Hope-Strong promotes mission effectiveness

by Scott Hurula

In 2017 the Metropolitan Division undertook a process to envision and implement a strategic realignment and restructuring of its ministries for greater mission effectiveness. Input was gathered from officials, soldiers, staff and volunteers. Eventually, Hope-Strong emerged. Since its launch in May 2018, Hope-Strong, an integrated ministry model, has made a significant difference in the Metropolitan Division as corps, institutions and the divisional headquarters collaborate to advance the Army’s holistic mission of saving souls, growing saints and serving humanity without discrimination.

The vision is to see growing, healthy corps, excellent, mission-driven social service programs and communities where The Salvation Army is regarded as a leader in bringing social, economic and spiritual change.

For this to become a reality, we have found we must collaborate in our practices and policies. It has required a commitment to building trust, breaking down silos, investing energy and creativity, and taking risks to solve unresolved problems.

When a fire devastated a condominium community and displaced hundreds of people, the emergency disaster services response was augmented by multiple divisional headquarters departments, volunteers from nearby corps and community members who engaged in bringing hope and healing.

When a polar vortex wrapped Chicago in its icy grip and the city government called on the Harbor LIGHT to provide ‘round-the-clock service, they were aided by other Salvation Army units in order to meet the need.

Men, who courageously rebuild their lives and families, are touched simultaneously by the ministries of the Adult Rehabilitation Center, the Chicago Temple Corps and the Hope-Strong Fatherhood in Action program.

Families who are experiencing homelessness are welcomed by the Shield of Hope, placed for extended housing at the Booth Lodge and

Continued on page 2
We are called to the city
by Commissioner Heidi Bailey
Territorial Leader for Leader Development

“Cities have more image of God per square inch than any other place on earth,” writes author Tom Keller.

This is not a value statement but rather a demographically correct statement reflecting the reality of our world. Most people live in cities, both large and small.

One hundred and fifty-four years after The Salvation Army’s birth, we are still committed to “doing the most good, to the most people in the most need” as Evangeline Booth expressed. We remain stewards of the resources of others for the most vulnerable people of our society. As the City Mission focus in our territory’s Mission Imperative proclaims, The Salvation Army remains committed to the city.

We seek to be a Salvation Army intimately woven into the fabric of our cities and responsive to their needs both practically and spiritually. An Army marked by:

- Incarnational Engagement
- Gospel Impact
- Impassioned Service
- Mission Integration
- Continuous Innovation
- Strategic Investment

We confess as an Army we have not always stood our ground in some of the places God gave us in the city. Today, we want to stand firm and be used by God for His city mission, for the maximum number of people. So, we proclaim we will do better this year, not only doing the most good in the city but being in the city for good!

We have much to learn from the city:

- God is looking for a humble Army, ready to learn life lessons from communities that have suffered social injustices and have learned to rely on each other.
- God is looking for a listening Army, ready to hear stories from communities that have experienced sorrows and joys and have become stronger.

We also have much to give to the city:

- God has raised a compassionate Army, ready to empathize with people in need of acceptance and inclusion.
- God has raised a serving Army, ready to help meet human needs in His Name without discrimination.

God is calling us to have Gospel impact by investing our lives and resources right where we live. So, whether we live in a small city with a quaint town square or a big city with a towering skyline, let’s be true to our calling in the city.

Peace to this house
Renovated St. Joseph facility offers fresh start to families

by Doug Donahoo

The Booth Center in St. Joseph, Mo., was not much of a house for close to a year. Walls were torn down; deep trenches dug through the floor. This place that had served as an emergency shelter for adults was given a new purpose over the course of a year of renovations: to minister to families.

With the work complete, this winter ushered in a new era for the 10-year-old Booth Manor. Gone are the dormitory-style beds with multiple adults sharing one room. Instead, the Booth Center is now home to nine efficiency-style apartments, complete with bedrooms, kitchens, a laundry room—and a greater purpose.

“Our goal is that every family who comes out of there is self-sufficient. Their families are better. Their lives are better. Their relationships with each other are better,” said Major Ronald Key, corps officer, at the rededication ceremony.

The renovations and direction change came after careful study of the St. Joseph community revealed that there was no shelter to guarantee families struggling with homelessness could stay together. Now, they can. Parents and children, living under one roof, learning how to improve their lives together.

“It’s an incredible vision, and we know we’re going to change lives,” said the major.

Changing lives starts with giving families this new place to live and learn.

Chief Secretary Colonel Steve Howard delivvers the rededication address for the St. Joseph, Mo., Booth Center.

The Salvation Army delivers on its promise to competent leadership and offers by area corps and provide training to corps officers, employees and soldiers so that they are better equipped to raise awareness and care for their neighbors who are impacted by this modern-day scourge.

Moved to action by a tour of urban ministries, the Norridge Citadel Corps collected and assembled supplies for personal hygiene kits to share with those in need.

We are hoping to see more and more individuals embracing the Army’s mission and using their spiritual gifts, talents, resources and experiences to change lives as Hope-Strong continues to take root. Through this more integrated approach, we aim to be a powerful expression of God’s love, mercy and justice to the people and communities we are called to serve.

Scott Hurula and Commissioner Barry Swanon, who currently leads the Metropolitan Division, continued from page 1
Legal Aid Clinic: 25 years and going strong!

The William Booth Legal Aid Clinic (WBLAC)—the only free Salvation Army-run legal aid clinic in the world—has just celebrated 25 years since opening its doors at the Detroit, Mich., Harbor Light Center and is serving more people than ever.

It began with the vision of one attorney and his wife, Robert and Ellen Dickman, who wanted to provide free legal aid to the indigent population in 1994. At first, the clinic assisted only clients from the Harbor Light and other local corps, handling about 140 cases per year.

“Robert was a visionary,” said attorney Amy Roemer, WBLAC’s current director. “The initial goal of the clinic was to help individuals going through treatment get their legal issues resolved so that legal problems wouldn’t trigger a relapse.”

Today under Amy’s strong leadership, WBLAC continues to help clients living below the poverty line from its offices in Detroit and Pontiac, Mich., where a second clinic was opened in 2008.

Legal problems range from landlord-tenant disputes and consumer advocacy to family law matters such as domestic violence, child abuse and neglect and child custody issues.

From its two locations, WBLAC’s small staff of attorneys and student interns help more than 1,800 individuals, families and U.S. military veterans settle legal matters annually, adding up to over 20,000 cases resolved in 25 years!

In addition to handling their own large caseloads, WBLAC attorneys participate in outreach efforts in collaboration with many other entities, including the Wayne and Oakland County court systems, the United States Probation Office, Veterans Hospital, Head Start, the Detroit Public Library and many others.

They also teach a family law clinic at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and offer practical experience opportunities such as internships and work-study programs to its students and students from other Detroit-area law schools. Since opening in 1994, WBLAC has mentored more than 200 students who have volunteered over 35,000 hours to working on cases for indigent clients.

“Ultimately we would love to see our services expand,” said Rebekah White, assistant WBLAC director, “and to have other territories mirror our program to help the impoverished in their areas [with legal concerns].”

As well as their legal services, the WBLAC attorneys, staff and volunteers take a holistic approach to helping their clients by referring them to other Salvation Army services for food, clothing or emergency assistance including corps, the Detroit Harbor Light Center, transitional shelters, and adult rehabilitation centers in the area.

WBLAC is funded by private contributions from law firms, foundations, corporations and individual donors as well as their annual Walk for Justice fundraiser at the Detroit Zoo, which takes place each spring and has garnered donations totaling more than $300,000 since the inaugural event in 2013.

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Becoming an agent of change

by Stephanie Marinelli

I was working in the sales department of an aviation company. My days were busy, but something was missing. I was filling the hours with tasks that were meaningless to me. I wasn’t content but didn’t know how to change my life. I wasn’t searching for a new opportunity, but God pursued me.

I’ve spent the past 15 months as an intern at the International Social Justice Commission (ISJC). Leaving my job and coming to this internship was a leap of faith. I wasn’t prepared for the transformation God had in store.

Transitions are not easy. Life in New York City looks very different from life in the Midwest. At first, I found myself lonely and overwhelmed. I felt like my shortcomings were under a magnifying glass. But my willingness to leave my job and step into uncertainty was my offering to the Lord, and He honored it. God has given me new passions, and I have experienced how incredible it is to allow God to use those passions to further His Kingdom.

Dedicating more than an entire year to learning about biblical social justice has been priceless. Now each time I open my Bible, words jump out that never had before. I’ve learned social justice should be a foundational part of our faith. One of the challenges that came with learning about social justice is understanding and accepting that God asks a lot from me. He doesn’t just want to change one or two parts of my life, but all of it. I can’t compartmentalize my faith; it must permeate my whole life.

The best way to see social justice in action is to look at Jesus. He treated the poor, vulnerable, and oppressed with dignity and respect. Jesus valued people for who they were, not for what they had done. He healed the sick. He invited the hungry, outcast and exploited of labor into His presence. He treated the poor, vulnerable, and oppressed with dignity and respect. Jesus valued people for who they were, not for what they had done. He healed the sick. He invited the hungry, outcast and exploited of labor into His presence. He treated the poor, vulnerable, and oppressed with dignity and respect. Jesus valued people for who they were, not for what they had done. He healed the sick. He invited the hungry, outcast and exploited of labor into His presence.

As Christians, you and I are not meant to focus only on ourselves and our personal relationships with God. We are meant to be agents of change. It’s easy to believe we are not capable of changing much. However, we serve a God who is capable of miraculous things. God is delighted when we submit ourselves to His will.

Thinking back to when I first came to New York, I relied on my own strength. But as I learned to trust God more and grew in my faith, I discovered that God was working on my behalf. I didn’t realize what was happening, and there is joy in the sacrifice.

The decision to follow God by interning at the ISJC was not simply a detour on my life’s path. It set me on a completely different path. I’ve returned home to work in the world missions department at Central Territorial Headquarters where I will continue to fulfill God’s mission for my life.

Stephanie Marinelli leads a small group during a social justice workshop at Queens Temple Corps in New York City.

Addressing the trauma from trafficking

Officers from Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Jamaica and Paraguay gathered in Asuncion, Paraguay, for a three-day conference on effective services to survivors of human trafficking titled, “The North/South Learning Experience on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.”

Representatives from the South America East and South America West territories were joined by personnel from the USA Eastern and Central territories, including Central Territorial Assistant Social Services Secretary Dr. Michael Smith, and Major Agrupina Góchez, under secretary for the Americas and Caribbean Zone at International Headquarters.

Organized by the Lt. Colonel Sara Chargas, the conference covered topics such as identifying signs of human trafficking, efforts to prevent trafficking and basic trauma-informed counseling skills for survivors.

For most survivors the brutal captivity and exploitation of labor and sex trafficking results in ongoing severe physical and emotional trauma long after they leave the trafficking situation.

Having served formerly as consultant for trafficking survivor services at National Headquarters, Michael conducted three training sessions to equip officers with skills to provide basic counseling. He educated them on the effects of trauma on the brain and behavior and taught basic lay-counseling skills such as a rapid eye desensitization technique called Acute Traumatic Incident Processing (A-TIP) which has been shown to reduce affective symptoms of severe trauma. The officers gained a deeper understanding of the effects of trauma and practical counseling skills to help trafficking survivors they encounter in their ministries.

The conference concluded with each country’s representatives reporting on their respective efforts to prevent and combat trafficking and meet the needs of survivors. Michael will be teaching similar classes for The Salvation Army in Bangladesh and Mexico this spring.
New World Services/Self-Denial resources released

"Praise the Lord, all you nations. Praise him, all you people of the earth." – Psalm 117:1 (NLT)

In recent years the Central Territory’s World Services/Self-Denial campaigns have focused on how giving transforms individuals, families and communities, both those who give and those who receive.

This year’s video series will connect self-denial with the territory’s Mission Imperative of “More people, more like Jesus.” To be more like Jesus means following His example, including generosity and stewardship.

Four video segments are available for use in worship services or can be shared with small groups such as women’s ministries, Sunday school classes, advisory board meetings or youth programs. The videos will highlight not only how to raise World Services/Self-Denial funds but also where these funds are used. This year’s video topics are:

• **Self-Denial:** Many Central corps are engaging in World Services/Self-Denial in creative and effective ways. This video highlights some of the best practices in World Services/Self-Denial and gives ideas for how your congregation can get involved in new ways!

• **Global:** Discover how Global Mission Teams (GMT) help to disciple more people, more like Jesus. Hear how one Central Territory soldier’s life was changed by the ministry of short-term missionaries while she was growing up in Panama, and how she has recently witnessed to others as a GMT member.

• **Partnership:** Learn about some of the projects that have been possible through our territory’s generous giving to World Services/Self-Denial. See how your financial partnership is making a difference!

• **Growth:** Celebrate the growth of The Salvation Army that is taking place in our Partners in Mission.

In addition to these videos, refreshed printed materials including free pledge cards, coin boxes, envelopes and posters are available from the world missions department.

To access the videos or order printed materials, visit the world missions department website at centralmissions.org.

For Major Tim Meyer, Eastern Michigan (EMI) divisional secretary, running to maintain a healthy lifestyle is a discipline; running for a cause, however, is a passion.

Major Tim first started running as a schoolboy competing in track and field events and continued the practice while in the U.S. Air Force, but as a young college student, Salvation Army officer, husband and father he had a hard time finding space in his schedule and gave it up. A few years later, motivated by others in his life who stayed active, he decided to start running again and made a goal to run in a race.

“The first few times I went out, I couldn’t jog around the block without stopping,” he said. “I followed a training plan and ran the Chicago Marathon the next year. It’s really a matter of training and discipline.”

An avid runner for many years now, the major is using his method of maintaining good health to raise awareness and funds for victims of human trafficking.

“I have run for many causes over the years,” he said, “including Salvation Army fundraisers, a children’s hospital and World Services/Self-Denial, but I think my choice to now run for anti-human trafficking is going to stick.”

In the last year the major ran the Detroit International Half Marathon, using crowdfunding on social media to raise funds for EMI’s anti-human trafficking efforts. The money raised contributed to providing survivors of human trafficking with basic needs like kitchen and laundry supplies, hygiene items and gas cards as they begin to rebuild their lives.

“Human trafficking is an insidious problem,” Major Tim said. “Even though I don’t have direct contact with the individuals we assist, running provides a time for prayer and reflection for me, and it’s great to know I’m able to contribute to helping victims by raising money.”

In October the major hopes to run the Detroit Marathon with a team of 10 or more friends, colleagues and Salvationists who will each raise money for anti-trafficking efforts in EMI. The Salvation Army has been designated an official charity of the race this year.

Join Major Tim and fellow Salvationists for the annual Run for the World 5k at commissioning weekend this June!
Celebrating live music in every corps

MUSIC + ARTS FESTIVAL

Commissioning + Ordination of the Messengers of the Kingdom Session

June 11–14 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

CentralCommissioning.org
Music and Arts Festival

Coming to the Music and Arts Festival in June? Here’s a snapshot of three of the amazing stories you’ll hear about how music is making a difference across the territory.

Making a difference in Indianapolis

Impassioned by their positive experiences at music camp, youth from the Indianapolis, Ind., Harbor Light Corps have become a driving force in a collaboration with Indianapolis Eagle Creek Corps youth for music lessons and character-building programs on a weekly basis. In just a few months, youth from the two corps have fused into a thriving fellowship of believers.

As they advance their musical technique in brass, guitar and singing, the youth also are developing leadership skills and getting more involved in their corps, bringing the harbor light ever closer to achieving its goal of Live Music in Worship in Every Corps by 2020 [LM2020]. Learn about the impact summer camps can make at the festival.

Reaching out in Quincy

Creating a youth band as an outreach to the community was one of the first things Keith Weimelt did when he joined the staff of the Quincy, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center as fine arts director. Now in its second year, the 16-piece band is steadily improving in musicianship and increasing its exclusively Salvation Army musical repertoire.

The middle and high school band students practice hard, rehearse together once a week and play several concerts a year, in addition to performing at events such as the corps kettle kickoff. Members also use their growing musical skills in their school bands and at their churches, including the Kroc Center.

At the festival you’ll discover more about music as an outreach.

Getting involved in Minneapolis

Having a role in Sunday morning services has made a world of difference for youth at the Minneapolis Temple, Minn., Corps, who are happy to use their newfound musical talents for the Lord.

In 2018, Northern Divisional Music Director Jose Sanchez began teaching brass band and praise team to seven of the corps youth, ages 9-18. The two groups made their debut on Palm Sunday last year, and since then the praise team has been leading worship on Sunday mornings and the band has played on numerous occasions.

As a result of their increased involvement, all the youth have been enrolled as junior or senior soldiers, and some of their families have started attending the corps as well. At the festival you’ll hear about how involvement in music ministry changes lives and corps.

Come sing with the International Staff Songsters!

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, the International Staff Songsters (ISS), which represents the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland, is embarking on a tour of the U.S. and Canada this spring. You’ll not only have an opportunity to hear this world-renowned vocal group but in three locations! You can join them to rehearse for a massed United Chorus that will perform at our territory’s Festival of Music and Arts, June 11-14, 2020, in Milwaukee, Wis.

The ISS tour stops in the Central Territory will include:

- April 4, 2020 – Vocal Workshops* and Shared Concert with the Eastern Michigan Divisional Band and Songsters at the Adams High School Performing Arts Center, 3200 W. Tienken Road, Rochester Hills, Mich., 48306
- April 5, 2020 – Sunday Worship at the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps, 3015 N. Main St., Royal Oak, Mich., 48073
- April 6, 2020 – Come and Sing rehearsal with The International Staff Songsters* at the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps, 1 S. 415 Summit Villa Park, Ill., 60181
- April 7, 2020 – Concert with the Chicago Staff Band at the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps
- April 8, 2020 – Concert at Castleton United Methodist Church, 7101 Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis, Ind., 46256 – with a late afternoon open rehearsal*

Led by Dorothy Nancekivell, the ISS sings a wide range of Christian music from contemporary to classical, spirituals and traditional songs.

Whatever the genre, the group seeks to praise God and proclaim the joy, peace and hope found in Jesus.

Through its 40 years of ministry, the ISS has blessed thousands of people through recordings, TV and radio appearances and concerts all over the world in venues ranging from cathedrals and community halls to slums and prisons. Each year they give a magnificent Christmas concert in London’s Royal Albert Hall. Their tours have spanned the globe, including Argentina, Uruguay, Estonia, Scandinavia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States.
Pop-up history a hit, wins award

The Central Territory Museum has received a Best Practice Award from the Illinois Association of Museums for its 2019 commissioning weekend exhibit, Booth’s Place Museum Café, an immersive pop-up experience they hope to replicate with Kafe Stuga this June at the Music and Arts Festival.

A panel of professionals in the museum field selected the café for the award after reviewing the museum’s goals and objectives and how the exhibit event fit into its mission. The recognition further validated what the museum staff termed a highly successful event. Indeed, the interactive Booth’s Place Café proved wildly popular during the weekend, buzzing with activity and often filled to capacity.

“We wanted to provide a comfortable place for refreshment and fellowship, an interesting and informal space for learning,” said museum director, Nanci Gasiel. Set amidst murals portraying The Salvation Army’s well-loved work in World War I and with the backdrop of popular 20th Century songs, the café offered a variety of self-guided activities appealing to delegates of all ages. For instance, they could play paper board games that would have entertained soldiers in World War II, pose for photos in a jeep cutout or commemorate family and friends who were veterans on a Wall of Honor.

In addition, delegates could help themselves to freebies like doughnut holes—which they did to a tune of 60 dozen—and squishy foam doughnuts for stress relief. The café’s theme seemed especially germane with commissioning weekend coinciding with National Donut Day last year.

Museum staff spent nearly 500 hours creating the exhibit. This June at the Music and Arts Festival, the museum is planning to introduce delegates to a Swedish café

Central Territory Museum Director Nanci Gasiel (l) with staff members Amy Sparks, Jolie Diipenhorst and Major Gloria Stepke at their award-winning pop-up exhibit.

Interested in a meaningful, life-changing experience? A camp ministry team could be just what you’re looking for. Apply today to make a difference while growing in your faith, honing your leadership skills and developing lifelong friendships.

What are you doing this summer?

Interested in a meaningful, life-changing experience? A camp ministry team could be just what you’re looking for. Apply today to make a difference while growing in your faith, honing your leadership skills and developing lifelong friendships.

Eastern Michigan Division
Echo Grove Camp
Shayna Stubblefield
www.echogrove.org

Heartland Division
Eagle Crest Camp
Jay Curley
www.eaglecrestcamp.org

Indianas Division
Hidden Falls Camp
Captain Anthony Bowers
www.hiddenfallscamp.org

Kansas/Western Missouri Division
Three Trails Camp
Michael Dixon
www.threetrailscamp.org

Metropolitan Division
Wonderland Camp
Zac Smith
www.wonderlandcamp.com

Midland Division
Camp Mihaska
Captains Scott and Shanais Strissel
www.midlandyouth.com

Northern Division
Northwoods Camp
Ryan Voeller
centralusa.salvationarmy.org/northern/northwoods camp

Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division
Little Pine Island Camp
Laura Montalvo
www.jpicamp.org

Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division
Army Lake Camp
Damon Lodge
www.armylakecamp.org

Western Division Camp
Kim Herivel-Walter
usc.salvationarmy.org
City Mission—not just another urban mission strategy

by Captain Katherine Clausell

There is a wave of excitement and growing tension across the territory. Can you feel it? Following a recent review of current systems and practices and the announcement of the territory’s Mission Imperative of “More people, more like Jesus” with five focus areas, the Central Territory has drawn the proverbial line in the sand regarding mission impact in our cities.

The focus for City Mission reads: We seek to be a Salvation Army intimately woven into the fabric of our cities and responsive to the needs both practically and spiritually. An Army marked by:

- Incarnation Engagement
- Gospel Impact
- Impassioned Service
- Mission Integration
- Continuous Innovation
- Strategic Investment

What is emerging from territorial leadership and is being embraced readily in the territory is a renewed missional intentionality that seeks to draw Salvationists and those who align themselves with the Army’s mission into reflection about God’s vision for the city.

The world is becoming increasingly urbanized. Here are some facts from the United Nations to consider:

- Half of humanity, approximately 3.5 billion people, live in cities; by 2030 it’s projected to be 5 billion.
- Since 2007 more than half the world’s population has lived in cities, and that’s projected to rise to 60 percent by 2030.
- Half of humanity, approximately 3.5 billion people, live in cities; by 2030 it’s projected to be 5 billion.
- One of four urban residents live in slum-like conditions.
- More people live in cities than in rural areas, the Central Territory has

City Mission

Salvation Army’s ministry should be directed toward places where the greatest number of people live and, by logical extension, the greatest opportunity for mission impact. The city is a vital and vibrant context for faith, life and ministry. God is calling Salvationists to open our eyes and hearts to the notion that the Kingdom of God is in our cities.

We need to acknowledge that part of our struggle for membership stems from our retreat from cities and neighborhoods where our social ministries are needed most. In the Central Territory, we are noticeably absent in parts of the city where we are most needed. In many megacities, our footprint has shrunk or is altogether absent. Thus, the impetus for City Mission is both a recognition of the changing landscape of our cities and a deliberate return to the city—but not as a “savior.” Our focus on City Mission comes from a posture of a returnee to the city with humility seeking to partner with those we serve, not merely do for them.

In a nutshell, City Mission seeks to be a contemporary expression of Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV) which says, “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city...Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

City Mission reminds us how our Salvationism and the spiritual lives of the city are interwoven.

Captain Katherine Clausell visits Stephanie Marinelli at the International Social Justice Commission in New York City.

Captain Katherine Clausell talks with Michael Swanson and Nate Irvine, members of a working group to support and give momentum to the City Mission focus of the Mission Imperative.
A proverb says, "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." In essence, it’s what the Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative is all about—changing not only the situation but direction of a family’s life now and for generations.

"It’s a hand up, not a handout; it’s teaching how to succeed in life, not just sticking a small bandage on a gaping wound," said Major Connie Shaw, Ottawa, Ill., corps officer. She and case manager Rachelle May harness POH to help families change their lives and futures. They provide social services and pastoral care but are quick to acknowledge the important role played by corps members and a wide network of volunteers and collaborative partners in the community.

In fact, the corps is widely recognized for its exceptional partnerships with churches, nonprofits and government agencies which Rachelle works hard to maintain. When she first arrived in Ottawa four years ago, she helped other agencies see the difference that could be made by working together with POH. Today, collaborations with The Salvation Army range from domestic violence shelters to the community college.

The major and Rachelle also seek to integrate families into the corps so they can avail themselves of other programs and benefit from a network of support and faith. Major Connie created the monthly Sunday Afternoon Family Event (SAFE) to bring together POH families to develop relationships over meals and fun activities which might not otherwise be possible. For instance, one month family portraits were offered, and they constructed family trees of their handprints with paint on canvas.

"SAFE is a great way for POH families to have no-cost fun," said the major, who gives a brief and approachable devotional at each meeting. Corps members have taken an active role in SAFE, staging events like carnivals to build friendships and bridge families into other corps programs. It’s working. POH families have participated in youth nights, Sunday worship and vacation Bible school.

Since 2014, 106 families, with 217 children, have been enrolled in POH at the Ottawa Corps with an 86 percent completion rate.

For instance, Kristin enrolled in POH in 2015 after leaving a domestic violence situation. She received the encouragement, support and tools she needed to make positive changes, which she utilizes several years after finishing POH.

"I think about everything that has happened in the last four years and how you have had such a big impact on my life," wrote Kristin to Rachelle. "You helped me become a stronger, more confident person... I thank God...to have found you and your program."

Today, Kristin lives in another state, has formed a new family, works in a daycare, runs her own online business and attends business school with the goal of opening her own store. "I never would have imagined the first time I stepped into your office where my life would have taken me," she wrote.

In the last year the Ottawa Corps has been recognized by the territory for outstanding achievement in POH, receiving a financial award to further its reach. With the funds, the corps plans to implement a range of practical life skills classes like budgeting, menu planning and even a creative slow-cooker class to help parents juggle daily demands, save money and make healthy and delicious meals.

"I’m most excited for the corps members and staff who work together as a team to make the most of the initiative," concluded Rachelle. "For a small corps we’ve had a mighty effect on people’s lives."

Getting the word out

Working together for only 18 months, Envoy Sue Linden, corps administrator, and Elizabeth Little, case manager, have seen great success with the Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative in Terre Haute, Ind. The result of their efforts to promote POH to the community, form helpful collaborations and develop supportive services based on the needs of families has led to the corps receiving the outstanding POH Award and $5,000 from Territorial Headquarters to further their services.

Getting the word out to potential clients through flyers placed in food boxes, as well as promoting POH to local service groups and training volunteers and staff to answer questions about the initiative, has sparked interest. In the first year, 21 families enrolled in POH and completed their goals. Given the immediate and positive outcomes of POH in Terre Haute, the corps has been featured in a local magazine and as part of an annual report by the Lilly Endowment.

"The reason we’ve had so much success in such a short time is because the people here want to be better and do better," said Elizabeth.

"They just don’t know how."

"Sometimes our clients don’t stop to think of their potential because they are living daily in crisis mode," added Envoy Sue. "It’s up to us to help them see they can do better."

Collaborating with other community organizations provides a network of resources for POH clients to access and helps spread the word about POH. For instance, Elizabeth may refer qualifying clients to a crisis pregnancy center or a dental office that specializes in serving Medicare, Medicaid and uninsured patients. These offices let families know about services they can access at The Salvation Army.

As they’ve built POH, Envoy Sue also has worked to create supportive programs at the corps for POH families and the community to access. Families can find encouragement in pastoral care with Envoy Sue and through fellowship opportunities such as a monthly women’s ministry Embrace group and a weekly after-school program called Take It On Thursday which provides a safe place for children to engage in fun extracurricular activities like singing, crafts and games along with learning life skills and hearing a Bible story.

Elizabeth Little (r) visits with a Pathway of Hope client.
by Captain Daniel Simmons

Growing up, we were often concerned with where we were going to get food, what we were going to eat and how we were going to survive. We had so very little all the time; yet my mother taught me that the trials and hardships in life are opportunities for God’s power to penetrate the darkness and rescue us. Despite all the hardships, God saw fit to call me into a lifetime of ministry and service through The Salvation Army. Convinced He was calling me, I answered, “Yes, Lord!”

As an officer I have had the wonder- ful opportunity along with my wife, to prove myself to the Lord by serving those entangled in difficult situations with seemingly no way out. Although officership is not easy, there is nothing more rewarding than fulfilling God’s will for my life. Like many people from poverty-stricken areas, my father was not in my life, and my stepfather was not a nice man, to put it mildly. I’ve found that God uses even this in my ministry. Many teens at the corps in which we have served have lived in similar situations. Many of them want love from a father that they don’t have. Many deem themselves unlovable.

It’s a privilege to laugh, hangout, mentor, guide and, above all, love those who identify as unlovable.

Over the last 3,181 days as an officer, I have cherished building relationships with people. God is in the business of transformation. He desires to change lives into something the individual has never dreamed of. So, we must be about our Heavenly Father’s business. Not only are we called to win souls for Jesus but also to make disciples in His name. I cherish the moments it seems as if I accomplished nothing in a day only to find out I made a big impact in someone’s life. It encourages me to always practice the presence of Christ.

Pathway of Hope Resources

If you’re an officer or case manager involved in Pathway of Hope (POH), there are many resources established by Central Territorial Headquarters to aid in this ministry. Most are available through several databases, including the Pathway of Hope Resources, The Salvation Army Information Management System (SIMS), and, most recently developed, a resource to track Pathway of Hope training.

The Pathway of Hope Resource Database contains all materials needed to orient staff and teams to POH like training manuals in English and Spanish, videos, educational webinars, life skills curriculum, and development strategies along with policies and procedures regarding effective implementation. Additionally, promotional materials are available, including brochures in English and Spanish, general and Christmas postcards, notecards, posters and banners containing editable fields.

SIMS ServicePoint is the key software tool for case management and data collection. As POH case managers and officers are trained in the software, supporting resources can be found in the SIMS ServicePoint Resource Database which is available to all users in the Central Territory directory. These include videos, manuals and tutorials that provide support for POH, emergency services and other social service programs that utilize SIMS ServicePoint. Other valuable resources include updated client consent forms and the policies and procedures all in one place.

Lastly, the Pathway of Hope Training Database is available to POH divisional headquarters staff to track training sessions and trainee attendance. This enables each division to review who has been trained in POH and SIMS POH workflow and the data used for quarterly grant reports to National Headquarters.

With the transition to Office 365, the resource databases are available online and can easily be accessed by officers and employees. For more information, contact your divisional regional coordinator or manager.
Preparing for life’s disasters

by Major Paula Pyle

Countries throughout the world are susceptible to disasters. Catastrophes such as hurricanes, floods and earthquakes can lead to injury, loss of life, property damage, social and economic disruption and environmental degradation. All disasters, whether natural or manmade, have the potential to severely impact a country’s infrastructure and disrupt the normal patterns of life.

Most of the time, disasters are preceded by advance warnings that allow people to plan, prepare and be protected. These warnings give people time to gather basic supplies such as food, water and toiletries, while ensuring buildings are in repair or boarded up to stand against the strong winds and floods. Those who don’t heed the warnings can be caught offguard and more likely susceptible to disasters.

Similarly, God provides us with advance warnings to weather the storms of life. If we leave Him out of our plans, our lives can result in disaster. God reminds us not to become complacent in life, and not to take our possessions and relationships for granted; otherwise, we can lose them. Psalm 37:5 says, “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this.” Another applicable verse is 1 Corinthians 10:12, which says, “So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall!”

God challenges us to be careful that spiritual disasters don’t come upon us and to be ready for Christ’s return. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 says, “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, prideful,=f, loving, ungodly, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.”

The following acrostic reminds us how to prepare for natural disasters and those disasters that can occur in our personal lives:

Develop an emergency plan.
Invoke prayer and depend on God.
Stay tuned to media and God’s Holy Spirit.
Acknowledge that our strength is in God.
Stock up on items, and the Fruit of the Spirit.
Take physical and spiritual rest.
Embrace opportunities for growth.
Reach out and help others.

Promoted to Glory

Captain Miranda Duskin

Captain Miranda Vivian Carol Duskin was promoted to Glory on December 10, 2019. Miranda’s missionary heart, testimony and witness leave a lasting influence on people she ministered to worldwide. Creative and adventuresome, she enjoyed serving the Lord, traveling and thrift shopping. Her greatest joy in life was her family.

Miranda was born September 3, 1979. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota before attending the College for Officer Training. Commissioned in 2006 with the “Visionaries” session, Miranda married Captain R.C. Duskin a few weeks later. Together they served in the Eastern Europe Territory, where Miranda was the regional project and child sponsorship officer, before returning to the Central Territory. At the time of her promotion to Glory, the Duskins led the Cadillac, Mich., Corps.

Miranda is survived by her husband, children, Dominic, Isaac, Carmen, Nicolas and Michaela; parents Majors Jonathan and Linda Fjellman; siblings Samuel, Veronica and Jocelyn Fjellman; in-laws Majors Paul and Mary Duskin; and many other family members and friends.

Lt. Colonel Ruth Hasney

Mrs. Lt. Colonel Hannah Ruth Hasney, 98, was promoted to Glory on December 28, 2019. Kind and gentle in spirit, Ruth was a comfortable presence to those around her as she faithfully served the Lord.

Ruth grew up attending church and accepted Christ when she was 12 years old. After graduating high school, she married William Hasney on December 6, 1945, and began attending The Salvation Army with him. In 1952 Ruth was enrolled as a soldier at the Waukegan, Ill., Corps, where she and William worshipped with their young family. In time they entered officer training and were commissioned in 1957 with the “Faithful” session.

After serving in one corps appointment, the Hasneys spent more than 10 years in men’s social service centers (now adult rehabilitation centers) before being appointed to lead them at territorial headquarters (THQ) in 1974. They retired from THQ in 1985.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her children, Janine Deratany and Paul; three grandchildren and other family members and friends.

Major Kay Mills

Mrs. Major Kay Mills, 84, was promoted to Glory on December 20, 2019, surrounded by her family. A talented musician, Kay used her gifts to share the love of God with others. She is remembered as a doting grandmother who was always available to offer godly advice and who loved each of her flock.

Born in Streator, Ill., Kay gave her life to Christ at an early age. She grew up playing cornet at the corps and at school. She also was an accomplished vocalist but turned down a university vocal scholarship to follow God’s call to officership. She was commissioned in 1955 with the “Soul Winners” session.

Kay married the love of her life, Lt. Roy Mills, on February 1, 1958. Together they served as corps officers across the territory. They retired from the Chicago Central Adult Rehabilitation Center in 1993.

Kay is survived by her husband; children, Roger, Susan DeVillbiss, Annette Kueker and Carol Hedgren; 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; and other family members and friends.

Emergency Disaster Services Training Opportunities

Thinking about becoming involved in emergency disaster services or wanting to delve further into this ministry? Consider attending one of the training opportunities being held this year which are open to everyone in the territory.

March 12-15, 2020
Midland Division
Camp Mihaska
1466 Highway “N”
Bourbon, Mo. 65441
Contact: Marty Router
314-646-3255

April 2-4, 2020
Northern Division
Northwoods Camp
60402 Elbow Lake Road
Finlayson, Minn. 55736
Contact: Major Rae Doliber
651-746-3461

October 15-18, 2020
Heartland Division
Eagle Crest Camp
823 Columbia Road
Washburn, Ill. 61571
Contact: Erin Martin
309-271-4530

Photo by Lt. Colonel Lonneal Richardson