



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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It's like family here

by Rebekah Grimm and Russel Gutsche

The Minneapolis, Minn., Booth Manor is one of the few Salvation Army housing programs in the Central Territory that exclusively serves the senior population, those 62 years plus. With more than 40 percent of its residents speaking Russian and a myriad of cultural and religious backgrounds, including people from

all walks of life, this high-rise in downtown Minneapolis overlooking scenic Loring Park has become a melting pot providing an engaging community. It's a haven where residents feel accepted, cared for and loved. This safe and loving environment offers events and activities to meet residents' emotional, physical, social and spiritual needs. Its staff is routinely encouraged to learn more about current trends and barriers in

the senior community.

For example, there is an increasing desire within the senior community to age at home as opposed to transitioning to an assisted living facility or nursing home. With this trend comes an increased need for community-based supportive services. Therefore, the multidisciplinary team at Booth Manor consists of a coordinator, a service coordinator and property management staff who strive to improve collaboration and find creative ways to support the residents.

The property consists of 157 residential units; 100 units receive a HUD rental subsidy (Section 8), while 55 units are made available at market rates. There currently is a waiting list of 6-12 months with roughly 55 people on it.

Booth Manor contributes to the Twin Cities Strategic Plan by continuing to provide much needed affordable housing opportunities for seniors. In addition to housing, the manor partners with multiple service providers to increase access to food

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Photos by Craig Dirkes

General John Larsson promoted to Glory

General John Larsson (retired), The Salvation Army's 17th beloved international leader, was promoted to Glory from his home in Bromley, London, on March 18, 2022.

Born in Sweden on April 2, 1938, the son of officer-parents, John spent his early years in Sweden, Denmark, Chile and Argentina and by age 12 was fluent in Swedish, Danish, English and Spanish. Following the family's return to the UK from service in South America, he entered the International Training College in London from the Upper Norwood Corps as a cadet in the Faithful Session and was commissioned as an officer on May 17, 1957.

His first appointment as a corps officer was at Sunderland Southwick with Washington in the north-east of England, where he served for just one year before returning to serve on the staff at the International Training College where he remained



for the next seven years. He received the rank of captain in May 1960.

In May 1966 he returned to corps leadership, first at Hillingdon and

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Bed & Bread Radiothon celebrates 35 years

by Sharon Tatom Garcia

The Salvation Army Metro Detroit's 35th annual Bed & Bread Club Radiothon raised more than \$1.7 million this year to combat hunger and homelessness.

The 27-hour radio fundraiser on 760 WJR was broadcasted from the East-

ern Michigan Divisional Headquarters in Southfield, Mich., and featured the station's on-air personalities including Paul W. Smith, Sean Baligian, Kevin Dietz, Lloyd Jackson, Chris Renwick, Mitch Albom, Ken Brown, Steve Courtney, Kevin O'Neill and Guy Gordon.

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Salvation Army of Metro Detroit Advisory Board members with Central Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey and Eastern Michigan Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel John E. Turner

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Citywide transformation

Advancing the mission through area commands and coordination

by Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich
Secretary for Program

What is a Salvation Army Corps? To this I reply that it is a band of people united together to attack and Christianize an entire city. We are sent to war. We are not sent to minister to a congregation and be content if we keep things going. We are sent to make war—and to stop short of nothing but the subjugation of the world to the sway of the Lord Jesus. — William Booth, *The Words of William Booth* by Cyril Barnes

William Booth's 19th Century language, "to Christianize an entire city" may seem quaint and perhaps even offensive to some. Today, might we say something like this instead:

The Salvation Army is called and commissioned to ignite community-wide, holistic Gospel transformation through a deep commitment to evangelism and conversion and a deep commitment to deeds of compassion and social justice...

I'm a firm believer The Salvation Army (soldiers/adherents, professional staff, officers...) is called to

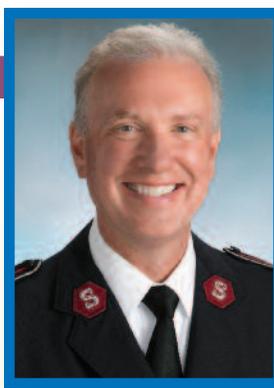
"entire city" or "community-wide" transformation. From an historical perspective, The Salvation Army was birthed in the largest, most densely populated city on the planet in 1865. William Booth's *In Darkest England and the Way Out* proposed nothing short of a "scheme" to rescue over 3 million people from a life of spiritual and physical poverty throughout London and beyond.

What is our "scheme" today?

One of the most significant initiatives we are launching through Project Advance is to shift away from a structure that currently "adds on" the leadership of our work in the major metropolitan areas of our territory to an overburdened and broadly scoped divisional staff.

As of this July 1, 2022, we will shift to a structure that allows an "area command" leadership team to give dedicated and laser-focused attention to our missional advancement in the large cities and regions in the 11 central states. This is a major, missional paradigm shift for our territory.

Fourteen area commands have



been identified in the Central Territory. Most of these are based in metropolitan regions of over 1 million people and include multiple expressions of Salvation Army ministry. In fact, those 14 regions comprise over 60 percent of everyone living in the 11 central states.

Here is an example of what this will look like: The Metropolitan Region of Grand Rapids, Mich., is populated by more than 1.4 million people. That area command will include four corps, a Kroc Center, large social service centers and more. An area commander, appointed this June, and his or her team will give 100 percent of their attention to leading and resourcing The Salvation Army to "save souls,

grow saints and serve suffering humanity." Currently, that work is done by a divisional commander and a divisional headquarters team who also have all of Western Michigan and Northern Indiana as part of their leadership scope.

This may not seem that revolutionary, but it is a major shift we think will lead to greater missional advancement in the places where we have the most resources to bring to the most people for the glory of God through the power of the Gospel.

When all is said and done, I believe we are called by God, in the communities in which we live, just like He called His people to bring citywide transformation through the prophet Jeremiah:

"...Seek the peace and prosperity [shalom...wholeness] of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (Jeremiah 29:7, NIV 2011)

South Bend Kroc Center marks 10 years

by Ken Lavery

The atmosphere was one of excitement and friendship as the community, staff and supporters gathered in celebrating 10 years since the opening of the South Bend, Ind., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. But perhaps, even more, was the anticipation of what the future brings.

On a cold Midwest morning, nearly 70 people joined the ceremonial ribbon cutting inside the Kroc Center. Among those in attendance were Jeff Rea, president of St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce, South Bend Mayor James Mueller, Jackie Rucker, our first Kroc Center member and Kroc Center Advisory Board member. Mayor Mueller, Brandon Roach, Kroc Center Advisory Board chair, and Senior Kroc Center Officer A/Captain John Gantner, offered words of inspiration.

"We want to recognize what people believed in 10 years ago. Recognize the thousands and tens of thousands of people who have come through this center either as members, volunteers and community leaders," said

A/Captain John who leads the Kroc Center with his wife, A/Captain Tracy. "But what we truly want to do is engage in the future. We want to look forward. The Kroc at 10 years is still in its infancy, and we have big things planned."

"We view the Kroc Center's myriad programs and opportunities in a holistic light," explained A/Captain Tracy. "We're not a Kroc center and a church—it's one Kroc. And we look forward to infusing the mission of The Salvation Army throughout the center and identifying and developing unique programs that will serve this community."

A/Captain John added, "We want to be a game-changer in this community. We've come this far, we've done amazing things, but we're not going to rest on that. What can we do in the future?"

Opened in January 2012, the Kroc center continues to be a life-changing resource for many people in the St. Joseph County community—a beacon of light to all, without discrimination, as Joan Kroc envisioned.



Pictured (l to r): Kroc mascot RJ, A/Captains John and Tracy Gantner, Wyn Laidig, Avi Worley (front) and Carol Laidig

Bed & Bread Radiothon

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"Partnering with The Salvation Army as the radiothon host has been an honorable cause these last 12 years," said Steve Finateri, vice president/market manager of 760 WJR. "It's truly the support from our generous audience that makes this partnership so successful in the fight against hunger and homelessness in metro Detroit."

Throughout the day, appearances from special guests, including Central Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey, Salvation Army Metro Detroit and National Advisory Board Member Jim Vella, and Bed & Bread Club founder and Detroit radio Hall of Famer Dick Purtan encouraged the community to donate and help those who are hungry and homeless. Michigan natives Tim Allen, Nicole Curtis, J.K. Simmons and Herman Moore also joined business and civic leaders to show their support of The Salvation Army.



Retiring after over 30 years of service, Sandy and Russ Dobney participated in their final Bed & Bread Club Radiothon.

"It's the generosity from our donors that makes it possible for The Salvation Army to serve those in need at such a large scale. We are so lucky to have a partner like 760 WJR and generous contributors that make the services we provide the community possible," said Lt. Colonel John E. Turner, Eastern Michigan divisional commander.

Members of the community also could support the program through an online auction where they could bid on items like tickets to attend a Detroit Tigers or Pistons game, a signed Red Wings jersey, pizza for a year or a 30-minute consultation from HGTV's Nico Curtis.

The Salvation Army's Bed & Bread Club Radiothon has raised more than \$41.3 million in 35 years.

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit's Bed & Bread program serves nearly 4,400 meals each day to men, women and children who would otherwise go without. That's nearly 1.6 million meals every year. In addition, the Bed & Bread program provides more than 77,000 nights of shelter annually. The Bed & Bread program serves many people via mobile soup kitchens. Bed & Bread trucks are on the streets of Detroit 365 days a year making designated stops throughout the day.



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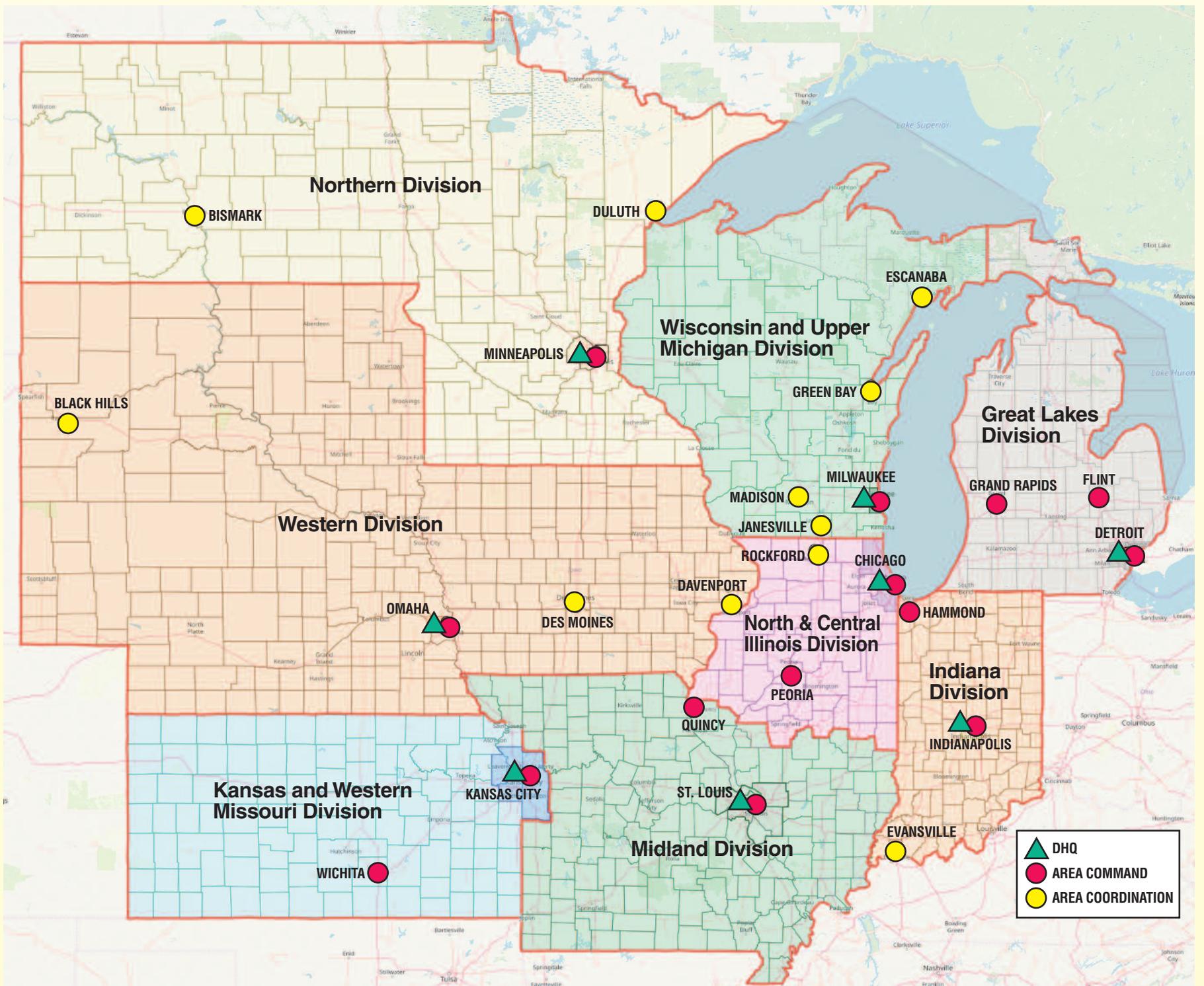
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New Area Commands and Area Coordination

With the territory's reorganization this year, an important component is the creation of area commands and coordination to help maximize ministry and financial resources. These are identified below. For more insight, please read Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich's column *Citywide Transformation* (page 2). For the latest Project Advance updates, please visit our website (salarmycentral.org)



Great Lakes Division

DHQ: Detroit, MI

Area Commands: Detroit, MI;
Grand Valley Area (Grand Rapids, MI);
Mid-Michigan (Genesee & Shiawassee County)

Indiana Division

DHQ: Indianapolis, IN

Area Commands: Indianapolis, IN;
Northwest Indiana (Hammond, IN)
Area Coordination: Southwest Indiana (Evansville, IN)

Kansas and Western Missouri Division

DHQ: Kansas City, MO

Area Commands: Kansas City, MO;
South Central Kansas (Wichita, KS)

Midland Division

DHQ: St. Louis, MO

Area Commands: St. Louis, MO; Quincy, IL

North & Central Illinois Division

DHQ: Chicago, IL

Area Commands: Chicago, IL; Peoria, IL
Area Coordination: Winnebago County (Rockford, IL)

Northern Division

DHQ: Minneapolis, MN

Area Command: Twin Cities, MN
Area Coordination: Western North Dakota (Bismarck, ND);
Iron Range (Duluth, MN)

Western Division

DHQ: Omaha, NE

Area Command: Omaha, NE
Area Coordination: Quad Cities (Davenport, IA);
Capital Area (Des Moines, IA); Black Hills, SD

Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division

DHQ: Milwaukee, WI

Area Command: Milwaukee, WI
Area Coordination: Brown County (Green Bay, WI);
Capital Area (Madison, WI); Rock County (Janesville, WI);
Upper Peninsula (Escanaba, MI)

Growing in unity and community

Ministry is growing at the Elkhart, Ind., Corps, where Lts. Katy and Wayne Benedict have been working steadily since their appointment in 2020 to expand the reach of The Salvation Army in the community. Caring for their neighbors' needs during and beyond the pandemic, building corps programs and making concentrated efforts toward reaching the Hispanic community for Christ have all yielded positive results.

One of the programs that has been particularly important since the beginning of the pandemic is Mobile Manna, which provides a monthly delivery of food and supplies to

older adults who are homebound.

"It's our goal that nobody goes hungry," said Lt. Katy. "In the last few months, groceries have gotten more expensive. A lot of people get government help, but they can't get out to shop, so we provide what we can—rice, cereal, canned goods, frozen meats and other necessities like shampoo upon request."

To reach individuals and families in the Hispanic community looking for connection, the lieutenants began attending neighborhood fiestas, developing and distributing Spanish language fliers for programs and including multicultural elements to worship services. These efforts have resulted in new connections

being made and strides toward program growth, particularly in women's and children's ministries.

For example, Olga Figueroa, the corps newest women's ministries member, hails from Puerto Rico and has found a church home in The Salvation Army. She volunteers regularly to assist with various activities and projects at the corps. Others from the Hispanic community also have shown interest and are beginning to attend.

"I am preaching the gospel in any language I can," said Lt. Katy.

"We are praying for church growth and unity."



Traditional Hispanic foods are served during a heritage celebration by Lt. Wayne Benedict.



Lt. Katy Benedict delivers a pantry box.

One of the corps' efforts included hosting a celebration for Hispanic Heritage month to draw interest from the surrounding neighborhood and offer an educational opportunity for corps members. Utilizing materials provided by the territorial intercultural ministries department, the Sunday morning worship service focused on the topics of unity and community and included elements in both English and Spanish. The service was followed by a meal featuring traditional Hispanic foods and educational exhibits.

"The event was very well-received," concluded Lt. Katy. "We are looking forward to making more connections and growing our church community."



Booth Manor

Continued from page 1



and healthy eating, and to reduce food insecurity among residents.

Striving to meet the ever-changing needs of the residents, Booth Manor provides services through a framework focused on needs. Standards for Success annual assessments and resident questionnaires assist the team in identifying the unique needs of residents. All of its residents have the right to make choices about their lives, and the team is there to help support them and connect them with resources.

Booth Manor's aim is to provide a safe and comfortable atmosphere where residents feel like they are home. The team combines the use of community resources and food distribution to help residents to stay in their homes longer, as well as provide activities to keep residents en-

gaged and active and to stimulate brain functioning. Overall, the facility's goal is to help people flourish and prosper as they age.

"It's a privilege to serve here at Booth Manor," said A/Captain Leonita Schweigert, the building's coordinator. "In addition to offering educational and informational speakers, we offer activities that meet their physical and emotional needs that encourage our seniors to stay active and keep them as independent residents for as long as possible. Our focus is on spreading the love of Jesus in all we do."

Editor's Note: Other Booth Manors in the territory can be found in Oak Creek, Wis., St. Louis, Kansas City and Grandview, Mo., Chicago, Ill., Columbus and Indianapolis, Ind., and Omaha, Neb.

SUMMER MISSION TEAM

USA CENTRAL

SMTs announced

This year three teams will minister in the Midwest and Panama. Pray for the following young Salvationists as they serve people and share the Good News.

CAST

Elijah Stouder [^]	Indiana Division
Ana Swartele [^]	Brazil Territory
Bruno Cavalheiro	Brazil Territory
Erin McDonald	Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division
Zoe Stanek	Heartland Division

Panama

Rachel Jordan*	Metropolitan Division
Elizabeth McCormick	Western Division
Josh Rapley	Metropolitan Division

Social Justice / City Mission

Magnolia Clayton*	Indiana Division
Berit Lolo	Kenya East Territory
Hannah Trayler	USA Southern Territory
Naila Twishime	Rwanda and Burundi Comman
Grace Washburn	Metropolitan Division

[^] = Co-leader; * = Leader

Kroc Centers a win for older adults

by Bram Roberts

For over a decade, Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers have been sharing the love of Jesus Christ through innovative programming. In addition to Christian education and spiritual development, Kroc Centers are uniquely positioned to serve multiple generations through services like aquatics, fitness and the fine arts.

One common thread across all six centers is older adult programming. While our older adult population might not have a dedicated space, all our centers find this population engaged in programming ranging from book clubs to pickleball to low-impact fitness classes specifically designed for them. In addition, our centers provide a sense of community at a time when some older adults may be experiencing loneliness.



A unique way older adult members can gain access to a Kroc Center is through an insurance benefit program such as Silver-Sneakers, Silver & Fit, or Renew Active. In most cases, eligibility is determined by participation in a Medicare health plan, and qualifying individuals can access the center at no charge. In exchange, the Kroc Centers receive a contracted reimbursement amount based on the participant's usage.

Once an older adult joins, the Kroc Centers work to intentionally engage them through a member onboarding process which provides an overview of health benefits and program opportunities. During onboarding, the user learns about program offerings, membership guidelines, and more about the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army.

Ongoing engagement is important not only for the Kroc Centers to make the programs work financially but also for the members to take the next step on their wellness journey.

In January the Quincy, Ill., Kroc Center started a new, free program for their insurance-based members titled "Move 2022." In short, the program was created to incentivize members in insurance-reimbursed programs by offering rewards for visiting the Kroc more frequently.

Angie Duerr, Quincy Kroc Center membership services manager, said, "It's a win, win, win...not only do our older adults get to take advantage of our amazing facility and programs, they can also earn prizes. In addition, the Kroc Center can get to know their older adult membership



base better and look for opportunities to minister."

As of March 1, the six Central Territory Kroc Centers (Chicago, Ill., Grand Rapids, Mich., Green Bay, Wis., Omaha, Neb., Quincy, Ill., and South Bend, Ind.) have a total of 3,743 members involved in one of those programs—with each one of those people representing another opportunity to share the love of Christ.



Pivot promotes wellbeing

by Sarah Jakubowski

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions, our staff at Oak Creek, Wis., Booth Manor have made extra efforts to ensure the needs of residents are being met.

Prior to the pandemic, residents of Booth Manor (a HUD-subsidized low-income housing community for seniors) had the ability to meet their social, physical, mental and spiritual needs in a variety of ways. Local senior centers, entertainment venues, medical centers, church services and shopping used to provide opportunities for residents to get out in the world.

However, the serious risk COVID-19 posed to older adults dramatically changed that option for independence. Many of the places they used to frequent closed or imposed restrictions that increased the anxiety residents already felt. In addition, the transportation options that many seniors relied upon experienced disruptions in service.

While the staff at Booth Manor always have provided enrichment offerings to our residents, we quickly realized that we became the sole source of meeting most of their needs. For many, we were also the only human contact they had for a long time. It was imperative we made sure we were focusing on the whole person in our monthly planning.

We introduced a number of new activities for our residents to remain engaged and healthy. We began hosting trivia and brain boosting sessions and welcoming more educational speakers for mental health. We increased the frequency of crafting options and parties for their creative and social health. We led residents in



a stretch class twice a week and put together a fitness room with a treadmill, exercise bike and free weights for their physical health. We encouraged them to seek pastoral care, church services and Bible study for their spiritual health and encouraged them to volunteer with The Salvation Army not only as an outlet of service but for their emotional health. We also arranged a falls prevention workshop and a healthy eating lunch series, scheduled bus outings, and provided flu shots and COVID-19 vaccinations on-site.

As a result, we saw a community that, by and large, remained connected and supported throughout a very isolating and difficult time. Our residents expressed appreciation for our efforts and said they felt valued and loved.

As challenging as the pandemic has been, it has created an opportunity for us to further succeed in our mission to keep our residents engaged and functioning as one large family at the Booth Manor in Oak Creek. Even now that restrictions have eased, we plan to continue providing ways to holistically meet residents' needs.

At the door and heart of Temple

by Camerin Mattson

If you've visited the Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps Community Center in the past few years, there's a good chance you've met Corena. Soon after you entered the building, if your temperature was taken by a white-haired woman, equal parts helpful and feisty, you definitely did.

Corena volunteers at Temple Corps Monday through Thursday, five hours a day, usually checking in clients for the food pantry, Christmas gift distributions and other events. She ushers them through the latest COVID-19 safety protocols to keep everyone safe and does the same for special events and church services on the weekends as well.

Besides the fact that Corena likes "helping other folks," she's also rather fond of the commute to Temple Corps. It's maybe a dozen steps. For the past 12 years, she's lived at Booth Manor, The Salvation Army's subsidized apartments for seniors on a fixed income, located right next door to the Temple Corps. But don't tell Corena she's a "senior;" at 78 she still goes dancing at least once a month.

A lifelong helper, Corena spent 25 years as a homecare worker, another nine years caring for her sister after she had a stroke, and the last three



doing whatever's needed at the corps in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood.

"Oh, my goodness, we could not do it without her," said Captain Denesia Polusca, corps officer with her husband, Captain Norman. "Besides my husband and me, we have one other employee."

In addition to welcoming people to the building, Corena helps with the food pantry, cleans the bathrooms and is quick to lend a hand with other needs that she sees. "She has a great heart," Captain Denesia said.

But don't go gushing about that to Corena. "This keeps me busy," she said of her decision to volunteer at corps. "We have a good time. We eat together; we laugh. The Salvation Army is good people."

Conference gives men's ministries forward **MOMENTUM**

by Mark Bender

What happens when 575 men—plus more than 200 virtual delegates—gather with anticipation, ready to worship God and expecting to hear from Him? God reveals himself in a mighty way! Isaiah 43:19 says, "See, I am doing a new thing!" The territorial men's conference, **MOMENTUM 2022**, the first large in-person gathering in two years, challenged men to discover new ways to impact their families, corps and communities for Christ.



Territorial Men's Ministries Secretary Captain Michael Sjögren welcomes men.



A/Captain Josh Polanco and delegates from the Noble Worship Center (Corps) with Major Scott Shelbourn.



Commissioner Brad Bailey talks about the source of true momentum

"The weekend was a fresh reminder of how vital the body of Christ meeting together is to our faith journey's development," said Captain Michael Sjögren, territorial men's ministries secretary.

Motivational speaker, author and pastor Steve Carter spoke about how the world labels men, but the labels are not of God. "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past," says Isaiah 43:18 (NIV). Men were moved to surrender and leave those labels at the cross and claim their new identity in Christ.



Steve Carter encourages men to claim their identity in Christ.



Captain Joaquin Rangel leads workshop

Delegates were given an opportunity to attend one of four breakout sessions on Saturday morning. Each provided tools for building momentum in growth opportunities both personally and in corps and communities.

Master storyteller and self-proclaimed "Hope Dealer,"

Carlos Whittaker brought both levity and poignancy to living life intentionally as a *Moment Maker*.

"You just have to be aware—of your surroundings, the people you encounter, the things that interest those important to you, the opportunities that present themselves—and be prepared to seize those moments and see lives changed," he said. He also challenged listeners to discover the root of the struggles that hold them back so they may truly experience the fullness of our salvation.

Saturday afternoon brought much needed time for relaxation and recreation.

Through tournament and non-competitive games, men enjoyed camaraderie and fellowship. New to the conference was an opportunity to participate in SA Gaming. Everyone seemed to find their way to Trade Central's conference store that offered a

whole new line of affordable apparel showcasing the new men's ministries territorial logo.

Each main session began with a time of thoughtful and intentional worship and praise led by the Territorial Worship Collective. They provided a variety of musical genres, hymns and contemporary songs which spoke to men from every walk

of life and led them into a time of authentic adoration.

Testimonies by Carlos Chacón (Rockford Temple, Ill.), Cadet Camon Landry (College for Officer Training) and Theo Coleman (Chicago Englewood, Ill.) spoke of God's relentless pursuit, their surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit's power to transform their lives. Vessels of God's grace and redemption, each of these men is doing their part to grow God's Kingdom.

A man and/or a men's club was recognized from each division during the main sessions. They were celebrated for their innovative ministries, particularly during these past two years, as well as their consistent service and outreach within their corps and communities. It is hoped that the recognition of these men and clubs and their accomplishments will help to build momentum for others who are looking to grow their ministries.

Lt. Colonel Paul Smith, assistant chief secretary, summed up Saturday night's session: "This was not just a concert; it was a worship experience." Singer/songwriter Anthony Evans, Jr. and his band not only sang and played incredible music, but Evans spoke transparently about his own struggles and how God has been working in his own life.



Territorial Program Secretary Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich and Theo Coleman

The auditorium was in awe of his a cappella rendition of, "How Great Thou Art," with tears flowing from men who have experienced the goodness of God.

Delegates had the opportunity to join other men from their division in the Sunday morning breakout session to discuss the question "Now what?" in preparation for going back to their homes. They considered the ways the weekend had challenged them and talked about potential "new things" God is inviting them to and what first steps are needed to build momentum in the work God already is doing or will do through them.

Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey tied the weekend together, focusing on the cross and that true momentum can only be experienced through salvation. Delegates also were challenged to seek unity and reconciliation as the body of Christ.

Captain Michael concluded, "The weekend ushered a Holy Spirit guided and empowered wind in our sails that will build momentum throughout our territory."



Anthony Evans, Jr., and band inspire delegates.



Delegates surrender the world's labels they've carried.

Taking it to the streets

Carlos Chacón joined the Rockford Temple, Ill. Corps in 2011 and quickly found fellowship and belonging. Five years later he participated in his first Salvation Army men's conference and found his life transformed by the Holy Spirit.

"The speaker was sharing a message that resonated: 'When you go home, what is the mission you will take with you?' The sermon helped the Holy Spirit touch my heart. I fell to my knees and vowed to share the love of Jesus with the world, even though I wasn't sure how I would do that yet."

Several months later Carlos saw a sign that sparked an idea—he could make signs and flyers proclaiming love for Jesus. The next day when commuting, he noticed an empty parking lot that looked like an ideal place to pray and share God's Word with the community. Carlos brought members of the corps to pray with him, including Major Mark Martsolf, corps officer at the time, who encouraged him in his endeavor to take God's message to the streets.

In May 2017 Carlos held his first street prayer meeting where he read the Bible and prayed with passersby. The next month, he led a prayer for

the city of Rockford, highlighting gun violence and other struggles the community faced.

Since then, Rockford Temple's street evangelism has taken off, connecting the corps to other parts of the community in new and enriching ways. Carlos began posting flyers for outdoor prayer meetings, and the corps received calls from other churches and pastors who attended and shared sermons, music and food. The number of people attending varies, with many meetings drawing more than 40.

Despite the pandemic, 2021 was one of most rewarding years for the corps' street evangelism because although churches were closed, people felt safe gathering outdoors to celebrate Jesus.

Carlos also leads other corps evangelism efforts such as distributing free Bibles directly to the community, and he participates in The Salvation Army's Night Patrol which provides food, toothbrushes, coats

and other necessities to the homeless.

"The Lord told us to go and make disciples," concluded Carlos. "There is only so much we can accomplish by staying inside the church walls and never coming out. Give sharing the Gospel with someone new a chance; you never know who will listen. And it is such a joy to share the Word of Christ."



Guest vocalist Anthony Evans, Jr., with Carlos Chacón at the men's conference



Carlos Chacón (left), with Captain Xavier Montenegro and other delegates at the 2022 Men's Conference in Carlinville, Ill.

Men Building Character in Green Bay

With the goal of bringing men together to share a common interest, learn new skills, build relationships and strengthen faith, Major Matt O'Neil, Green Bay, Wis., area coordinator, developed Men Building Character, a group he leads at the Green Bay, Wis., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. The program melds hands-on projects with Bible study and discussion, helping men form bonds of faith as they work together.

"I've always wanted to create a group where I could use skills from

my previous career as a contractor combined with the ministry experience I've gained as an officer to build men into the church, to reach them for Christ," he said.

In order to get the program off the ground with funding for tools and building materials, Major Matt applied for a grant from the women's auxiliary and was thrilled when it was approved. Men Building Character's inaugural meeting took place in May 2020.

The small group includes Salvationists as well as members and staff



Major Matt O'Neil leads Bible study.

from the Kroc, a mix that according to the major helps to bridge gaps for staff by providing a spiritual connection through Bible study and a different experience as a participant, rather than leader, in the program.

"We start meetings with Bible study and discussion, and that discussion often continues as we work," he said. "It's been great to see some of the men go from being pretty closed off to sharing more, and from being uncomfortable using tools to handling them with confidence."

The first project the group tackled was building a tiny house. For more than a year, the men met weekly to

build their faith and gain practical skills from working with their hands. In the end, the tiny house was auctioned off, with the proceeds feeding back into the program to fund future projects. Currently the group is working on building a barrel sauna, which also will be sold when it is completed.

"The intent was to build friendship and connection, and have some fun working on a project together," concluded the major. "Then the walls started coming down, and we were able to have deeper conversations. Now sometimes we don't get to the project because we're engrossed in the Bible study!"



Members of Men Building Character work together to build a tiny house.

Central Staff Songsters bring words of life

by Major Curtiss Hartley and Evie Polsley

A vision two years in the making was realized when the Central Territorial Staff Songsters (CTSS) appeared at the 90th Reunion of the Salvation Army Retired Officers' Association (SAROA) at the St. Petersburg Corps in Florida. "Wonderful Words of Life" was more than a theme; it was an expression lived out by generations of Salvationists proclaiming the truth of God's Word.

Retired officers from the four U.S. territories, as well as Canada, gathered for fellowship and worship at the event which also celebrates the organization's continued support of the Army's mission and ministries worldwide.

Bailey focused their messages on the power and comfort of the Word that was made flesh and lived among us—and now lives within us. The territorial commander's message about the impact of God's Living Word stirred listeners to continued action to support those who are marginalized. "The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." (John 1:4-5, NLT) The flowing words of life brought renewal as the songsters proclaimed truths like, "You can't stop God from loving you," "O Love that will not let me go," and "My help comes from the Lord."

Having performed in virtual concerts since its inception and having had the exhilarating opportunity to sing in a concert with the Chicago Staff Band (CSB), the CTSS performed their own full concert in person for the first time. Any nervousness vanished as voices blended in singing "Worthy to be praised," and members said there was no better place for their debut than surrounded by these saints cheering them on.

In addition to performing at reunion meetings and banquets, the CTSS also gave an evening concert for SAROA in St. Petersburg and one for the public on Saturday at the Clearwater Corps. The repertoire included up-tempo fun stylings of "Count your blessings," "Just like John," and "Stranger," to anthems like "I have seen the glory," and "Worthy to be praised," and contemplative and worshipful songs like "I know a fount (Hay Una Fuente)," "As water to the thirsty," and "I surrender all."

Commissioner Brad told the retired officers God had planted the seed for the songsters in his heart as well as Dr. Harold Burgmayer's, then territorial music and gospel arts secretary, more than two years ago.



They wanted to reach the territory with the passion for what choral music could bring to ongoing ministry opportunities.

"In January 2020 when that first rehearsal was held at Territorial Headquarters (THQ) with almost 40 vocalists of all ages and from every division made up of soldiers, employees and officers, it was a dream come true," said the territorial commander. "Hearing the sounds of harmony filling the atrium at THQ thrilled my heart as the new brigade concluded their initial rehearsals."

No one could have known that the next rehearsal in Kansas City only three months later would be the last in-person gathering for nearly two years due to COVID-19. Under the direction of Harold and Jonathon Weller, assistant songster leader, the CTSS recorded 10 virtual songs used in online programs for events during the pandemic before finally coming together to perform in person at the CSB Sounds of the Season Concert last November. Their repertoire was built around those early presentations with one rehearsal weekend in January 2022 providing additional selections.

Harold said CTSS members had dedicated themselves to hours of at-home practice for this event for one reason. "From the very beginning it has been our mission—our passion—that with every song we sing, the Holy Spirit would use the lyrics



along with the beauty of the music to bring audiences into His presence," he said.

As the weekend closed with worship at the Clearwater Corps on Sunday morning, CTSS members shared visual testimonies as they sang the moving words of Oliver Cooke's "I know a fount." Members raised their hands as phrases cascaded through the song: "I know a place where night is turned to day," "Burdens are lifted. Blind eyes made to see," "There's a wonder working power in the blood of calvary."

Commissioner William Francis, outgoing SAROA president, thanked the CTSS for their offering of music, saying, "It's obvious that God has instilled in each of you a heart for the ministry of your music. Thank you for allowing Him to fill your music with His Spirit and for doing it so beautifully."



Responding to the crisis in the Ukraine, for instance, SAROA and CTSS members joined in prayer for brothers and sisters who are being Christ's wonderful words of life and His hands of service while surrounded by death and despair. An offering raised more than \$6,000 for efforts in that war-torn country and in neighboring countries that are ministering to refugees.

Words of life flowed throughout the weekend. Central territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi



**RUN FOR THE
WORLD**
The Salvation Army 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, June 11

Juneau Park, 900 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee, Wis.

5K (3.1 miles) • 7:00 a.m. Start

\$10 registration fee (includes T-shirt!)

Join the 5K Run for the World! All ages and fitness levels are welcome. Many walkers participate as well as runners.

Water stations will be located along the route, and refreshments will be available at the start/finish line with music and lots of fun and fellowship!

You—or your family and friends who sponsor you—have the option to make a pledge toward World Services/Self-Denial.

For more information or to register visit www.uscadvance2022.org/5k.

730... AND BEYOND



7,595 days and counting

by Major Steve Kounthapanya

As an officer, the most important things for me are my relationship with Christ, the high calling He has given me and the covenant I signed to fulfill the Great Commission ("Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20, NIV)

For the past couple of decades being an officer, I have been compelled to "go" the extra mile and out of my comfort zone to reach anyone who needs help physically and, most importantly, spiritually. As officers, our mission is to welcome and love everyone. Their race, culture and ethnicity does not matter. Even those who may seem unlovable, we must love. Since we follow Christ, our love must be unconditional.

A growing church is filled with diversity as people come together with the common purpose of worshipping God and sharing Christ's love. They represent the Kingdom of heaven on this earth. Throughout the years



with willing hearts to serve in multicultural ministries settings, my wife and I have seen many blessings from God in people's lives and congregations as well as every aspect of ministry in each appointment.

To win people to Christ in different cultural settings has been a blessing to our whole family because of the changes we've seen in people's lives as we have fulfilled the Great Commission. Since it's a command from Christ Himself, I pray that as His followers we take to heart the Great Commission in our daily living. It is the mission of The Salvation Army to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all people and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Defenders of JUSTICE

2022-2024

Newly accepted candidates



Aurelia Pettit

First-generation Salvationist

Big Rapids, Mich., Corps

Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division

Captains Dan and Amy Voss, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Serving ♦ Teaching ♦ Administration

Ministry Passion or Experience

Children/Youth ♦ Preaching/Teaching

Spiritual Mentor

Major Angela Wandling, Elizabeth Carr



Naomi Jobson

Multigenerational Salvationist

Midland, Mich., Corps ♦ Eastern Michigan Division

Majors Brian and Heidi Reed, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Serving ♦ Teaching ♦ Leadership

Ministry Passion or Experience

Children/Youth ♦ Missions

Spiritual Mentor

Captain Chrissy Cooper

A family's treasure

It came as a surprise. Surely, Major Alyce Wallin thought, her granddaughter was joking. She was in rehabilitation recovering from a fall with a head injury when Sierra asked if she'd perform her wedding ceremony that had been postponed numerous times due to the pandemic. Sierra and her fiancé, Trevor, had decided that moving ahead with their lives and celebrating with family were the important things.

Assured Sierra was serious, the major didn't skip a beat. At 96, she understood time is precious, as is her dear granddaughter. A new uniform was ordered, and inquiries were made about any qualifications needed besides her ordination when she became an officer in 1948. During their officership, her husband,

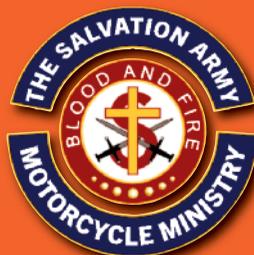
Ehlert, had performed all the weddings; though this was her first, Major Alyce was undaunted.

As preparations picked up momentum, so did the excitement. Undeterred by being legally blind from macular degeneration, she began memorizing everything she would say. And when melanoma was discovered a few months before the big day, she faced that head on as well. Just two weeks after her last radiation treatment, Major Alyce performed the wedding ceremony. She told the couple how proud she was of the compassionate people they each had become, challenged them to be devoted to each other, and encouraged them to continue to see the positive along their journey—something she has practiced her whole life.



RIDE for the WORLD

The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry



Saturday, June 11, 2022 • 1:00 pm

\$20.00 (includes a T-Shirt)

Proceeds to go to World Services

Register at Commissioning

Mason City adult day program provides a respite and hope

The Salvation Army's Adult Day Health Center in Mason City, Iowa, first opened its doors in 1988 and has remained a refuge in the community for participants and their families ever since. Designed to provide care for adults who are limited in their ability to function independently, the center is open Monday through Friday and currently serves 22 people.

"Our program is intended to provide a relaxing, safe and fun environment for our participants, where they can smile, socialize and be themselves," explained Kay Hohenfield, director of the center. "Our participants face challenges with their health, which can be stressful to both themselves and their caretakers. Our program provides a respite for participants and their families on weekdays while ensuring that all health-related needs are taken care of."

The program offers community

members a free "trial day" to ensure it's a good fit for the attendee, caretaker and staff. Since the center does not have an advertising budget, it relies on word of mouth for referrals. Recently, the program received several positive referrals from spouses of participants, which helped them reach more families in need.

"Our program operates with two clear goals in mind. Number one, keeping our participants functioning independently for as long as possible," explained Kay. "This means that we don't help everyone with every activity, but rather encourage them to maintain and build on the skills they had before. Our second goal is simply to have a lot of fun in everything that we do, and I think we accomplish that every day."

The arrival of COVID-19 in 2020 led to the closure of the center during the governor's stay-at-home order, but eventually despite the challenges posed by the pandemic all but one participant returned.

"COVID-19 has been difficult for our participants and their families, especially earlier on in the pandemic," said Kay. "Obviously, being a caretaker can be challenging, especially when it is 24/7, but people often underestimate how difficult it is for the participants themselves. Our program is a place where they can smile, laugh and socialize. All of these things build a sense of self-worth and potentially add years to their lives."

As the pandemic wanes, participants and staff look forward to resuming outings in the

community and welcoming guests and groups to the center to provide entertainment.

"It has been our blessing to be a part of this ministry and to get to know the participants," added Majors Geffory and Leticia Crowell, Mason City corps officers. "This ministry is very important and keeps the participants filled with fellowship,



Pictured (l to r): Mason City Corps Officer Major Leticia Crowell, Adult Day Center Director Kay Hohenfield and Social Service Director Tracy Stump.

structure and fun-filled activities that help promote spiritual growth."

Kay concluded, "Our program is a place where they will find family and friends—a home away from home. As the pandemic improves, we believe that our program and ministry will emerge even stronger than before."



Majors Geffory and Leticia Crowell celebrate the Olympics with residents.



A participant and staff member have fun during one of the program's days of special activities.

The blessing of Bingo

by Steven Hawkins

For seniors in the St. Charles, Ill., area, playing bingo at The Salvation Army has been key to surviving these chaotic times.

To many people, playing bingo one morning a week may not sound like that exciting of an activity, but for seniors who have lost contact with their friends, have had little interaction with the outside world and almost no fun activities for over a year, playing bingo at the St. Charles Tri-City Corps has been a blessing.

Every Thursday morning about 20 people come together to hear a devotional, have a snack, reconnect with others, and, yes, play bingo and win prizes. Throughout the year the corps also hosts fun-filled parties with special meals and decorations to celebrate holidays like St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Cinco De Mayo, the Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"We have a food pantry and after-school and summer programs for children, but our seniors have also suffered greatly by having been cut off from interaction with others," said Lt. Dena Smith, who leads the corps with her husband Lt. Scott.



Lt. Dena Smith joins in the fun.

"This is great. To be together again. To connect again. The socializing. The camaraderie. The fellowship," said bingo attendee Cathi Agnoli. "And winning!"

Senior exercise classes, such as line dancing, have started back up and the lieutenants look forward to computer classes resuming all with the goal of further facilitating seniors staying active and visiting with each other even more.



Octogenarian with purpose

by Michelle DeRusha

When he retired 18 years ago, one of the first things Ted Huisman did was drive to his corps in Newton, Iowa, to ask how he could help. Ted, 87, had dedicated his professional life to helping and supporting severely disabled people, and he wasn't about to stop helping his community just because he wasn't earning a paycheck anymore.

"Too many people my age are without a purpose. Volunteering gives me a purpose in life," said Ted, who also serves at a half-dozen other organizations.

Every morning Ted arrives at the corps between 7:00-7:30 a.m., gets to work organizing donations and checking expiration dates in the pantry and stays until the job is done.

He credits his wife of 63 years, Vivian, for keeping him motivated and on task. "She says, 'Keep going, keep going, keep going,'" said Ted. "So, I do."



He also credits the Bible for his service-oriented approach to life. "Jesus talked again and again about helping widows, children and the poor. As a Christian, I believe we are called by Jesus to help others," he said.

"Ted helps the people we serve by treating them with respect and being there for them when they need help," said Captain Janelle Cleaveland, Newton corps officer. "He has truly made a difference in our operations and in the lives of the people we serve."

Adjusting our lens

by Dr. Maribeth Swanson
Territorial Social Services Secretary

Since 2020 the pandemic has impacted our daily thoughts, behaviors, decisions and relationships. While we've rightfully been focusing on keeping ourselves, those we care about and our communities safe, we may have overlooked an emerging trend that also will change our families, communities and corps life.

Increasingly, our families and communities are aging. The 2010 U.S. Census reported 13 percent of the population was 65 years and older, growing to 16 percent in 2020. In the Midwest states comprising the Central Territory, it was slightly above the national average at 17 percent. By 2040, it's estimated 21.6 percent will be 65 and older.



Many adjustments had to be made to ensure that CDC guidelines were followed while ensuring that the needs for nutrition, social isolation and spiritual care were addressed for many senior-focused programs.

"We took our program outside to our local parks during the summer months," said Karrie McGuire, director of older adult ministries at the Green Bay, Wis., Corps. "Our seniors were able to reconnect safely and enjoy musical guests, games and good Wisconsin summer treats." The staff made periodic phone calls to check in on senior members. Delivery of Easter and other holiday goodie bags provided an opportunity for porch ministry. "What a joy to bring the word of our Savior Jesus Christ to our seniors during this very stressful and uncertain time," remarked Karrie.

It's time to adjust our lens on how we view older people. Fully acknowledging their dignity will not only impact how we serve older people but also how we engage them in the life of our corps and community ministries. There are multiple implications of an aging society on the family, healthcare, community, and the church. Here are a few questions to consider:

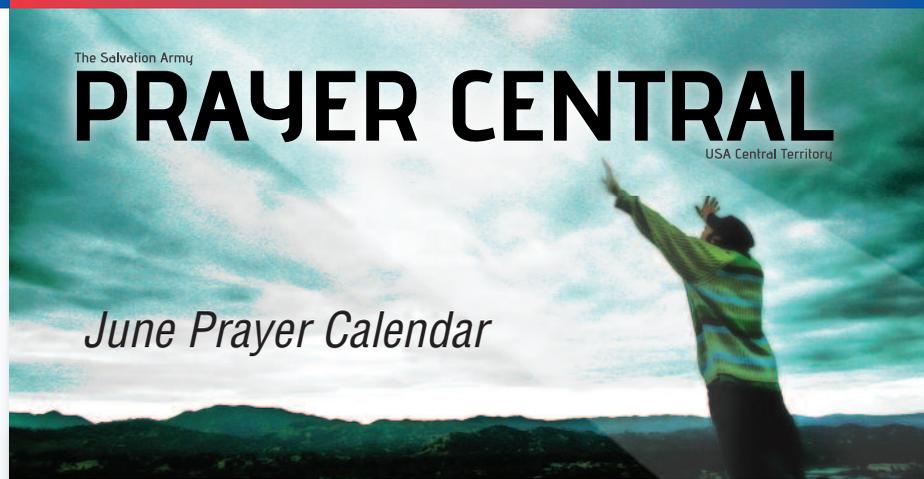
- What is your corps doing to disciple the older person in their walk with Christ?
- How are you integrating older persons into the life of your corps?
- How do you acknowledge stages of aging: young old (55-65 years), middle old (66-85), and old old (85 and older) and match service opportunities, as well as meeting their pastoral care needs, to these stages?
- What could your corps do to break isolation, loneliness and social disconnections with older persons involved in corps life, those who seek services, or volunteers?

Together, let's take the next step to, "Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord." (Leviticus 19:32, NIV)

So, don't be alarmed if you observe those sitting in the pews on a Sunday or coordinating the corps cadet project are primarily older adults. Your corps is just mirroring what is happening. Many developed European and Asian countries have surpassed the U.S. in the proportion of over 65 population. In 2021, the United Kingdom stood at 18.9 percent, Sweden at 20.1 percent, and Japan at 28.7 percent. The impact of having low birthrates, along with higher quality of health care, have jointly contributed to an increasingly aging society.

Adults ages 65 and older have been disproportionately impacted economically, socially, emotionally and mortally by COVID-19. Having underlying health conditions made thousands of older adults more susceptible to the consequences of the coronavirus. Older people reported having an increase in feeling lonelier and sadder by 21 percent. Additionally, 38 percent reported feelings of disconnection to family and friends. Feelings of isolation, loneliness and lack of meaningful social connections can have a detrimental impact on physical and mental health. Findings from the 2020 U.S. Census indicate one in six adults, 55 years and older, were childless. More seniors are living alone or don't have extended family relationships to provide caregiving or social supports.

Older workers also lost a higher percentage of jobs (15 percent), and it's taking this group longer to return to the workforce due to having potential health conditions that put them at risk for contracting COVID-19 or due to age discrimination. Their slow return has reversed decades of increased involvement and forced thousands into early retirement their financial resources will not sufficiently sustain. There is potential for the number of older persons living in poverty to rise above the current threshold of 8 percent nationally.



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Wednesday	Jeremiah 47-52	Finland and Estonia Territory
	2 Thursday	Luke 7-8	Alton, Ill., Corps
	3 Friday	Galatians 1-3	Champaign, Ill., Corps
	4 Saturday	Exodus 37-40	Bloomington, Ill., Corps
	5 Sunday	1 Kings 5-9	Dekalb, Ill., Corps
	6 Monday	Psalms 66-68	Anderson, Ind., Corps
	7 Tuesday	Proverbs 2-3	Aurora, Ill., Corps
	8 Wednesday	Lamentations	Emporia, Kan., Corps
	9 Thursday	Luke 9-10	India Eastern Territory
	10 Friday	Galatians 4-6	Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps
	11 Saturday	Leviticus 1-3	Goshen, Ind., Corps
	12 Sunday	1 Kings 10-13	Messengers of Reconciliation
	13 Monday	Psalms 69-71	Cadet Summer Assignments
	14 Tuesday	Proverbs 4	Hancock, Mich., Corps
	15 Wednesday	Ezekiel 1-6	Battle Creek, Mich., Corps
	16 Thursday	Luke 11-12	Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps
	17 Friday	Ephesians 1-3	Lakewood Temple, Minn., Corps
	18 Saturday	Leviticus 4-6	Indonesia Territory
	19 Sunday	1 Kings 14-18	Madison Temple, Wis., Corps
	20 Monday	Psalms 72-74	Burlington, Iowa, Corps
	21 Tuesday	Proverbs 5-6	Summer Ministry Opportunities
	22 Wednesday	Ezekiel 7-12	Metropolitan Division
	23 Thursday	Luke 13-14	Pekin, Ill., Corps
	24 Friday	Ephesians 4-6	Austin, Minn., Corps
	25 Saturday	Leviticus 7-9	Richmond, Ind., Corps
	26 Sunday	1 Kings 19-20	Sioux City, Iowa, Corps
	27 Monday	Psalms 75-77	Kenya East Territory
	28 Tuesday	Proverbs 7	St. Clair County, Ill., Corps
	29 Wednesday	Ezekiel 13-18	Topeka Citadel, Kan., Corps
	30 Thursday	Luke 15-16	Wausau, Wis., Corps

Go to www.salarmycentral.org
If you follow the prayer calendar during the year,
you will have read through the Bible!

--Mustard Seeds--



Salvation Army response to Russia and Ukraine crisis

by Lauren Westwood

The Salvation Army responded rapidly to the urgent needs of displaced people impacted by the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Emergency response teams across The Salvation Army's global network have been tireless in their efforts to provide critical relief, strategic planning and emotional support through conditions of extreme challenge and distress.

Salvationists from the Eastern Europe Territory immediately responded with initial relief operations being delivered in Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. In Moldova, The Salvation Army supported refugees from Ukraine with free temporary accommodation and access to Wi-Fi, made possible by Salvation Army officers, staff and the innovative employment of Salvation Army buildings and facilities. Salvationists of all ages bolstered the efforts through the preparation and distribution of hot meals, drinks and parcels containing essential items.

In Romania, emergency teams worked at border crossings in Siret and Isaccea alongside other agencies and individuals, providing food and hygiene items to the large influx of Ukrainian refugees. At the Siret ferry, these teams have been of particular support to women, children and older people.

Across Ukraine, particularly in border towns, internally displaced people have been supported through the supply of food and non-food items. Salvation Army corps and centers, such as those in Vinnytsia and Dnipro, have given help where needed. Relief work and other ongoing activities have taken place on all sides of the border with The Salvation Army in Russia providing essential items to those affected.

The wider Salvation Army emergency response was formulated and effected across other European countries. In Poland, relief parcels were prepared for the anticipated arrival of 100,000 refugees per day. Damaris Frick and Centralite Captain Matthew Beatty of the International Emergency Services (International Headquarters) collaborated in strategic planning with colleagues on the frontlines. The Salvation Army in Slovakia and the Czech Republic also prepared vital aid for the flow of displaced people.

Internationally, Salvationists and friends responded to this crisis with care, compassion and concern for their brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia through prayer and, where possible, financial donations. General Brian Peddle contacted leaders to assure them of the deep support from "our interna-

tional family" which transcends borders and national identity.

"Pray for peace in this troubled time," the General prompted Salvationists. "Pray for the safety of those who are fleeing and for those who are already displaced; pray that there

will be adequate hospitality from neighbor countries; for faith and courage for every Christian and especially for our people; and pray for the de-escalation of the battle so that the threat to life is no longer a reality."

From an International News Bulletin



Pictured outside of the major train station in Przemysl, Poland, where most of the refugees arrive are (l to r): Captain Oleg Samoilenko, corps officer Warszawa Praga Polnoc; Damaris Frick, director of IHQ/International Emergency Services; Major Steven Thomas, regional leader of Poland; Captain Matthew Beatty, IHQ/International Emergency Services program officer.

Promoted to Glory

Lt. Colonel Bodil Dahl

Lt. Colonel Bodil Inga-Lill Dahl, 77, was promoted to Glory on March 7, 2022. An earnest believer in the power of prayer, Bodil lived out the Word of God and praised God for His work in her life. She mentored many women and girls, encouraging them to reach higher and to fulfill their God-given potential.



Bodil was born in Strömsund, Sweden, on May 8, 1944, the daughter of Bertil and Lissy Götrich.

As a child of officers, she was active in junior soldiers, sunbeams and girl guards. She received Jesus as her Savior when she was 12 years old.

In 1960, Bodil met Marvin Dahl at the Minneapolis Temple (#4), Minn., Corps when her family immigrated to the United States. They married in 1964 and entered the School for Officers' Training as members of the "Defenders of the Faith" session; they served as cadet-lieutenants during their second year.

Commissioned in 1966, the Dahls served throughout the Midwest for more than 40 years. They served in the Scandinavian Division, led some of the territory's largest and most innovative corps and held several divisional and territorial headquarters appointments, including being territorial pastoral care officers, the appointment from which they retired in 2004.

Bodil is survived by her sons, Daniel (Colleen), David and Dale (Desiré Moore); three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; brothers, Bert (Jude)

and Bjorn, and sister-in-law, Marianne. She was preceded in death by her husband Marvin, brother Lennart and sister-in-law Ingrid.

Major James Castor

Major James Castor was promoted to Glory on February 26, 2022. James was a dedicated minister of the Gospel, using his gifts of preaching, teaching and serving throughout his life to share the love of Christ.



James was born July 3, 1945, in Boone, Iowa, the son of Andrew and Pearl (Huntly) Castor. After earning his GED, he received his associates degree from Olivet Nazarene College.

On February 24, 1973, James was united in marriage to Clarie Bell Alexander. In 1983, James and Clarie entered officer training and were commissioned as members of the "Guardians of The Truth" session in 1985.

The Castors served in corps appointments for 26 years before retiring in 2010. In retirement, James continued to preach and teach Bible studies at the Grandview Southland, Mo., Corps. In his spare time, he loved to watch sports and West-erns, play Sudoku and complete word search puzzles.

James is preceded in death by daughter, Carla Castor, and several brothers and sisters. He is survived by his wife, Clarie; son, Andrew (Georgia); granddaughter, Alexis (Isaac), and grandson, Colby; a great-grandchild; brother, Gene, and many nieces and nephews.

General John Larsson promoted to Glory

Continued from page 1

then at Ealing, and it was while here that he married Captain Freda Turner on July 5, 1969. Together they moved in May 1970 to Bromley Temple Corps, where they served for the next four years, receiving the rank of major in August 1971.

In January 1974, Majors Larsson were appointed to the former Scotland Territory, where Major John served as Territorial Youth Secretary before returning to the British Territory in October 1976. Here, he served first as Assistant National Youth Secretary and then, from April 1977 until May 1980, as National Youth Secretary.

A term of overseas service commenced in May 1980 with Lt. Colonel John Larsson's appointment as Chief Secretary in the South America West Territory. This was followed in 1984 by a return to London and to the International Training College, where Colonel John served as Principal for the next four years.

July 1988 brought a move to International Headquarters, where Colonel John Larsson was appointed as Assistant to the Chief of the Staff for United Kingdom Administrative Planning. This role involved the complex task of researching and planning for the separation of the Salvation Army's international and national administrations in the UK and ultimately led to establishing the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland (now the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory) in November 1990.

With the rank of commissioner, John Larsson was appointed the first Territorial Commander of this new territory. This was followed by further territorial leadership, firstly in the then New Zealand and Fiji Territory (1993-1996) and then in the Sweden and Latvia Territory (1996-1999). In October 1997 Commissioner John Larsson was appointed as a member of the Advisory Council to the General, becoming its chairman in March 1998.

In 1999, General John Gowans appointed Commissioner John Larsson as his Chief of the Staff, commencing on August 1, 1999, and it was while he was in this appointment that he was elected to serve as the Salvation Army's 17th General.

General John Larsson served in this appointment from November 13, 2002, until his retirement from active officership-service on April 2, 2006.

It is almost impossible to quantify the worldwide legacy and influence of General John Larsson. He was a faithful and humble servant of God who shared his God-given gifts of writing and music throughout the Army world. He was the author, among other literary works, of *Doctrine without Tears*, *The Man Perfectly Filled with the Spirit*, *Spiritual Breakthrough*, *1929* and *Those Incredible Booths*.

Known extensively throughout the Salvation Army world and beyond for his collaboration with General John Gowans in the writing and production of 10 full-length musicals, the impact of General John Larsson's contribution to Salvation Army heritage cannot be underestimated. His music, both in the context of the musicals, but also in his composition of words and music for many other songs, has had a significant spiritual impact on people of all ages. Those who had the privilege of hearing him play his own compositions at the piano surely will not forget that experience. However, it should be remembered that the influence of General Larsson's own character, his gentle and unassuming nature and his depth of spirituality also remains an integral part of his legacy to The Salvation Army throughout the world.

Please keep his wife, Commissioner Freda Larsson, and their sons, Karl and Kevin, and their wider families in your prayers.

From a letter by Chief of the Staff Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham