



# 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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## New center to empower change in Ferguson

The Salvation Army and the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis have opened a Community Empowerment Center in Ferguson, Mo. Built on the site of the QuikTrip store that was burned down during the civil unrest following the police shooting death of

Michael Brown in 2014, the center itself is symbolic of the hope, healing and progress it wants to bring to the community. Joining The Salvation Army and the Urban League in the center to affect change are The Lutheran Hope Center and the University of Missouri-Extension.

"This is a wonderful example of four organizations finding that their unique missions have areas of overlap where we can partner to bring hope and healing to a community that has had its share of violence and unrest," said Midland Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings. "It is my hope that this center will be the starting point of reframing the perception of Ferguson...that from the rubble that covered this site in the aftermath of events three years ago, this center would rise up to be a monument to justice, collaboration, resource and empowerment."

The Ferguson Community Empowerment Center represents an unprecedented partnership between the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and The Salvation Army which grew out of a shared vision by Lt.

Colonel Lonnel Richardson, former Midland divisional commander, and Michael McMillan, president and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. It is anticipated that the center will serve thousands, not only in Ferguson but in north St. Louis County.

The Salvation Army contributed \$1.4 million toward construction of the 13,000-square-foot, two-story building. Occupying the second floor, it administers programs and services for families and youth determined by a needs assessment study.

In addition to immediate assistance, Salvation Army caseworkers offer Pathway of Hope, an initiative

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At the grand opening of the Ferguson Community Empowerment Center are (l to r): Lt. Colonel Lonnel Richardson, former Midland divisional commander; Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey, and Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings, current Midland divisional commander.

Photos by Maurice Meredith



Representatives from The Salvation Army, the Urban League and community join in the ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the Ferguson Community Empowerment Center.

## Connecting children with God in the great outdoors

In 2011 the Central Territory introduced an initiative called The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO). Building on the great tradition of summer camps, TSAO has sought to bring more children, especially those in impoverished urban settings, into the great outdoors.

Today, TSAO's mission couldn't be more timely or relevant. Childhood

obesity rates in America have skyrocketed with the average child spending more than seven hours in front of an electronic screen and just 30 minutes outdoors. And though they're more technologically connected, youth are more disconnected from God since they feel closest to Him in nature as revealed through a worldwide Search Institute survey.

With this impetus, the territory has been making a concerted effort to strengthen and expand TSAO. Developing a wide range of partnerships has been key to success since they provide additional funding or equipment, professionally produced materials and unprecedented



opportunities for kids to experience nature and connect with its Creator. For instance, through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, children spent a week in the Chippewa National Forest, and through generous scholarships of Safari Club International, 10 leaders attend an intensive Wilderness Leadership Training Camp in the Tetons each summer.

Ongoing leadership training in the divisions has been paramount as

well. As of this summer, more than 450 leaders had been trained to help develop character, self-esteem and confidence in youth through TSAO. According to Jerrie Miller, territorial director of camping, community centers and outdoor ministries, they've not only learned how to use the curriculum but how to teach and apply a lesson from the Bible to it.



The curriculum incorporates dozens of outdoor activities. Some are time-honored like fishing or canoeing, while others are newer like geocaching and Tough Mudder obstacle courses. It can be as peaceful as watching a sunrise or as subtle as studying a tree. Some kids

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## A gaggle of lessons

by Lt. Colonel Paul Smith  
Territorial Secretary for Program

A few weeks ago while driving to territorial headquarters (THQ), I had to stop and wait for a gaggle of geese (yes, that's what a group of geese is called) to cross the road. It isn't uncommon as geese seem to love the grasslands and ponds near THQ. This particular gaggle caught my attention because one gander moved with a pronounced limp. While near the rear, he wasn't alone. Others were staying close to him.

There are many lessons we can learn from geese about how we as Christ followers should relate to one

another.

Did you know if a goose gets sick or is wounded, others stay nearby or leave the formation to protect or care for it? They stick close to their hurting family member until they either recover or die. This is along the lines of what Paul says to the Corinthians about the Body of Christ: "If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing." (1 Cor. 12:26, *The Message*) When someone in the Body of Christ is hurting and we come alongside them, we are fulfilling Christ's command to love one another because we "carry each



other's burdens." (Gal. 6:2, *NIV*).

Other interesting lessons come from how geese support one another in their flying. Some experts have said geese increase their flying range by 71 percent by flying in "V" formation because of the draft created by the leading birds for those further

back. In spiritual leadership, we have a responsibility to "lift" those following us as we follow Christ's example. (1 Cor. 11:1). In case you think this doesn't apply to you because you aren't in "leadership," look around you. There are people who are being influenced by how you live out your faith in Christ.

Friends, there are people around us, perhaps even some reading this article, who are hurting and limping through life. I pray we'll gather around those who are part of our gaggle and let them know they're not alone and they are loved.

## A trophy of grace

Earlier this year Terry Seydel was presented with the Territorial Man of the Year Award.

Terry's outstanding commitment to the ministry of the Davenport, Iowa, Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) led administrator Captain Alex Velasquez to nominate him.

For the past 17 years since Terry graduated from the program, he has returned to the ARC six days a week to volunteer. He maintains the lower level of the center, including setting up for the many weekly meetings that occur and keeping everything from the bathroom to the canteen

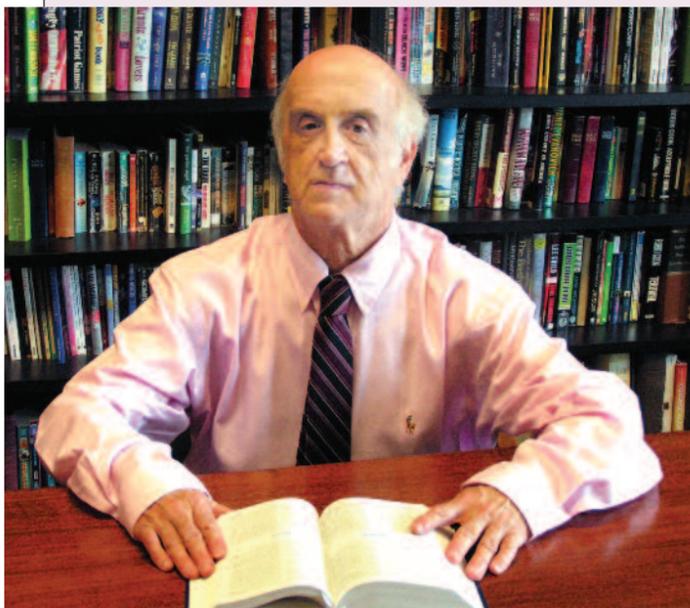
clean and sanitized.

Perhaps most importantly, Terry spends time with the men who are currently in the program. From chatting with them over a game of cribbage to offering a warm hug and prayer, he's there to brighten someone's day.

"Terry is the role model a lot of the men don't have," said Captain Alex. "He helps motivate and encourage the men."

In addition to his work at the ARC, Terry represents The Salvation Army in the community. Every Wednesday evening he cooks for a homeless outreach ministry held at a local church. He also visits four nursing homes and prays with the residents every week on behalf of the Army.

"Terry has been used by God as a vehicle to deliver the Lord's unconditional love to many people. He is truly a trophy of God's grace," Captain Alex concluded.



## In the Land of Goshen

The warm, expansive welcome received

by residents of a nearby work release facility and their families from Goshen, Ind., corps members sometimes makes it hard for Majors Tim and Sally Sell to start worship on time, but it's a small price to pay for the positive impact being made.

The relationship with the facility began when the corps was in need of volunteers for its older adult activities. Available residents walked about a mile to the corps to help out. When they discovered The Salvation Army



Jeremy and Danielle have found a church home at the Goshen, Ind., Corps with Majors Timothy and Sally Sell and Corps Sergeant-Major Esther Yoder.

is not only a place of service but worship, the men and women began coming back on Sundays with their families. Word soon spread, and now anywhere from 20-30 people boost the corps' attendance on Sundays, reported Major Tim.

The facility is one of 14 residences connected with the Indiana Department of Corrections. Qualifying residents (perpetrators of non-violent and/or minor crimes and misdemeanors) live in locations nearest their families.

In the last year the corps decided to deepen these relationships as one of its STEPs (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) goals. Corps members have learned how to reach out and embrace these families, reported the majors, adding the response has been moving.

They were touched one Sunday to hear how safe, comfortable and accepted residents' families felt at the corps when entries from the corps' "Blessings Jar" were shared. But, the Sunday morning that produced the most tears occurred during "Cardboard Testimony" time where people may write a short sentence on each side of a large piece of cardboard describing their life before and after accepting Jesus.

Two families in particular have been drawn into corps life. One couple began tithing and met with the majors for pre-marital counseling. As relationships continue to deepen, other needs are being revealed and met, such as providing a space heater to a family with a broken furnace.

Major Sally hopes to start a monthly Embrace women's ministries group at the work-release facility for those who can't attend the groups that meet at the corps.



Mark Caldwell gives a big hug to Major Sally Sell, Goshen, Ind., corps officer.

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# South Bend Kroc Center grows stronger together

by Major Angie Wandling

It's hard to believe that the South Bend, Ind., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center has been serving the community for five years! What a whirlwind it has been! As our leadership team prepared to celebrate our fifth anniversary year, we identified five priorities: thank our members, volunteers and the community; build brand awareness; maximize our annual events; gain media coverage; and bring to life our newly created strategic plan.

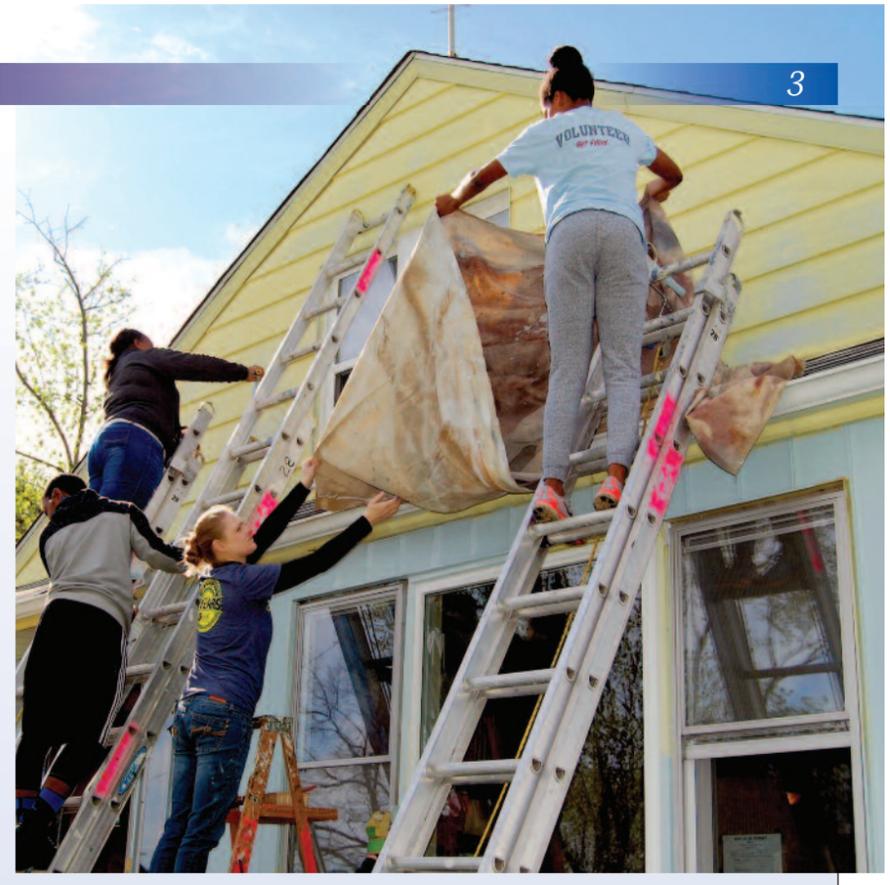
We decided to hold monthly events to highlight what the center offers. We kicked off the year by hosting our annual "Suits for Vets" which serves



nearly 200 veterans with suits and clothing, and then in February we hosted a health fair to highlight healthy living and our fitness center. March, of course, proved the perfect time for a basketball tournament which allowed almost 200 teens a safe place to play the game and gave us an opportunity to share the gospel with them. In April, we collaborated with the community on "Labor for Your Neighbor" which brought volunteers together to assist a local family with home improvements. And

in May we hosted our first of many "Community Prayer and Praise" events where area churches join us to pray for our neighborhood.

Summer featured a free community picnic in June that was attended by more than 800 neighbors and a community food drive in July for our Family Resource Center that resulted in over 8,000 pantry items and cash donations. In August our annual "Hole-in-One" fundraiser was held to benefit families through assistance and scholarships, while our fall programs began in September with new program introductions to reach more people. The annual fundraising gala is being held in October to support our Family Resource Center and to provide Kroc Center scholarships. Then, we'll wrap up 2017 with a



celebration of the birth of Christ the Messiah and a Christmas campaign.

This year-long celebration has proven a wonderful way of

reflecting on our progress in the last five years. Today, the South Bend Kroc Center offers hundreds of classes open to the public from exercise groups to after-school and literacy tutoring to personal financial management and Bible studies to certification in first-aid. Of course, there are a great variety of athletic options from sport leagues to classes in swimming.

"We recognize God's hand has been guiding and providing for us each step of the way," said Major Monty Wandling, senior Kroc Center officer. "We are confident God has incredible plans in store as we breathe life into the vision He has provided. We want to honor Him with the great resources He has provided and continue to see many lives changed as we serve Him faithfully and grow stronger together."



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Are you longing for a deeper walk with Christ? Looking for fellowship with your sisters in the Lord? Wanting to be educated on issues and opportunities for ministry? Equipped for leadership and mission? Then the Arise and Shine Women's Conference is for you! Plan now to attend this encouraging and empowering event next year, October 12-14, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont, Ill.

The event is required for all female officers and cadets. Soldiers, employees and participants in Salvation Army programs, women's auxiliary and advisory board members are encouraged to come and bring their relatives, friends and neighbors. Visit [www.centralwomenarise.com](http://www.centralwomenarise.com) for more information and to sign up for updates. Registration opens in January 2018.

## Excellent service

Joanne Johnson Lee, service extension director for the Northern Division, is the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Social Work. Joanne heads up a team of six individuals who coordinate and provide assistance on behalf of The Salvation Army to regions not covered by one of the 26 corps in Minnesota and North Dakota.

Joanne has been working for the Northern Division for 16 years. In that time she has developed a strategy for providing top-notch services to the 114 counties under her supervision, working diligently to ensure best practices are in place. Her Christmas kettle campaign regularly exceeds \$1 million in donations, money she stewards well for the greatest impact per dollar. In addition, she has collaborated with other agencies to further the reach of the Army's services.

Joanne's passion for her work is evident in her tireless dedication and joyful spirit, according to Terry Hildebrandt, Twin Cities social services director. "Joanne is an incredible employee and advocate for her staff, volunteers, councils and different communities that she interacts



with each and every day," Terry said. "She has always conducted herself in a manner that reflects positively on The Salvation Army."

Photo by Craig Dirkes

# Summer's best found at CBLI

Every year Central Bible Leadership Institute (CBLI) is a blessing, but this year was exceptional as 475 campers experienced God in new and deeper ways and formed community with the goal of glorifying Him and moving the Kingdom mission forward together.

United meetings presented opportunities to hear compelling Bible messages from Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey, Colonel William Harfoot and track guests Captain Terry Massango, Mike Hulett, and Captain Olivia Munn-Shirsath. Campers quickly became a community of believers pursuing God in worship, conversation, confession and holiness.

## Adult Track

Bible study, led by Linda Himes, traveled through scripture to Mt. Moriah, the Tabernacle and the Temple—where God progressively revealed His plan for interaction between Himself and His people. Campers observed how at each new point of revelation, God clearly spelled out His stipulations regarding worship. Each session concluded with prayer, singing and a call to consecration in everyday lives.

Workshops sparked thoughtful conversations. The Cypress lounge was a comfortable and engaging retreat space for adults to relax and converse over coffee or a table game. It also became the site of the first "Chopped Challenge—CBLI Edition!"

## Young Adult Track

Working with young adults, Captains Terry and Rutendo Musango defined holiness, emphasizing pure living and engaging in service and acts of mercy as Christians. Lt. Pratik and Captain Olivia Munn-Shirsath taught from Ephesians 4:11 on the leadership

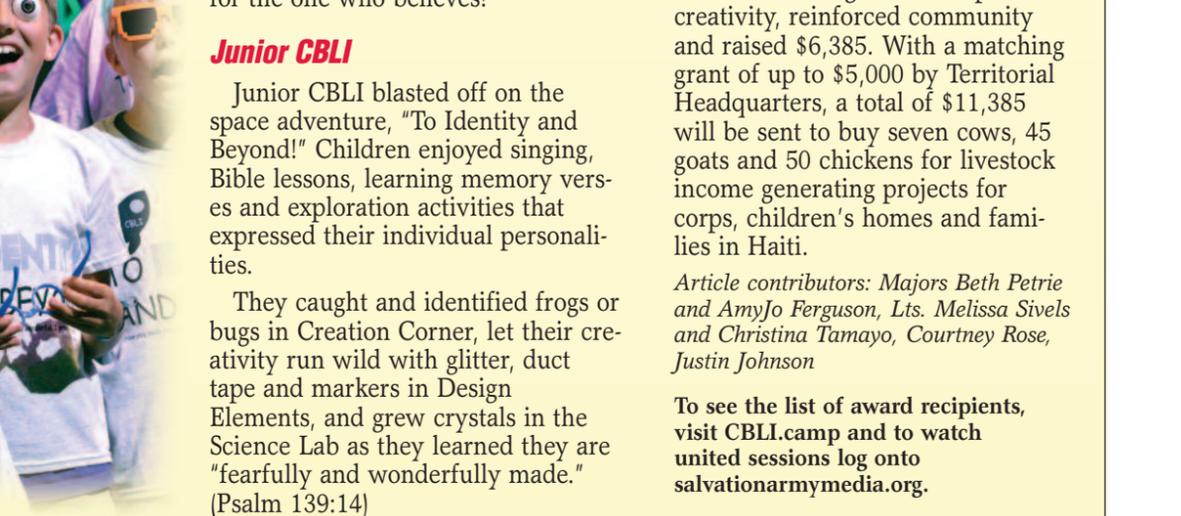
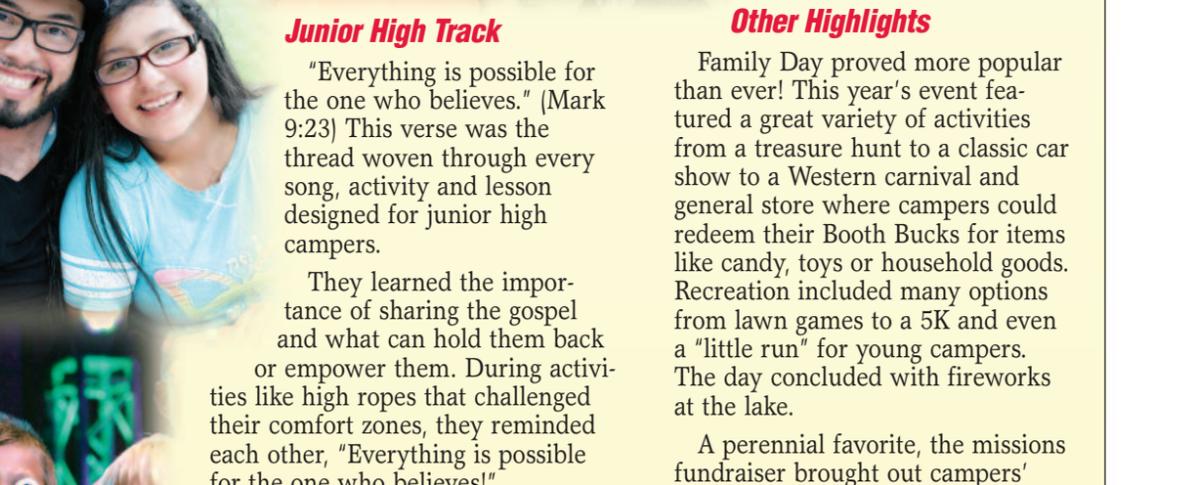
offices of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher.

A highlight of the track was worship led by the territorial praise band The Singing Company. Waiting on God and contributing to community were recurring themes. For many campers, obedience to the Holy Spirit required repentance and confession of sin, fear and doubt which led to commitments to Christ.

## Senior High Track

Inductive Bible study of the book of James taught campers techniques to understand scripture. Guest speaker Mike Hulett addressed fears and temptations experienced by teens, and peer groups challenged them to apply what they were learning.

CBLI was not simply another camp but became holy ground as the Holy Spirit convicted teens of the need for revival and they experienced freedom from the chains of habit-forming, binding sin.



## Kids

In the nursery, children received tender loving care. Newborns to 23-month-olds worked on standing, rolling over, crawling and walking and heard many times that Jesus loves them. Children ages 2 and 3 learned of Jesus' love through a barnyard theme, "Hay, Jesus Loves You," while those ages 4 and 5 "Sailed the Three Cs: Creator, Counsellor, Christ" with Bible stories, crafts and activities centered around who Jesus is to them.

## Other Highlights

Family Day proved more popular than ever! This year's event featured a great variety of activities from a treasure hunt to a classic car show to a Western carnival and general store where campers could redeem their Booth Bucks for items like candy, toys or household goods. Recreation included many options from lawn games to a 5K and even a "little run" for young campers. The day concluded with fireworks at the lake.

A perennial favorite, the missions fundraiser brought out campers' creativity, reinforced community and raised \$6,385. With a matching grant of up to \$5,000 by Territorial Headquarters, a total of \$11,385 will be sent to buy seven cows, 45 goats and 50 chickens for livestock income generating projects for corps, children's homes and families in Haiti.

Article contributors: Majors Beth Petrie and AmyJo Ferguson, Lts. Melissa Sivals and Christina Tamayo, Courtney Rose, Justin Johnson

To see the list of award recipients, visit [CBLI.camp](http://CBLI.camp) and to watch united sessions log onto [salvationarmymedia.org](http://salvationarmymedia.org).

## Junior High Track

"Everything is possible for the one who believes." (Mark 9:23) This verse was the thread woven through every song, activity and lesson designed for junior high campers.

They learned the importance of sharing the gospel and what can hold them back or empower them. During activities like high ropes that challenged their comfort zones, they reminded each other, "Everything is possible for the one who believes!"

## Junior CBLI

Junior CBLI blasted off on the space adventure, "To Identity and Beyond!" Children enjoyed singing, Bible lessons, learning memory verses and exploration activities that expressed their individual personalities.

They caught and identified frogs or bugs in Creation Corner, let their creativity run wild with glitter, duct tape and markers in Design Elements, and grew crystals in the Science Lab as they learned they are "fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:14)

# Pursuing God at CMI

by Martyn Thomas

For 84 years in early August, young musicians in the Central Territory have gathered at Wonderland Camp for Central Music Institute (CMI). This year, CMI welcomed students from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, the Congo and South Korea. The curriculum has expanded to include brass, percussion, vocal, drama, dance, praise band, music leadership and media production. Though it's the music that draws them, CMI is about much more.

With the theme "Pursuing God," students and faculty used A. W. Tozer's classic, *The Pursuit of God*, during Sealed Orders (personal devotions), small groups and evening devotional times. Chaplain Lt. Betsy Clark helped campers focus on the important lessons from the book and pursue God even as He pursues us.

This year CMI was blessed with two well-known musical guests: Amsterdam Staff Band Bandmaster

guests brought vast experience and insight, challenging students to improve individually and collectively.

In addition to five bands and two choruses, students participated in technique classes where they focused on their primary instrument/voice, theory classes, choruses and a plethora of electives including audio

which featured the Faculty Band, CMI Chorus, Wonderland and Booth solo contest winners and the dance and drama electives. The final awards program, hosted by Colonel Jeffrey Smith, then chief secretary, included performances by all the major groups.

"CMI is not only the place to be or the place for making music and new friends," concluded Stephen Jordan, this year's Ben Merritt award recipient. "It's more than that. It's about learning what God's plan is for you and how to use your skills to glorify Him."

Olaf Ritman and Western Territory Staff Songsters Leader Barbara Allen. In addition, Sabrina Borum, Florida divisional creative arts director, led the dance elective. Each one of these

engineering, timbrels, beginning piano, beginning guitar, ukulele, handbells, conducting, visual arts, percussion studies and Bible study.

A highlight of the week was the performance of the National Anthem by students and staff at a Milwaukee Brewers baseball game. The week also included a performance by CAST (Creative Arts Service Team), a concert by Christian artist Micah Tyler, two student showcase programs, the Wonderland Band and Booth Chorale concert, and Fabulous Friday

## Awards

### Shagbark Band

**Teagan McDonald**  
(Grand Rapids Fulton Heights, Mich.)  
Frank and Gladys Botu Award

### Temple Band

**Makenzie Couch**  
(Kansas City Northland, Mo.)  
Rachel Grindle-Phelps Award

### Hilltop Chorus

**Reggie Brooks** (Rockford Temple, Ill.)  
Victor Danielson Scholarship

### Tabernacle Band

**Chassidee Luce** (Wichita Citadel, Kan.)  
Paton Family Scholarship

### Citadel Band

**Feith Sanchez** (Lakewood Temple, Minn.)  
Donald Hanton Scholarship

### Booth Chorale

**Ebony Beard** (Kenosha, Wis.)  
Douglas Norris Scholarship

### Wonderland Band

**Josie Himes** (Flint Citadel, Mich.)  
William and Katherine Scarlett Scholarship

### Ernest and Mary Miller Vocal Soloist Award

**Emily Head** (Wichita Citadel, Kan.)

### Marjorie Marshall Piano Award

**Richard Thalman** (Lakewood Temple, Minn.)

### Flint Citadel Uden-McDougall Percussion Award

**Noah Roberts** (Royal Oak, Mich.)

### Ray Wright Tuba Award

**Ricardo Argumedo** (East Chicago, Ind.)

### Earle Hanton Euphonium Award

**Edrance Emmanuel** (St. Louis Temple, Mo.)

### John R. Cheyne Trombone Award

**Axel Torres** (Waukesha, Wis.)

### Howard Chesham Horn Award

**Eryana Bolivar** (Bolivia)

### Ron Rowland Cornet Award

**Isaac Leka** (Rockford Temple, Ill.)

### Winters Instrument Repair Award

**Jean-Marc Mbumu**  
(Democratic Republic of Congo)

### Harry Strissel Most Improved Musician Award

**Emily West** (St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo.)

### Ramsdale-Jaudes-Boyer Rookie Award

**Aidan Opland** (Lakewood Temple, Minn.)

### Fischer Awards

Leadership—**Josie Himes** (Flint Citadel, Mich.)  
Composition—**Zoe Spencer** (Escanaba, Mich.)

### Bernard A. and Bessie H. Smith Conducting Award

**Randal Smith II** (Flint Citadel, Mich.)

### Majors William and Jean Stuart Scholarship

**Josie Himes** (Flint Citadel, Mich.)

### Lois and Len Duguay Spirit of CMI Award

**Carl Moore** (Jamaica)

### Ben Merritt Award

**Stephen Jordan** (Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.)  
Arthur Shoults Scholarship

### Crosby-O'Neil Cornet

**Lakewood Temple, Minn., Corps**

### Elective Track Scholarships

Dance—**Taerim Min** (Korea)  
Drama—**Richard Thalman** (Lakewood Temple, Minn.)  
Praise Band—**Reggie Brooks** (Rockford Temple, Ill.)  
Media Production—**Colin Guscott** (Jamaica)



# PATHWAY OF HOPE

## Pastoral care is essential

The role pastoral care plays, not only in increased hope but goal achievement by families in Pathway of Hope (POH), is significant. This was one of the findings from a methodical analysis performed by Maribeth Swanson, territorial social services secretary, of casework documents, assessment tools and practices concerning 569 participants.

### Findings about the Integration of Hope and Spirituality to Support Increased Sufficiency

Increased Hope, (HHI) showed statistical significance for:

Increased Hope from Intake, 3 mo. 6 mo. 9 mo. & 12 mo.

Positive correlation between Increased Hope (HHI) and Increased Stability (SSM) at all 3 intervals

Higher HHI scores associated with Successful Completion

Validation of the HHI as reliable tool for measuring hope in uncontrolled community-based environments

To complete her doctoral dissertation, Maribeth's study focused on determining if the assessment tools, casework processes, resources and outcomes supported the theoretical framework for POH and led to participants achieving increased stability.

One of the main themes that emerged from her analysis was to assess the impact of the integration of hope and spirituality in supporting clients in overcoming barriers to achieving stability. Her analysis found that participants who received initial pastoral care and strengths assessments demonstrated statistically significant higher number of goals achieved, increased earned income and increased stability.

Increased hope and increased stability were positively correlated throughout participants' engagement in POH, from intake, then at three, six, nine and 12 months. Participants with documented pastoral care assessments that included basic questions regarding their religious history and information regarding the involvement of their children in religious programs, were two times more likely to successfully complete POH than participants who did not have a completed assessment.

The findings make the case that the pastoral care component of assessment, hope enhancement and relationship building should not be viewed as optional but as essential and distinctive components of the POH approach.

Analysis of exit surveys found that of the participants who had completed POH, 89 percent reported they were more hopeful because they were able to identify and achieve goals, had gained confidence for themselves and for their families' future, had the corps' support team and had learned about their strengths. POH participants indicated they were more hopeful because of their interdependence and interconnections with others. For instance, one person said, "I have a great team behind me," while another said, "You want to succeed

when you know you have someone in your corner. I cannot express the difference she and Pathway to Hope made in my life."

The implications underscore the strengths and pastoral care assessments as foundational components and the application of hope-enhancement strategies through the team approach.

The results of Maribeth's study will be used by the territorial social services department to enhance future POH caseworker and officer training related to pastoral care components.

Maribeth concluded, "The results of this study have shown that



Maribeth Swanson, territorial social services secretary, with Michael Smith, assistant territorial social services secretary and Pathway of Hope director.

### Integration of Hope and Spirituality to Support Increased Sufficiency

Qualitative analysis resulted in confirmation of the multidimensional construction of hope:

Reliance on connection to others, temporary and future, and positive readiness and expectancy.

Higher Successful Completion rates

Achievement of a higher number of goals

Action Plans developed with higher number goals

Pastoral Care Assessment showed statistically significant

reliance solely on statistical analysis doesn't tell the whole story of what love, relationships and community can do to bind the organization's resolve and invigorate its mission to serve vulnerable families by building relationships that bridge the gap between crisis and stability, indifference and purpose, despair and hope."

**Editor's note: Maribeth Swanson was conferred a Ph.D. in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service from Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, Wis., on May 21, 2017.**

## Ministry in the moment

by Captain Cassandra Grey  
Corps Officer, Hillsdale, Mich.

We have an incredible opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to answer the call laid before us not only by The Salvation Army's Founder, William Booth, but by God. We are called to "live life" with His people. But what does this look like?

For me, it looks like partnering with others in our community such as Toasted Mud, a place where people can express their creativity through painting pottery. I took one of our Pathway of Hope (POH) families there and enjoyed simply being together. When one of the children excitedly showed off her masterpiece, I had the opportunity to reply, "That is beautiful, just like you." This



nontraditional setting for ministry presented me with the chance to share how beautiful and precious they are in God's sight.

I also have been reminded that part of pastoral care is reaching out to the faith community in my area. We were able to connect one participant to another church for pastoral care, but she still wanted to meet with me to share how things were going and how she could see God moving in her life. Through this collaboration, she not only had our support but that of a local church. It made me think of the first-century Church.

Another experience I cherish was when one of our POH participants joined us for a women's ministries craft night where we melted crayons on canvas. As she watched her crayon melt, this mother

Continued on page 7, bottom

## Coming alongside

Jason was determined to gain full custody of his son after discovering the 4-year-old's mother (a chronic substance abuser) had surrendered him to the state without Jason's knowledge. Although he had determination, Jason lacked direction and a plan until he met The Salvation Army and Pathway of Hope (POH).

"Jason's story illustrates the effective integration between POH, pastoral care, corps ministries and collaborative assistance from other community organizations," said Holly Allen, POH case manager at the Alton, Ill., Corps.

Jason first came to the Army seeking help with a water bill. Just a year earlier, he'd been making good money as a union construction worker and attending all of his court hearings, parenting classes and other appointments. But a layoff left Jason unemployed and soon homeless. After working in a series of low-paying jobs, he was struggling to catch up.

"Jason's needs reached far beyond assistance with a utility bill," recalled Holly. "We were eager to come alongside him on his journey." Referrals were made to one agency for rental assistance, another for electric, and the Army helped with water, food and funds for Jason to purchase a refrigerator—all providing the necessary stability for his custody case. When

Jason's job hours were cut, Holly referred him to an employment group that provided clothing and haircut vouchers, interviewing tips and a bus pass.

"Jason's persistence and determination stood out early on, and his faith was strong," said Holly. "There were very tough times. We'd pray together and discuss scripture. He'd always say, 'Whatever the outcome, it's all part of God's plan.'"

Jason's enrollment in POH showed the court he was eager and willing to make positive choices to promote a healthy lifestyle for his son, and he was granted full custody. Jason couldn't always attend church because of his work schedule, but he wanted his son to learn about faith, so a caregiver would bring him to the corps on Sundays and during the week for moonbeams.

"This family's story is very positive and shows continued growth," said Captain Teri Ellison, former Alton corps officer. Recently Jason started a fulltime job in construction and now has Sundays off. He plans to be more involved in the corps with his son.



High fives on progress! Pictured are Alton Corps Officers Lts. Stephen and Lilyanna Reinier, POH Casemanager Holly Allen and client Jason and his son.

## Back on track

Victor, Gloria and their three children were homeless last year after losing their mobile home due to unsteady income and Victor's struggle with drug addiction. While the family stayed at The Salvation Army Crossroads Shelter, Victor heard about Pathway of Hope (POH). As soon as they were able to move into an apartment, Victor contacted the case manager to enroll. He had been clean for nine months and wanted to get his life back on track for the sake of his family.

The family met Captain Roberto Davila, Kansas City Blue Valley, Mo., corps officer during their first visit with Jacky, the POH case manager. He invited them to come to church, which they gladly accepted. Captain Roberto spent time with Victor and Gloria to help them grow together with God at the center of their lives. They have since become active members of the corps, attending activities and Sunday services. Gloria volunteers for vacation Bible school and in other capacities, while Victor looks for opportunities to help and encourage others who are struggling to get back on their feet.

"Victor is always asking how he can give back," said Jacky. "He is very grateful, and he wants to help in any way he can."

The family has come a long way since leaving the shelter. When they enrolled in POH, their tiny, two-bedroom apartment was completely bare. Jacky referred them to another local agency, My Father's House, which collects gently used household goods and gives them to those in need. The agency furnished the apartment, providing the family with a more comfortable living space.



At that time, Victor was working through a temp agency and was struggling to earn a steady income due to his inconsistent work schedule. One of his primary goals was to find stable employment, which he accomplished shortly after starting POH. He and Gloria also opened a bank account and learned to budget and save money, meeting another one of their goals.

Since completing Pathway of Hope, Victor and his family have moved into a house, which has been a welcome change. Victor's new fulltime job allows Gloria to stay home and care for their children, including a newborn baby, and the entire family continues to be active in the corps.

## The Pathway for junior soldiers

by Captain Valerie Carr

Sometimes circumstances lead people to walk directly in our doors and ask, "Can we come to church here?" Or at least that's how it panned out for the Joplin, Mo., Corps and its newest junior soldiers. As a part of the corps' integration of mission through Joplin's social services, Majors Doug and Beckie Stearns, corps officers, have been intentional to help break down any barriers for social service ministry clients to participate fully in the broader array of programs the Joplin Corps offers and to feel welcomed by the corps family.

As a result, the Joplin Corps has enrolled eight new junior soldiers! Three of the families have been enrolled in Pathway of Hope (POH) at the corps. The initiative's focus on integrating spiritual care as a vital part of meeting the needs of families played a significant role in building the junior soldier membership of the corps.



Joplin's new junior soldiers pictured (starting with back row l to r): Khyra, 12; Etepa, 13; Daniel, 10; Hunter, 9; Cash, 8; Carver, 8; Jackson, 7, and James, 11. Also pictured are Majors Doug and Beckie Stearns, corps officers, and Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings, Midland divisional commander.

When the families were living in the Army's transitional living program, the Joplin staff quickly recognized their qualification for POH and the families chose to enroll. Through collaborative efforts with other nonprofits in the community and the families' determination, they are receiving ongoing case management to set and achieve life-changing goals and are now living in permanent housing.

The families' success does not stop there. Major Beckie committed to providing Sunday morning transportation for the families so they could continue to be involved in corps life. The children began participating in children's church and subsequently asked about becoming junior members of the corps! After going through junior soldier preparation classes, they were enrolled by Midland Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings!

"It makes my heart swell when the children show how they understand the decision they made and commitment they made to God and the Army," said Major Beckie.

The Joplin Corps is marching forward with its youngest members thanks to POH and its component of pastoral care.

Continued from page 6

shared how she feels like she's "melting" sometimes because of things going wrong in her life. I seized that window of opportunity to share how God can use our struggles and difficult times to make something magnificent, just like her canvas. I'll never forget the look in her eyes. It was hope.

We have incredible opportunities every day to share the love of Jesus in the simple things. We don't always have to sit behind a desk or even be in our corps buildings, for that matter, to engage with our Pathway of Hope families. But we must be present, taking advantage of God-given moments to show Jesus' love to those around us.

## We ride for Him



TSAMM members hold a "bike blessing" and serve refreshments at a motorcycle dealership.

Under the motto, "He died for us, we ride for Him," The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry (TSAMM) is making an impact for Christ in Chicagoland through the combined efforts of members from area corps.

Whether they own motorcycles or not, TSAMM members take their commitment to this ministry seriously promising "to make it a priority of their lives and Christian witness." Men, women and families proudly belong to the fellowship. The Davis family—parents Terry and Karla, son Zach and daughter-in-law Mandy—belong to the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps, and Ron Felt, a member from the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps, often brings his teenage daughter, Reagan, to events.

"Everyone is looking for a place to

fit in; with some people that sense of belonging is found in the biker community," Ron observed. "We as Christians have a unique opportunity here to love people into the Kingdom. We just have to look for new ways to reach out."

Increasingly the group is being invited to share about this ministry at Salvation Army events and camps like Central Bible Leadership Institute.

Since TSAMM debuted in the Central Territory three years ago, Chicagoland members have held several "bike blessings" (often hosted by motorcycle dealerships and repair shops) at which bikes and their riders are individually prayed over, and they've collaborated with other Christian motorcycle ministry groups on outreach events.

They've also staffed information booths at biker shows and rallies and participated with other TSAMM groups in regional and national rides and rallies, most notably the world-famous Sturgis Rally in South Dakota's Black Hills.

Earlier this year Chicagoland TSAMM members hosted an information booth at an international motorcycle show attended by more than 300,000 bike enthusiasts from around the world. The group's members were excited to share God's Word with such a large and diverse gathering.



Staffing the TSAMM booth at a Chicagoland biker gathering are (l-r) Terry and Karla Davis and their son and daughter-in-law, Zach and Mandy Davis.

## Newly accepted candidates

**Pablo and Nancy Rivera**  
Milwaukee Cold Spring, Wis., Corps  
Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division

From the moment Nancy and I met in 1991 in Chicago, I fell in love with her. At the start of our relationship we were not attending church, or serving Christ for that matter. We knew, however, that without Christ we would not have a successful marriage. In 1998 we each accepted Jesus and have been serving the Lord ever since.

After about 10 years of serving in a small church, I felt I should explore a new horizon. God chose that moment to bring us to The Salvation Army. The call to officership was imminent in my life as I had a fire for ministry burning inside I could not control. Nancy was more careful in expressing feelings



about her calling, but at a Wednesday night Bible study she confessed it was time to answer God's perfect plan for our family. We are both excited to fulfill God's calling.

Until recently the Riveras' corps officers were Captains Marcelo and Monica Orbe. Their current corps officers are Lts. Alex and Carolina Yanez.

## God at work in Sturgis

by Major Vangie O'Neil

Members of The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry (TSAMM) traveled from around the territory to converge for "Mission 2017" at the world-renowned Black Hills motorcycle rally in Sturgis, S.D. Some members arrived on motorcycles, others pulled them in trailers, but all came for one reason: to share the love of God with a group of people many have forgotten—bikers.

From young to old and all walks of life, some bikers are rough and hardened by life, others just love motorcycles. But, they all share two things in common: a love for riding and the need for Jesus.

Despite running into rain, detours, engine trouble and a trailer issue which required an unexpected overnight stay on the way to Sturgis, the team will tell you they saw the hand of God working through these problems to safely bring them to the rally, inspired and energized for what lay ahead.

At Sturgis the team saw God's hand at work again and again as they interacted with bikers. Many were open to being prayed with. Vendors were pleased to receive blessing cards, and Christian motorcycle ministries were excited to see others sharing the gospel.

Additionally, the team logged over 12,000 miles



for the General's *Whole World Mobilizing* Salvation Army flag run!

Partnering with the Rapid City, S.D., Corps, the team once again saw God working far beyond expectations. While ministering at a "Hot Dogs and Blessed Hogs" event hosted by the corps, the team met a couple who'd recently lost their 7-year-old child in a fire. They circled the couple and prayed over them, and the corps initiated pastoral care and social services.

A/Captain Michelle Johnson, Rapid City corps officer, reported the couple said they'd never felt the power and presence of God the way they did when surrounded by the TSAMM team's love, compassion and prayer.



## Here's the scoop

by Mary Zaleski

It was a beautiful day, sunny and in the low 80s without a cloud in the sky. These kinds of days find lots of people in downtown Detroit, Mich., strolling on their lunch hour, enjoying the fresh air and sunshine. But, on this day the crowds swelled to more than 10,000 at Cadillac Square. The draw? Free ice cream!

Denali Flavors, developers of the legendary Moose Tracks ice cream, invited metro Detroiters to join in the delicious philanthropic program known as the *10,000 Scoops Challenge*. For each scoop served,



Denali Flavors pledged to donate \$1 to The Salvation Army in an effort to raise \$10,000 for local programs.

Though the event began in Detroit, for the past eight years Denali has taken the challenge on the road. This year, it was Detroit's turn again to eat for a cause, and 10,000 scoops of Dean's Country Fresh Moose Tracks ice cream were served as part of the challenge. Local radio and television celebrities donated their time to scoop.

Local business people came out from downtown office buildings as well as families with kids and even dogs. The event was so successful 10,000 scoops were gobbled up in record time with a \$10,000 check donated to The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit!



# Everyday difference makers

As people unite on October 28 for Make a Difference Day, one of the largest annual single days of service nationwide, we're shining the light on our territorial volunteers of the year. We think you'll be impressed with these everyday difference makers and how they're blessing their corps and communities.

## Doris Miller—Lifetime Service

People can't imagine the St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps without Doris Miller, and for good reason. She's been giving her time, talent and financial resources to God's work for more than 50 years, never seeking anything in return.



"She's constantly and quietly helping those in need—physically and spiritually," said Major Cassandra DeJesús, Gateway corps officer. "Even at 75 years old, she doesn't slow down but continues helping out around the corps, with those who come into our building and with her neighbors."

Doris has held many local officer positions, including teaching junior soldiers for 30 years! In no small part, it's due to her commitment that Gateway Citadel has boasted a large number of honor junior soldiers. Currently, Doris is the corps secretary, but her volunteerism still touches on nearly every aspect of corps ministry from helping with the weekly youth night supper club for 60 people or assisting with women's ministries to community care ministries like driving corps members to doctor appointments or visiting veterans in the hospital. At Christmas, you'll find her playing her horn at kettles and then helping count the donations! If there's a need, Doris is there sweetly serving her Savior and blessing others.

## Dennis and Tammy Collins—Family of the Year

It's been said that in Beatrice, Neb., Dennis and Tammy Collins personify the Army's mission. In God's name, they have been serving "others" at the corps and in their community for more than 20 years.

They attend most corps programs and turn up to help with extra events



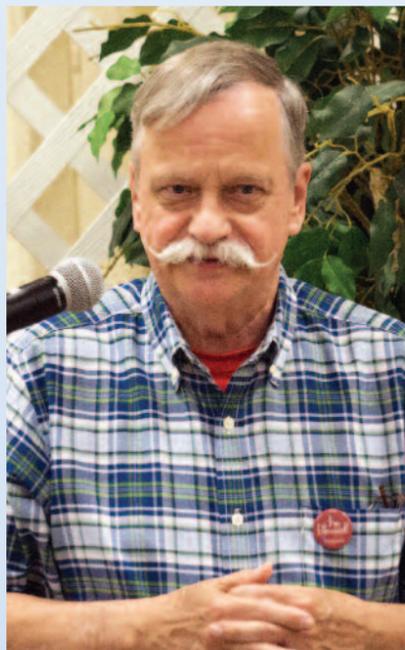
throughout the year. For instance, they assist with the Thanksgiving meal that serves more than 200! And when a new program is introduced or a major event is coming up, their corps officer, Lt. Joseph Irvine, says they eagerly ask, "Do you need help with that?"

The Collins' commitment to the corps' mission is lived out as they teach Sunday school, help with vacation Bible school, pick up youth for Wednesday night activities, perform community care and participate in the corps' emergency disaster services team. During the Christmas season, they stand at kettles even after putting in a full day's work, and when the city throws its annual summer parade they hand out bottled water to make sure participants stay hydrated.

"I wish that every corps had these two," said the lieutenant.

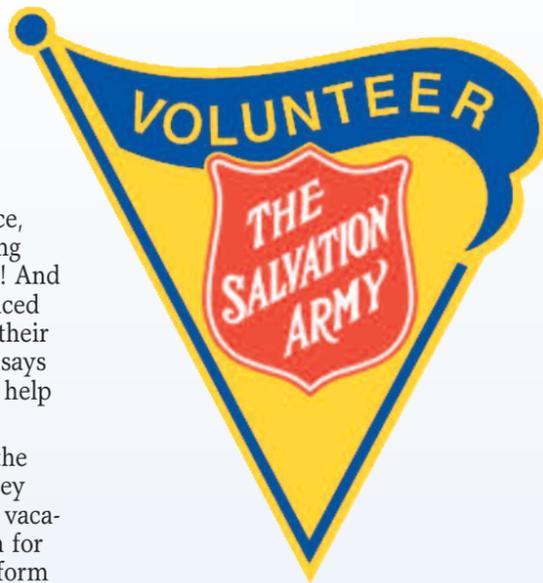
## Robert Westbury—Volunteer of the Year

Volunteering with the Detroit, Mich., Harbor Light's mobile Bed & Bread program, Robert Westbury has traveled 70 miles twice a week for the last five years, serving meals and beverages to more than 1,000 people a day. Bob shows exemplary understanding, patience and commitment to the city's most needy and marginalized. With an abundance of smiles, he intentionally offers a "hand up" as he encourages and equips both young and old on the city's streets.



Bob brings snack bags for children being served, surprises staff with needed equipment, helps solve logistical issues, gives new volunteers support and direction and utilizes his accounting background to advise The

Salvation Army on cost-saving measures. He cares immensely about the Army's mission and the program's success and has become an integral part of the Bed & Bread team. On top of all this, Bob volunteers annually as a bellringer!



## Christopher Mack—Youth Volunteer of the Year

Christopher Mack is a teenager with a passion, but unlike many young men his age, his passion for helping others surpasses his interest in sports, music or video games. Chris has been volunteering at the Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center for nearly three years. In that time he's joyfully given hundreds of hours in a number of capacities.



When he's not playing the role of RJ, the Kroc Center's mascot, he's helping out with the afterschool program or assisting with a sports class. Each November Chris rolls up his sleeves to help with the community Thanksgiving dinner, where he welcomes guests with a bright smile and assists wherever he's needed.

Wynette Gaither, Kroc Center business and volunteer services associate, concluded, "He's so passionate about the mission of our organization as well as the safety and joy of others."



## Milwaukee Police Chaplaincy Program—Organizational Volunteer of the Year

Aligned with Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) and the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD), these certified chaplaincy volunteers offer emotional and spiritual care to bring hope and healing to victims, families and communities at scenes of crimes, violence or disasters.

After making personal connections, the chaplains often attend funerals and court proceedings to provide continued emotional support. Because they also participate in prayer walks and attend outreach events, community members are more willing to come out of their homes and become active in their neighborhoods.

In addition to faith-based initiative meetings, the volunteers attend monthly and quarterly training with the police department. Though each deployment is starkly unique and the challenges are grim, the volunteers willingly face them by relying on their faith and the training they've received from The Salvation Army and the MPD.



# A life-changing summer

This year 23 young adults participated on summer mission teams (SMT) in Costa Rica, India, Moldova and our own territory. Here we share a brief overview of their life-changing summer.

## Ministry Investment

The **Central team** was joined by two young adult Salvationists from the Hungary Region, which our territory has partnered with and sent SMTs to for the last five years. Laura Fekete and Cintia Szabo of the Hungary Region were a great addition to the team. In addition to ministry throughout the Midwest, the Central team served for a week in Eleuthera, Bahamas, continuing an 11-year SMT relationship with the Army on that island.



CENTRAL



CENTRAL

The **India South Eastern team** had varied experiences throughout the summer. From completing a small construction project to working with many different groups of children, they found great joy in service. They also were happy to participate in a corps' 116th anniversary celebration and enjoyed a few fun cultural experiences such as watching elephants sunbathe!

In its third season, **CAST** (Creative Arts Service Team) has become a significant ministry. Incorporating two out-of-territory members this year, the team visited six divisions and even traveled to Argentina! They shared the gospel through the Wordless Book in the ministry contexts of corps, camps and social services.



INDIA SOUTH EASTERN



CAST

The **Costa Rica team's** home base was the Centro Modelo compound, which is similar to an adult rehabilitation center. The team worked for five weeks on a building project that was completed right before they returned to the U.S. and built friendships with the men enrolled in the program. The team also engaged in ministries for women and children. A highlight was witnessing three men graduate from the program and three graduates being enrolled as senior soldiers.



INDIA SOUTH EASTERN

The **Moldova team** spent their final on-field week in Edinets, one of our 20 New Corps locations. They participated in a women's home group and day camp. It was exciting for them to be present for the groundbreaking event to celebrate the new construction that is about to be completed in Edinets!

The **Moldova team** shared about a family whose daughters came to the Edinets Corps' afterschool program and received much needed food, tutoring and socialization. Now, they are joyful, contributing members of the corps, and two have been enrolled as junior soldiers!

The **Central team** met two men whose lives were changed by the adult rehabilitation center and now give back by volunteering at the Indianapolis, Ind., Harbor Light Center.

## Lives transformed

At their debriefing, teams were asked to share a story of someone they encountered whose life had been transformed. They didn't hesitate.

The **India team** met a man who'd accepted Jesus as a patient at The Salvation Army hospital in Nagercoil. He not only was healed physically but spiritually and is now a pastor!

The **Moldova team** shared about a family whose daughters came to the Edinets Corps' afterschool program and received much needed food, tutoring and socialization. Now, they are joyful, contributing members of the corps, and two have been enrolled as junior soldiers!

The **Central team** met two men whose lives were changed by the adult rehabilitation center and now give back by volunteering at the Indianapolis, Ind., Harbor Light Center.

The **Costa Rica team** met Jeff, project manager for their renovation project. He'd accepted Jesus while at the Centro Modelo rehabilitation center and had graduated from the program the week before they arrived. He now works full-time at the center to continue the renovation.

**CAST** was moved by the number of people who went out of their way in person and by phone—even long distance from Argentina—to tell them how the team's drama conveyed exactly what they needed to hear and how their lives would be different because of it.

Need more evidence of lives transformed? Ask the SMTs about themselves. They'll share about their new passion for service, how they've grown in patience and compassion, and their desire to be better stewards and communicators of the gospel. They'll tell you this summer drew them closer to God and changed their lives.

Calling all SMT/Service Corps Alumni! How did SMT change your life? What lessons did God teach you? Did it influence your career path? To share your SMT story, contact [missions@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:missions@usc.salvationarmy.org).



COSTA RICA



COSTA RICA



MOLDOVA



MOLDOVA

# Reflections on Haiti

After seven years of deep involvement in The Salvation Army's challenging yet highly rewarding work of rebuilding post-earthquake Haiti, Majors Robert and Rae Doliber have returned home to serve in the Central Territory.



"It's hard to fully measure the lasting impact of our experience without the passage of more time, but being instrumental in rebuilding Army corps, schools and facilities, as well as training and equipping Haitians to rebuild houses and businesses, was immensely satisfying," said Major Bob. "The generous outpouring of gifts from around the world allowed us to 'build back better' with stronger, more functional and attractive schools, corps, quarters and other facilities to serve dozens of communities for years to come."

Already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti suffered greatly in early 2010 when the earth-

quake struck. The greatest devastation occurred in Haiti's densely populated capital, Port-au-Prince, including The Salvation Army's headquarters and other facilities.

"The Haitians are a hope-filled people and have some of the most beautiful smiles in spite of their poverty," said Major Rae. "A recent highlight for me was being a part of an ear cleaning clinic where over 700 children were screened by a specialist from Texas."

In October the Dolibers take up appointments in the Northern Division with Major Bob as general secretary and Major Rae as divisional disaster services secretary with additional appointments as community care ministries secretary and older adult ministries director.



# Small hands, big heart

Aiden Bowers is a 9-year-old boy with a big heart for others. After hearing about refugees seeking safety in other countries due to the conflict in their own, Aiden wanted to help.

Together with his parents, Captains Tony and Brienne Bowers, Aiden settled on a goal of \$500 and created a strategy to raise the money.

He began selling candy bars and soda at the corps, to his neighbors and at school. This effort alone raised about \$250. Next, he made caramel apple kits with various toppings for his customers to choose from. He also

gained the support of a corps member, who began making cookies and banana bread for him to sell when his inventory ran low.

Raising the funds took a lot of hard work and dedication, but every week Aiden was enthusiastic about giving his corps family an update on his progress. Within three months, Aiden reached his goal, and an advisory board member donated a giant check for him to present during a Sunday worship meeting. The \$500 donation went to World Services/Self-Denial.

"We were all so proud of Aiden and what he has accomplished," concluded Captain Brienne.



Aiden presents his dad, Captain Tony Bowers, with a check for \$500.

# PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army

USA Central Territory

## November Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Wednesday	Ecclesiastes 3-4	Milwaukee, Wis., ARC*
	2 Thursday	Zephaniah	Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps
	3 Friday	Acts 11-12	Madison Genesis, Wis., Corps
	4 Saturday	James 4-5	Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps
	5 Sunday	Deuteronomy 1-3	Youth in Corps Cadets
	6 Monday	2 Chronicles 33-36	Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps
	7 Tuesday	Psalms 128-130	Cicero Templo Laramie, Ill., Corps
	8 Wednesday	Ecclesiastes 5-6	Caribbean Territory <sup>PIM</sup>
	9 Thursday	Haggai	Hibbing, Minn., Corps
	10 Friday	Acts 13-14	Kearney, Neb., Corps
	11 Saturday	1 Peter 1-3	Metropolitan DHQ**
	12 Sunday	Deuteronomy 4-6	Jackson, Mich., Corps
	13 Monday	Ezra 1-5	Madison Temple, Wis., Corps
	14 Tuesday	Psalms 131-133	Minneapolis, Minn., ARC*
	15 Wednesday	Ecclesiastes 7-8	Hillsdale, Mich., Corps
	16 Thursday	Zechariah 1-7	Iowa City, Iowa, Corps
	17 Friday	Acts 15-16	Christmas kettle campaigns
	18 Saturday	1 Peter 4-5	Indianapolis Fountain Square, Ind., Corps
	19 Sunday	Deuteronomy 7-9	Jr. Soldier enrollments
	20 Monday	Ezra 6-10	Kansas City Northland, Mo., Corps
	21 Tuesday	Psalms 134-136	Crystal Lake, Ill., Corps
	22 Wednesday	Ecclesiastes 9-10	Jacksonville, Ill., Corps
	23 Thursday	Zechariah 8-14	Thank God for the blessings He gives!
	24 Friday	Acts 17-18	International Falls, Minn., Corps
	25 Saturday	1 John 1-2	Lincoln, Neb., Corps
	26 Sunday	Deuteronomy 10-12	Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps
	27 Monday	Nehemiah 1-4	Commissioners Merle & Dawn Heatwole (IHQ)
	28 Tuesday	Psalms 137-139	Manitowoc, Wis., Corps
	29 Wednesday	Ecclesiastes 11-12	Livingston County, Mich., Corps
	30 Thursday	Malachi	Kankakee, Ill., Corps

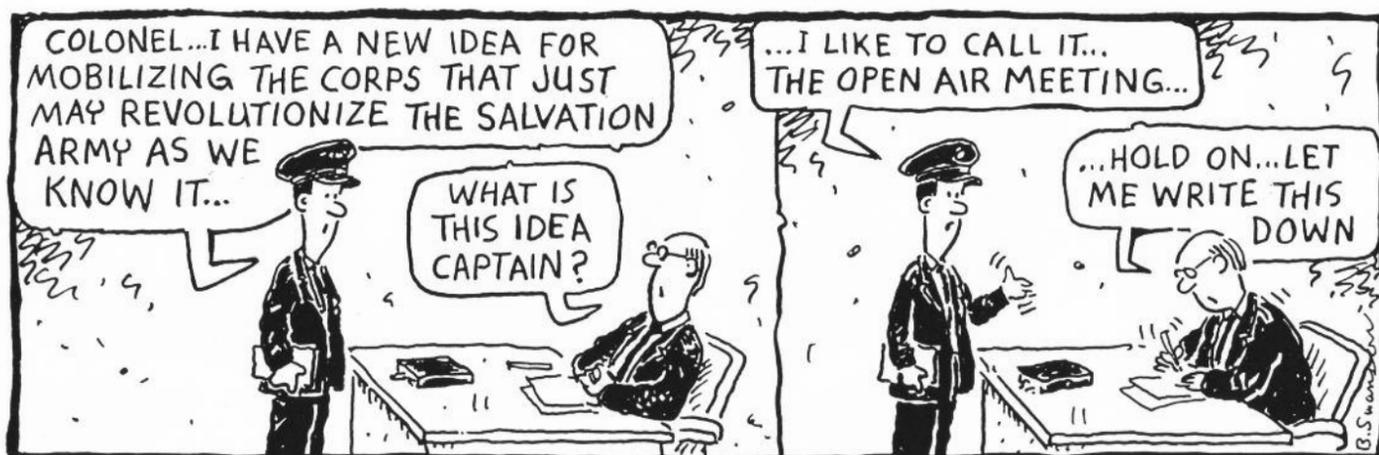
\* = Adult Rehabilitation Center  
 \*\* = Divisional Headquarters  
 PIM = Partners in Mission

Go to [www.salarmycentral.org](http://www.salarmycentral.org)

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



## --Mustard Seeds--



## Setting the stage

While marking 125 years of Salvation Army service to Livingston County, Mich., the stage was set for the corps' future with a capital campaign and purchase of a new building. Growth in social services and programming has rendered the current, aging structure as impractical, according to Major Prezza Morrison, corps officer.



Major Prezza Morrison (r) describes Ruth Stoehl of the Eastern Michigan Division's planned giving department as "a great supporter of us."

The new facility is on a main road near a major shopping area and has plenty of parking. In addition to larger offices and rooms, it will feature a commercial-sized kitchen, gymnasium and youth center for corps and afterschool programming.

"I have great advisory board members who believe in what we do, staff that lives the Army's mission, and corps members, volunteers and collaborating agencies with hearts wanting to 'Do The Most Good,'" said Major Prezza.

New people have started attending the corps, which had its first teen vacation Bible school (themed "Get a Life!") for 15 youth, and it hosted a Women's Celebration where 25 ladies heard how the Army helped the speaker's homeless, mentally disabled son find hope.

At a recent tri-city business chamber breakfast held in the corps' new building, 90 people learned about the

Army's long-time service to the county and the corps' future plans.

"We gained two new advisory board members out of the event!" said Major Prezza as advisory board members and volunteers were saluted.

The major is particularly proud talking about the corps' Pathway of Hope (POH), eviction diversion and "Summer Lunch Bunch" initiatives.

"Marlena Poff, our POH case-worker, is great; she goes out of her way to provide the right kind of help and guidance for the 10 families enrolled to reach their goals," said the major. Scott Richardson, the corps' social services director, has helped numerous families stay in their homes through the eviction diversion program which negotiates with landlords and judges.

Summer Lunch Bunch, run by Lisa Welch, provides more than 30,000 lunches to families struggling to feed their children during the non-school months. More than 200 volunteers and three employees serve lunch once a week in locations all over the county and send families home with enough lunch items to last until the following week.



Lisa Welch hands out vegetable plants at a Summer Lunch Bunch feeding site.

## International College for Officers

The following officers have been selected to attend the International College for Officers in London, England, this fall.



Session 235  
October 11 to November 20, 2017

### Major Angie Wandling

Kroc Center Officer for Mission Integration and Youth Development, South Bend, Ind.



**Major Kathleen Hellstrom**  
Divisional Women's Ministries Secretary  
Western Division

## What we really need

by Lt. Colonel Daniel Sjögren  
Territorial Ambassador for Holiness



As hard as it is for my wife, Becky, and me to believe, at the end of this year we're headed to the green pastures of retirement. We are pleased to know that even though we will join the ranks of retired officers, one really never retires from doing God's work.



needs Christians who are full of peace and joy. However, I believe the predominant need is for purity—of mind, word, spirit, character and life. When we bear the burden of sin, we are weak, but when we have pure intentions, thoughts, and motives, we are powerful.

Thank you for the many seminars and sessions about the Holy Spirit you've invited us to share. It has been a joy to introduce people to the Holy Spirit and to witness others wanting to go deeper in their knowledge and experience of Him.

The Salvation Army needs powerful Christians. It needs Christians who pray with a fervent spirit, and it

As we say goodbye, Becky and I leave with the intentions of continuing to seek purity of heart and character which exemplifies Jesus Christ and will show proof of His cleansing in our lives. We pray you will strive with prayer and holy passion for your ethics to coincide with the glorious experience created within the human heart by the Holy Spirit.

## Ferguson

Continued from page 1

to break the cycle of poverty for families by helping them overcome barriers such as unemployment or unstable housing.

For children, The Salvation Army offers Spark Academy, an out-of-school program for third and fourth graders that provides a safe space and opportunity for them to discover their gifts and talents. Seeking to help youth develop into and thrive as the person God intends them to be, the academy focuses on four main areas: depth (developing spiritual formation and strong independent character); responsibility (opportunities to serve others); community (gaining a sense of belonging); and spark (creating opportunities to discover their giftedness).

"It is important in moving into a new community to come with ears and eyes open to hear and see from people before starting up programs. While we have presented two pro-

grams to start with, both will give opportunity to meet and hear from our neighbors," said Major Gail Aho, urban missions secretary for the Midland Division. "We want to be flexible—just like the space we have created—flexible, open and available to become what is hoped for and needed."

In speaking on July 26 at the grand opening which drew more than 400 people, Commissioner Brad Bailey, territorial commander, said, "Together, we are responding to racial inequity and human distress experienced in Ferguson... We've come together today because we share a covenant to do—what God wants us to do—and to be—what God wants us to be—as well as a divine sense of mission and desire to be engaged right at the heart of life-transforming mission on behalf of others."

## Connecting children

Continued from page 1

learn nature photography, while others grow their own "pizza garden." Many have gravitated to archery, and clubs have been formed with divisional competitions emerging. There is something for every age, interest and fitness level.

Many corps now use TSAO with their character-building programs, afterschool activities, Sunday school or vacation Bible school, and day camps. "It's flexible enough to offer alternatives or enhancements for what a Salvation Army unit needs," said Bruce McAllister, TSAO partnership development and outreach coordinator.



Looking to the future of TSAO, the territory hopes to add a dedicated healthy-kids initiative and more family-oriented activities and to provide broader training in other territories.