Jesus Theatre takes center stage

by Joe Caddy

The Salvation Army has long understood how music and fine arts can provide an effective medium to present the gospel in a way that resonates with all types of audiences. Over the years the Army also has invested in effective summer camp ministries which not only give campers an opportunity to commune with nature but to draw closer to God.

Over the past couple of summers, these two important ministries have combined in a new way as summer camp staffs have implemented an imaginative presentation model known as Jesus Theatre which uses the creative arts to present the Good News in a visual and creative way leading to an invitation to accept Christ.

Originally created for use in Salvation Army camp ministries in the Eastern Territory, Jesus Theatre utilizes a mix of theater and movement set to music. Camp staff spend time learning and rehearsing the 30-minute piece during their orientation and present it to campers throughout the summer.

Whether it is the piece titled “Balloons” which was performed at camps in summer 2016 or “Under Construction” which has been featured this summer, each Jesus Theatre presentation contains a symbolic representation of the entire gospel story from creation to salvation to regeneration.

By utilizing a cast comprised of camp staff members, Jesus Theatre also provides counselors and program staff the opportunity to take a greater role in the spiritual development of their campers. Cast members effectively serve as ministers of the gospel and their participation in the production often opens lines of communication for them to engage in meaningful conversations with their campers about Christ and His teachings.

While Jesus Theatre was created with camp ministry in mind, it also can be an effective means of presenting the gospel in corps as demonstrated by the Creative Arts Service Team (CAST). Over the past two summers, CAST has performed an adapted version of the show as part of vacation Bible schools, day camps and evangelistic campaigns throughout the territory. In July 2017 members of CAST and the Bill Booth Theater Company combined to present Jesus Theatre in Spanish while on a short-term mission trip in Argentina.

While producing a Jesus Theatre piece requires time, effort and imagination by the cast, the key to the presentation’s effectiveness lies in the cast’s capacity to respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Each presentation ends with a choice to accept God’s gift of salvation. So far, the response has been overwhelming.

“Jesus Theatre allowed us to set the spiritual tone on the first night of each camp,” explained Major Cyndi Shiel, former Kansas and Western Missouri divisional youth secretary. “It was effective in delivering the gospel in a powerful way which spoke to all age groups. I believe this impacted all areas of our camping program in a great way.”

Chicago Kroc Center celebrates five years

by Major Karen Johnson

The Chicago Kroc Center celebrates its fifth anniversary with the theme "Kroc Gives Back" and a week filled with engaging, family-friendly activities to express gratitude to its employees and the community. “We were excited to offer a week of activities for our community that were fun and educational, as well as fulfilling our mission as The Salvation Army and helping people take the next step on their spiritual journey with God,” said Major Marc Johnson, senior Kroc Center officer. “We are blessed God has helped us to reach this milestone and we look forward to many more years of bringing hope to this area of the city.”

The festivities began on Monday with a cookout for employees and two free showings of the hit movie, “Hidden Figures,” which drew about 200 people from the neighborhood. On Tuesday, the Kroc Center hosted a health fair that provided free information and was supplemented by vendors who offered health and wellness products. Wednesday showcased a “Fitness Fun and Games Extravaganza!”

Continued on page 8

The weekend presented more opportunities to engage the community. On Friday, more than 300 people enjoyed barbecue, live jazz and the movie “Lego Batman” from their lawn chairs and blankets. Saturday the Kroc Center undertook service projects that ranged from free document shredding by a truck in the parking lot to the beautification of five community lots. On Father’s Day everyone was invited to Sunday morning worship and then a softball game between area police and fire departments.
Let's meet at the cages

by Commissioner Brad Bailey
Territorial Commander

My grandson’s Little League All-Star baseball team recently won the state championship for seven-year-olds and under. During their playoff run, they experienced some magical moments when they were overpowered by a few opposing teams, which shook their confidence in their abilities and potential. During one of these close games, at the conclusion of their practice, the coach instructed the boys to surround the batting cage and to cheer for the one who was taking his turn at batting practice. As each boy stepped into the cage, his teammates yelled words of encouragement, praise and approval—

lies after the 2008 flood. Held each August, the fun-filled course, which is suitable for all ages and skill levels, meanders for almost three miles through a large park along the Cedar River and ends on a 100-foot-long “slip-n-slide” followed by a picnic. The race starts at 8:00 a.m. with the release of the first wave of participants; subsequent waves are released every 10 minutes. Attracting more than 1,000 runners and walkers each year, the amount of funds raised also grows. The Salvation Army and Matthew 25, a local charity founded in 2006 to strengthen the city’s west side that portfor those affected by the 2008 flood, hosts the annual event. Last year the corps pantry gave out 180 bags of produce to clients. Although she now oversees the project, the captain credits Cadet Makayla (Bever) Parnell for making it a reality. When Makayla became an intern at the corps in 2014, she had a vision for a community garden to supplement the food pantry and provide fresh options for program meals. Her enthusiasm spread. Makayla grew up eating vegetables out of her family’s garden. As an adult, she’s passionate about people having access to fresh, healthy produce. “So speak encouraging words to each other, the truth. Love, encouraging each other, the least, lost, last, left out, no one left behind. I know you’re already doing this; just keep doing it.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11, The Message)

Although Makayla had been away from the corps for a year, having entered the College for Officer Training last fall, she left a legacy that continues to grow.
Thomas a beacon to others

Andmaster Peggy Thomas has received the Beacon Award from the International Women's Brass Conference. Introduced just three years ago, the award is given to "women who have been beacons of light for those around them, both in the fields of performance and education. These women influence so many generations of musicians throughout their careers sharing the art of performance, and standing for the values of equity, perseverance, and excellence."

From a young age, Peggy was intent on developing and using her God-given talents to further God's Kingdom. She graduated from the Eastman School of Music in 1975 with a bachelor's of music in trumpeter performance and from the Northwestern University School of Music in 1977 with a master's of music in trumpet performance.

In 1976 she became the first woman in the world to gain membership in a Salvation Army staff band. As a member of the Chicago Staff Band (CSB), she served as principal cornet for almost 40 years and is presently its deputy bandmaster. She has recorded extensively with the CSB, plus has recorded two solo albums, Songs in the Heart and Perspectives. She has appeared as soloist, clinician and conductor throughout the United States, Canada, Korea, the Netherlands, England, New Zealand and Australia.

She also has served as the bandmaster of the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps Band since 1983. Under her leadership, the band not only has supported the corps' mission and worship but has traveled ministering extensively and has recorded more than 50 CDs.

"Peggy's outstanding musicianship goes without saying; however, her quiet and humble leadership is what sets her apart," said Beth Cooper, music teacher and currently principal cornet in the CSB. "She has paved the way for so many women musicians who would have never had the chance to play in a staff band without her. Peggy has always been an inspiration for me and is a true beacon."

Eighteen teenagers who graduated from these programs are now giving back as volunteers, teaching the next generation of kindergarten through sixth-grade kids how to stay out of trouble, make good choices and lead positive lives. In 2016, they logged an astounding 5,400 volunteer hours!

"I love working with the kids," said Britney, adding that serving young children gives her purpose. "You're not out on the street, you're not roaming around. Here you're safe. You don't have to worry about getting shot or having bad things happen."

During the school year she and fellow volunteers come to the corps every Monday through Thursday afternoon to help kids with their school work, reading skills through Mission: Literacy, play with them in the gym, help the girls earn badges in sunbeams and the boys learn "boils of the trade" in boys group and serve meals, snacks and more.

"Volunteering gives them something to do and a sense of worth," said Wanda Sue Pfeur, Eastside's youth program coordinator. "They see the difference they are making. I can see the joy on their faces when they're helping the younger kids."

That's exactly what Wanda Sue wants to encourage. She concluded, "Watching the kids come back, watching them grow…It just makes me very, very proud."

The St. Paul Eastside Corps is led by Enov Donald LaMar.
Where He leads me, I will follow

Bill and Deb Middendorp are out of their comfort zone. Along with their four children, the Middendorps have been on a journey to discover God’s place for them.

Early in 2010, with Bill attending Sioux Falls Seminary fulltime and Deb working in a nursing home facility, the family had everything they could have wanted: a big home, a close-knit community and family nearby. But they weren’t at peace, so they began to pray for God’s leading.

“For many years we tried our own way of being where we thought we wanted to be and we didn’t have peace,” said Deb. “Throughout our praying we told God, whatever You ask of us, we’re a ‘yes.’”

But God didn’t just ask them to step out in faith. It was more like taking a leap. The first thing they felt Him ask them to do was to sell the big, beautiful home they loved. Obediently, though hopeful for a slow process, they put it on the market. One showing and less than a month later, the house was sold. Bill and Deb were flabbergasted. Although they had no idea what God had in store for them, they began to downsize, selling or giving away over half of their belongings as they waited on God to provide direction.

A few months later, still not knowing what God was going to ask, Deb set aside time for prayer and fasting. She went to the chapel of the First Baptist Church in George, Iowa, where they were members, and began to pray and search the Bible. Every verse or passage she landed on shared one theme: do not be afraid. Meanwhile, Bill was at home studying and praying. The message was clear. Sitting in the presence of God in two separate places, they’d each felt the same leading—Chicago—and they were terrified! They didn’t understand how God could use small-town people in a big city.

“We were not sure how it was going to work,” said Bill. “It made no sense.”

Bill and Deb had never lived in a big city, nor had they wanted to. It was a struggle to accept God would want to use them so far outside their comfort zone. Yet even before they told anyone about it, affirmation of their calling came in unexpected ways.

A resident at Deb’s workplace offhandedly commented, “You’re not going to up and move to Chicago on us, are you?”

As if that weren’t enough, “A friend reminded me the safest place to be is in the center of God’s will,” Deb recalled.

It was still a struggle, but they kept moving forward believing God had called them and would show them the way.

The family closed on their house and, having nowhere yet to live, moved in with Deb’s parents. They continued to pray for direction and downsized even more, eventually fitting everything they owned into one trailer.

With all of their belongings packed into the trailer hitched to the farm truck they’d bought for the exact amount for which they’d sold their riding mower, boat and other equipment, the family was ready to move. Then, the night before their departure, a huge storm blew through the area. They woke to find a tree had fallen on the truck, crushing it. Neighbors had suffered damage to their property as well.

A homeless man selects fresh food.

Bill took a student internship with a church planting group in Chicago and began making connections. They found an apartment in Chicago’s west suburbs, but with no proof of income there was no chance of a lease. A friend heard about the situation and offered to co-sign the lease and cover rent for the first year, telling them, “God wants you there.”

Bill and Deb minister to the homeless in the Des Plaines, Ill., area.

A resident at Deb’s workplace offhandedly commented, “You’re not going to up and move to Chicago on us, are you?”

As if that weren’t enough, “A friend reminded me the safest place to be is in the center of God’s will,” Deb recalled.

It was still a struggle, but they kept moving forward believing God had called them and would show them the way.

The family closed on their house and, having nowhere yet to live, moved in with Deb’s parents. They continued to pray for direction and downsized even more, eventually fitting everything they owned into one trailer.

With all of their belongings packed into the trailer hitched to the farm truck they’d bought for the exact amount for which they’d sold their riding mower, boat and other equipment, the family was ready to move. Then, the night before their departure, a huge storm blew through the area. They woke to find a tree had fallen on the truck, crushing it. Neighbors had suffered damage to their property as well.
Undeterred, the Middendorps put in a call to their insurance agent and got to work helping with the community’s cleanup efforts. Within 24 hours the insurance company totaled out their truck and they were able to purchase a nicer vehicle—and it was even Deb’s favorite color! Soon, they were on their way to their new home.

‘God provided the way again and again and again. In ways we never could have imagined,’ Deb said.

For the first six months, the family traveled into the city to worship with friends. But when winter hit and the drive became more difficult, they began to visit other churches closer to their home. Nothing seemed the right fit, so they continued to search, visiting different congregations in the area.

When the lease was up on their apartment the family moved into a small mobile home. Bill was still a full-time student and Deb was teaching piano lessons, but with no other income, money was tight and their savings began to dwindle. Then, out of the blue, word came from the small, rural First Baptist Church. The Middendorps were being added to the missionary roll and would receive a monthly stipend to assist them with the cost of living and to support them in ministry opportunities for which God had prepared them!
6

Newly accepted candidate

Justin Tracy
Cape Girardeau, Mo., Corps
Midland Division

I accepted Jesus at age 6 with the help of my parents after attending a Billy Graham crusade in Columbus, Ohio. I grew up in church and served as a leader in the youth group during high school. I attended Indiana Wesleyan University and was introduced to the Salvation Army through a service trip to the Harlem Temple Corps in New York City.

I quickly began to learn about the scope of Salvation Army ministry and was even more interested. I met Captains Jason and Dana Baglow during our trip and through that relationship learned about the Ministry Discovery Internship. I accepted the internship and through that experience have felt the call to officership strengthened in my walk with Christ. I am excited to serve God as an officer.

Until recently Justin’s corps officers were Captains Ronald and Bridgette Amick. His current corps officers are Lts. Matthew and Virginia Degonia.

The Salvation Army through a service trip to the Harlem Temple Corps in New York City.

Extraordinary service to a faithful God

by Evie Polsley

I was a stranger and you invited me in. (Matthew 25:35, NLT)

For Majors Jim and Judy Garrington there are no strangers, only people with whom to share Christ’s love and saving power. This was evident as friends and family from around the world gathered at Wonderland Corps to thank them for their love, service and passion for Christ and His people for more than 40 years as friends and family from around the world gathered at Wonderland Corps to thank them for their love, service and passion for Christ and His people for more than 40 years as officers.

Their session name, “Overcomers,” was apropos as they surmounted roadblocks and carried people’s burdens to proclaim the love of Christ with joy, laughter, family, friends, and celebrated God’s faithfulness.

The Garringtons’ officership was anything but ordinary. Serving in Germany for 23 years, they ministered in a nation of families divided by political strife. Through Judy’s sacrificial acts of service and Jim’s gift of evangelism, they saw God break down walls of anger, grief and unbelief in the hearts of men and women. Their ministry not only encompassed those on the west side of the Berlin Wall but those in East Germany as they risked their safety to sneak Bibles across the border. When communism collapsed and the wall fell, the Garringtons were some of the first officers to preach and live out the love of Christ to people who for more than a generation were not even allowed to say His name.

After returning to the Central Territory, their ministry didn’t waver. For 18 years they showed Christ’s compassion to lost and hurting people in corps, officers who needed a champion or someone to listen and countless others.

During an open mic at the retirement dinner, streams of people shared how the Garringtons opened their home and hearts to others, whether a hitchhiker, a family fleeing religious persecution or someone who just needed a listening ear.

Majors Beat and Annette Rieder, who had ministered with the Garringtons in Germany, conducted the official retirement ceremony in which Major Beat relayed, “I saw firsthand their integrity and obedience to do what God had called them to do. In all things—calling, faith, personal testimony—their lives reflected God’s love and faithfulness.”

At their retirement service, Majors Judy and Jim Garrington are shown with their great niece, Ellie, and granddaughter, Lili.

The Central Territorial Candidates’ Department invites you to be part of the 730 Weekend 2017 to be held October 6-8, 2017, at Central Territorial Headquarters and the College for Officer Training.

Three different tracks of workshops and learning opportunities have been specially designed with you in mind. And there’s lots of great fellowship, too!

Register today at centralusa.salvationarmy.org/usc/730andbeyond

For more information, contact your divisional candidates’ secretary.
Keeping the legacy alive

by Mary Zaleski

Envoi Celia McDougal left her home in Flint, Mich., for Brest, France, on April 19, 1919. She would soon reach a hut in Coblenz, Germany, where she would become part of an elite group of Salvation Army women who provided fresh doughnuts and spiritual comfort to soldiers on the frontlines during World War I and later during occupation duty in Germany. Records show that along with Ensign Grace Beacraft, Celia spent 750 days in France and Germany serving 5,000 doughnuts a day—all told, about 3.7 million!

Cheryl Freismuth and Susan Kilyko of the division’s development staff join Cati McDougall (center) as doughnut girls for the event.

Today, her great-nephew, Chuck McDougall, serves doughnuts, coffee and water, as well as other necessities and meals, to people following disasters such as fires, tornadoes and other emergencies as Eastern Michigan (EMI) divisional emergency disaster services director.

“I’m fifth generation,” said Chuck. “I was born into a family legacy of caring and giving.” As accustomed, Chuck served doughnuts and coffee to attendees at a 100th Anniversary Doughnut Girl Celebration on National Donut Day, June 2, at the Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society Museum in Eastpointe, Mich. He also brought along his niece, Cati McDougall, dressed as a doughnut girl, to be part of the historic festivities.

The idea to serve the confections was started by Adjutants Helen Purviance and Margaret Sheldon during the fall of 1917. Assessing the supplies on hand in the trenches and wanting to provide spiritual and emotional comfort to the soldiers, they came up with the idea of frying doughnuts for the troops. Soon, they were making up to 9,000 doughnuts per day.

“We wanted to keep this legacy alive,” said EMI Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel John Turner. Colonel John Turner at the museum event. “We want future generations to know just what these brave women did.”

Colonel Turner concluded by donating the iconic photo of doughnut girl Lt. Stella Young to the museum for its WWI exhibit.

Cheryl Freismuth and Susan Kilyko of the division’s development staff join Cati McDougall (center) as doughnut girls for the event.

Today, her great-nephew, Chuck McDougall, serves doughnuts, coffee and water, as well as other necessities and meals, to people following disasters such as fires, tornadoes and other emergencies as Eastern Michigan (EMI) divisional emergency disaster services director.

“I’m fifth generation,” said Chuck. “I was born into a family legacy of caring and giving.” As accustomed, Chuck served doughnuts and coffee to attendees at a 100th Anniversary Doughnut Girl Celebration on National Donut Day, June 2, at the Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society Museum in Eastpointe, Mich. He also brought along his niece, Cati McDougall, dressed as a doughnut girl, to be part of the historic festivities.

The idea to serve the confections was started by Adjutants Helen Purviance and Margaret Sheldon during the fall of 1917. Assessing the supplies on hand in the trenches and wanting to provide spiritual and emotional comfort to the soldiers, they came up with the idea of frying doughnuts for the troops. Soon, they were making up to 9,000 doughnuts per day.

“We wanted to keep this legacy alive,” said EMI Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel John Turner. Colonel John Turner at the museum event. “We want future generations to know just what these brave women did.”

Colonel Turner concluded by donating the iconic photo of doughnut girl Lt. Stella Young to the museum for its WWI exhibit.

Cheryl Freismuth and Susan Kilyko of the division’s development staff join Cati McDougall (center) as doughnut girls for the event.

Today, her great-nephew, Chuck McDougall, serves doughnuts, coffee and water, as well as other necessities and meals, to people following disasters such as fires, tornadoes and other emergencies as Eastern Michigan (EMI) divisional emergency disaster services director.

“I’m fifth generation,” said Chuck. “I was born into a family legacy of caring and giving.” As accustomed, Chuck served doughnuts and coffee to attendees at a 100th Anniversary Doughnut Girl Celebration on National Donut Day, June 2, at the Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society Museum in Eastpointe, Mich. He also brought along his niece, Cati McDougall, dressed as a doughnut girl, to be part of the historic festivities.

The idea to serve the confections was started by Adjutants Helen Purviance and Margaret Sheldon during the fall of 1917. Assessing the supplies on hand in the trenches and wanting to provide spiritual and emotional comfort to the soldiers, they came up with the idea of frying doughnuts for the troops. Soon, they were making up to 9,000 doughnuts per day.

“We wanted to keep this legacy alive,” said EMI Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel John Turner. Colonel John Turner at the museum event. “We want future generations to know just what these brave women did.”

Colonel Turner concluded by donating the iconic photo of doughnut girl Lt. Stella Young to the museum for its WWI exhibit.

Cheryl Freismuth and Susan Kilyko of the division’s development staff join Cati McDougall (center) as doughnut girls for the event.

Today, her great-nephew, Chuck McDougall, serves doughnuts, coffee and water, as well as other necessities and meals, to people following disasters such as fires, tornadoes and other emergencies as Eastern Michigan (EMI) divisional emergency disaster services director.

“I’m fifth generation,” said Chuck. “I was born into a family legacy of caring and giving.” As accustomed, Chuck served doughnuts and coffee to attendees at a 100th Anniversary Doughnut Girl Celebration on National Donut Day, June 2, at the Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society Museum in Eastpointe, Mich. He also brought along his niece, Cati McDougall, dressed as a doughnut girl, to be part of the historic festivities.

The idea to serve the confections was started by Adjutants Helen Purviance and Margaret Sheldon during the fall of 1917. Assessing the supplies on hand in the trenches and wanting to provide spiritual and emotional comfort to the soldiers, they came up with the idea of frying doughnuts for the troops. Soon, they were making up to 9,000 doughnuts per day.

“We wanted to keep this legacy alive,” said EMI Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel John Turner. Colonel John Turner at the museum event. “We want future generations to know just what these brave women did.”

Colonel Turner concluded by donating the iconic photo of doughnut girl Lt. Stella Young to the museum for its WWI exhibit.
Continued from page 1

Promoted to Glory

Major Alvin Nelson

Major Alvin Nelson was promoted to Glory on July 10, 2017, in Rockford, Ill. He was 94 years old.

Alvin was born on April 5, 1923, in Chicago, Ill., to Alvin and Lucile Nelson. He attended Wright Junior College prior to entering the College for Officer Training (CFOT). He was commissioned in 1944 with the "Liberty" session.

He married Capt. Elsie Mattson on November 7, 1945. They served faithfully for more than 40 years in corps, divisional headquarters and at the CFOT. Major Alvin also was the city coordinator in St. Paul, Minn., and Rockford, Ill. Most of the Nelsons’ appointments would have been part the great Scandinavian Department (division). Upon retirement in 1988, the Nelsons served as committed, hard-working soldiers of the Rockford Temple Corps which they once led. In 2008, Elsie was promoted to Glory.

Alvin’s life reflected his deep devotion to Christ, immense love for The Salvation Army and sincere concern for others’ spiritual well-being. He was known as one of the territory’s saints: a godly, gentle man whose powerful prayers were legion, blessing others until his last days.

Alvin was preceded in death by his wife, brother and sister. He is survived by his son, David, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Major Jerold Johnson

Jerald Leon Johnson was born on December 17, 1938, to Leon and Naomi Johnson in Moline, Ill. He was promoted to Glory early Sunday morning, June 11, 2017.

He was saved in 1957 and received the blessing of a clear heart during the Watchnight service on New Year’s Eve in 1958. On January 12, 1958, he became a senior soldier.

Jerald married Helen Lucille Bryan on August 30, 1958. They entered the College for Officer Training and were commissioned in 1962 with the “Soldiers of Christ” session.

They served in appointments throughout the Midwest. Notably, Jerald was instrumental in the building of four corps. In 1995 they were appointed to the Kanarast and Western Missouri Divisional Headquarters where they served as chaplains in social services until their retirement in 2003.

Jerry was known as a hard worker with great artistic talent. His genuine love for people was evident in his kind-hearted nature and in being a father figure to many youth in the territory.

He is survived by his wife and four children, Major Nathan Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Major Lurlene Johnson and Ivory Roberts and five grandchildren.

Bridging hearts, program fills gap

by Major Heidi Reed

During an advisory council meeting at the Wyandotte Downriver, Mich., Corps, Judge James Kandresvas (a council member) asked if there was anything. The Salvation Army could do to help women going through his court involved in prostitution. He was visibly burdened for them. Of course, we said, “Yes!”

We began a group called “Bridging Hearts.” It’s led by Janice Quick, our corps women’s ministries secretary, Karen Dillenbeck, a volunteer trained in prison ministry, and me.

At first, the women in the initial group were not thrilled to be court-mandated to come to The Salvation Army for six weeks, but their look of dread soon changed to excitement. They really enjoyed coming.

In March we started our second group. This time there weren’t long faces. They had been told by the probation officer how the members of the first group loved coming and actually looked forward to it.

Each week is filled with refreshments, fun activities such as crafts and games (even archery), a presentation regarding resources they can access, and a DVD series titled “Unashamed” by Christine Caine.

Our caseworker gets to know each woman and shares about the resources available to them from our corps as well as from the community. Our energy assistance specialist lets them know about conserving energy, how to get on a payment plan, and how to handle past due accounts. I share about corps programs, including Sunday worship, for them and their children.

What an exciting time it is when we are able to share the gospel and see hearts touched. What a joy it is to see changes in the women. One broke off a six-year relationship that was destructive. Another got a job. Some of the children have gotten to go to summer camp, and were thrilled.

One woman said, “I’ve been listening to the videos. I know I have a future now and I know that I have a lot of people here that care about me.”

It has been a privilege to get to know and love these women and to pray for them and with them.

Caseworker Nancy Tosti

A joyful offering

Majors Michael and Shirley Myers celebrated their retirement earlier this year in a farewell service led by Lt. Colonel Norman Marshall and held at the Bay City, Mich., Corps, where they have served since 2005.

Several community leaders were in attendance to offer their support and well wishes.

The Myers were married in 1990 and began their ministry together when Michael was commissioned in 1994 with the “Crusaders for Christ” session. Shirley had been commissioned earlier in 1978 with the “Disciples of Jesus” session. They entered retirement with the joy of having served nearly 25 years together.

Throughout their officership, the Myers’ served in corps appointments throughout Michigan and Indiana. Their greatest joy was building relationships and loving God’s people through service to the community.

“I love seeing God change lives,” said Major Michael. “It was a joy offering hope to people and allowing God to work in every situation.”

In retirement, they plan to enjoy their home in Howell, Mich.—during the warm months, that is. In the winter, they hope to spend time with their daughter in Florida and their son, who lives in Indiana. Major Michael also intends to enjoy the open road on his motorcycle.

Captain Brian and Major Heidi Reed pictured with Judge James Kandresvas and the corps’ women’s ministries secretary Janice Quick.

Photo by Jacob Hamilton