce served as director of special services.

Joyce is survived by her husband; children, Christine (Nelson) McCrady, Brian (Mary) and Bradley (Chantel); and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Major LouEtta Sullivan

Major LouEtta Sullivan, nee Milligan, was promoted to Glory on October 29, 2020.

LouEtta was born on February 13, 1937, in Mitchell, Ind. She married John G. Sullivan at age 18. Called to officership, the young couple entered training in 1959 and were commissioned on June 6, 1960.

Their career took them across the Central Territory with appointments as corps officers at New Castle and Elwood, Ind., and Springfield, Mo. However, they served primarily in



adult rehabilitation centers (ARC) during their 40-year tenure as officers. They retired in 2000 from the Kansas City, Mo., ARC where LouEtta was director of special services.

Throughout their lives, LouEtta and John loved to travel and made it to all 50 of the United States. They also enjoyed several trips overseas.

LouEtta was preceded in death by her husband and brothers. She is survived by two sons, Daniel and Marc; two daughters Deborah Drumm and Judith Harrington; niece and "daughter-at-heart" Cindy Milligan; nine grandchildren, several great grandchildren and one great-great grandson. She is also survived by sisters Shirley Mounce and Brenda Luchauer.

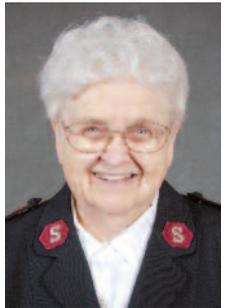
Major Alma Thompson

Major Alma Thompson, nee Darling, was promoted to Glory on November 22, 2020. Alma lived with purpose and was generous with her time, resources and talents. She loved people and was always ready to share a word of encouragement along with her homemade jam and cookies.

Alma first entered officership as a single woman. While leading the Omaha North Side, Neb., Corps she met and fell in love with Paul Thompson. She resigned her commission in 1956 and they married. After starting a family while soldiering at the Omaha Citadel Corps, Paul entered officer training in 1969, and Alma was reaccepted as an officer.

For 33 years Alma and Paul served as corps officers throughout the Midwest. Alma's passion for sharing the Gospel and gift of hospitality served her well throughout her officership and into retirement, when she remained a faithful soldier and leader at the Omaha Citadel Corps.

Alma was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her children, Major Greg (Lee Ann) Thompson and Major Patricia (Eric) Johnson; grandchildren, Colin and Shelby; great-grandchildren Tessa and Bruce; and brother, Darrell Darling.



Kitted up for the Cold despite COVID-19



The 34th Annual Coats for Kids distribution in Indianapolis, Ind., continued with a new drive-thru model that ensured both families and volunteers stayed safe. The program distributed 4,600 coats to families, churches and schools to help children stay warm this winter. Pictured are volunteers with the Indy Fuel Hockey Team mascot.