



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)

Volume 53, Number 8

September 2023

New L.I.F.E. in Flint

A new approach to meeting community needs while sharing the gospel has revitalized ministry through the L.I.F.E. (Living Intentionally For Excellence) Center, in Flint, Mich., formerly the Flint Beecher Corps.

"As we made the transition from a

corps to the L.I.F.E. Center, we wanted to try something different to reach the community," said Major Randy Hellstrom, Mid-Michigan area commander and administrator of the L.I.F.E. Center. "One of the things that was important to us was to give the L.I.F.E. Center purpose and meaning beyond being a community center."

In consulting with community leaders, it became clear that there was a need for positive youth engagement.

An afterschool program was developed in the fall of 2022 with students being bussed from Beecher schools to the center each afternoon for tutoring, homework

help and activities. In the months since, weekly classes have grown to include opportunities to explore music, sports, technology and trades in a faith-based environment.

"We've worked hard to establish the foundation to create high-quality programs," said Linnell McKenney, Flint native and L.I.F.E. Center director.



A volunteer instructor teaches youth to play violin.



A woodworking workshop

The major and Linnell agree, community partnerships are key to the success of the center's programs. Volunteers lead the majority of lessons, sharing their passion and experience and encouraging participants to learn and develop their skills.

For example, Sphinx Overture provides instructors for group lessons and violins which the participants are allowed to keep after one semester. Community volunteers teach classes in praise dance and lyrical rap, showing students that they can use their bodies and voices for positive messages, counter to what they hear and see in the media. Basketball and judo also are offered, helping students develop good character and sportsmanship.

Partnerships with the University of Michigan and Kettering University have enabled students to develop valuable skills in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) subjects includ-

Continued on page 5



L.I.F.E. Center Director Linnell McKenney, Detroit Pistons' Earl "The Twirl" Cureto and Major Randy Hellstrom.

Project Impact takes disaster services to the next level

Significant expansion and upgrading of emergency disaster services (EDS) is taking place in the Central Territory, enabled by a national \$40 million Lilly Endowment grant that was awarded last October.

Called Project Impact, it focuses on three areas: expanding warehouse space, harnessing new "green" (environmentally sustainable) mobile feeding units, and amplifying training for staff and volunteers.

The funding increases The Salvation Army's disaster response and recovery capability nationwide, promoting collaboration between territories and providing specific resources to empower EDS to better reach underserved and rural communities while building resilience with partner organizations and community members.

"This is a huge blessing and very much needed," said Kevin Ellers, Central territorial disaster services director. "Our canteens are aging. Many in our fleet of 200 canteens are more than 20 years old. Our national disaster training program curriculum is great, but it is now close

to 20 years old and needs an overhaul. This grant will help us to strategically expand our response capacity."

Kevin continued, "We're building our infrastructure to respond more quickly and efficiently to disasters and crises, but also to develop a more seamless recovery effort with social services and other partners."

Warehouses

Sixteen million dollars has been earmarked to strategically expand national warehouse capacity across the nation to support large-scale responses.

The warehouses will allow for large contributions of in-kind goods from corporate donors to be received, stored in reserve, repackaged and processed for immediate distribution to areas that have been impacted by a disaster. Logistical equipment (like forklifts, pallet jacks and scales) and technology will implement best practices of inventory management, with software being developed or procured and shared across territorial boundaries.

In the Central Territory, \$4 million



Martin Rueter, Midland emergency disaster services (EDS) director, with EDS volunteers Jim West and Gretchen Luke on site at what will be the new EDS and social services logistics and warehouse campus near St. Louis, Mo.

has been allocated to build two disaster warehouses in the St. Louis and Minneapolis areas. Both of the facilities will be strategically located to improve mobilization to frequently disaster-affected areas and provide good geographic coverage for the territory.

The Midland Division has pur-

chased a 66,000-sq-ft building on 11 acres which will allow for new facilities and future expansion. A multipurpose compound is planned which will bring together social services and EDS; that will streamline long-term recovery efforts but also meet ongoing and seasonal needs as it could serve as a space

Continued on page 2

The heroes of EDS

by Lt. Colonel Robert Webster
Territorial Secretary for Program

I am proud to serve alongside our brave men and women who have committed themselves to serving through emergency disaster services (EDS). Their ministry is demanding and sometimes performed in daunting circumstances, as I learned many years ago.

I was driving on my way home when I passed an apartment building where flames were shooting out of the attic. Stopping the car and getting out, I heard glass crashing from the back of the building. There, a woman was screaming over and over, "Help my family," and said others were still in the house. I yelled to the neighbors, "Please call 911!"

I grabbed a blanket in sight, put it over the lady's head and told her to lean over and breathe fresh air as smoke billowed over the top of her head. Then I ran full speed ahead, lowering my shoulder into a door but bounced off. I attempted to break through again. This time the door flew open, and I slid across the kitchen floor.

The smoke was intense—pitch black. I shouted, "Is there anyone here?" Hearing someone in another room, I crawled that way. Though it was hard to breathe, I pushed forward and saw an infant lying on the floor and a toddler close by. Grabbing them, I started to back out of



the building. As I struggled, two firefighters came up behind me and grabbed them.

Two other people were crawling toward the exit. "Someone needs to help our grandma," one of them said. "We will find her" the firefighters responded as they made their way back inside and were engulfed in darkness. Glass was now breaking in the front of the apartment, and firefighters yelled, "Help us! Grab this woman!" I helped pull her out, but she was not breathing. Though the firefighters performed CPR,

sadly she died. However, five other individuals were rescued and given a second chance at life that day.

Often, EDS teams respond to scenes like these in communities across the territory. Trained and prepared, they are ready to assist first-responders and individuals and families in crisis. Through their service and meeting others' needs they are demonstrating the love of God. Our emotional and spiritual care personnel listen, provide comfort and often pray with them in Jesus' name.

May God continue to provide us with people who are committed to Him and willing to serve others in such extraordinary circumstances.

Project Impact

Continued from page 1

for a Christmas toy shop. The current building will be renovated, and the Army will construct a 30,000-sq.-ft. EDS warehouse, training and emergency operations center with offices, an enormous garage and loading dock, and commercial kitchen which could make up to 15,000 meals for distribution by canteens during a disaster relief effort but may be used regularly to prepare meals for the homeless in shelters and on the streets.

According to Martin Rueter, Midland EDS director, the EDS facility could not only serve the division but play a key role in meeting needs after a large-scale disaster anywhere in the nation given its size for storing goods and its unique location in the center of the U.S. with easy access to four major interstates, railroads, the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and Scott Air Force Base which headquarters the U.S. Transportation and Air Mobility Commands.

Farther north in Minnesota, the Northern Division plans to build a warehouse next to the divisional headquarters that will provide significantly more space, a commercial state-of-the-art kitchen with capacity to churn out thousands of meals every day, tiered storage space, two loading docks that will accommodate 53-foot semi-trucks, classrooms for continuing hands-on EDS training,

an emergency operations center, office space for EDS staff, a SATERN (Salvation Army Emergency Radio Network) room, a large garage to house all EDS vehicles (including canteens) and space that can be used for a multi-agency center, as well for a Christmas toy shop.

According to Major Michele Heaver, Northern EDS secretary, the warehouse will allow supplies to be distributed quickly in Nebraska, North and South Dakota. The project not only will draw on funds from the grant but a capital campaign.

"For somebody who suddenly finds themselves in need in disasters, it will provide a faster response," the major said, getting to the heart of the difference the EDS warehouse will make. "Flood kits, shelter cots, food, generators—everything you need—will be in one warehouse. We'll load up the trucks and canteens, and they're out the door."

Equipment

The Central Territory is replacing and upgrading its EDS fleet with service delivery vehicles to improve agility and maximize service.

The grant earmarks \$2.25 million for the territory to purchase a minimum of 15 newly designed food service delivery units over three years, replacing the non-energy efficient mobile kitchen fleet with greener technologies that have added mobility and maneuverability and minimize air contaminants and pollutants. Initially each division will receive its choice of two green vehicles.

The North & Central Illinois Division (NCI) already has two green vehicles and is excited about receiving a third, according to Sam Amick, NCI EDS director. They plan to place it at the Canton, Ill., 360 Life Center, which has an exceptional EDS team.

"The new vehi-



cle will provide better coverage of the Western part of the division—all the way to the Mississippi," said Sam.

He indicated the smaller hybrid canteens are not only more energy efficient since they're not dependent on a generator when parked for hours but their smaller size allows them to navigate city streets easier and get EDS teams where they need to go—a gamechanger in cities like Chicago. The size of the vehicle, which is closer to a van, will increase the number of potential drivers as many volunteers can't drive a traditional larger canteen.

The Central also is receiving \$5 million for specialized equipment based upon unique response considerations. This could include shower trailers, field kitchens, trucks, laundry units, multipurpose facilities to be used for case management, offices, command and control, or emotional and spiritual care.

Training

Five million dollars also has been allocated nationally to expand disaster training efforts which will include a territorial training specialist in each territory and a national coordinator, supporting training materials, summits, instructors and travel costs, and further curriculum development and video production.

Across the nation, The Salvation Army aims to recruit and train 20,000 diverse and inclusive volunteers who represent the communities we serve by creating accessible and engaging disaster training courses.

Courses will include online independent study, as well as in-classroom learning for higher level material. Twenty courses are being created. Half will focus on incident command training, while the other half will focus on volunteer development with partner disaster relief organizations and community houses of worship.

According to Kevin, the Central Territory is working with the Eastern Territory on the volunteer modules and with the Western Territory on the entire online learning management system.

"The goal is to build our capacity locally and have strong teams across the territory," he said. "People are excited. The momentum is catching on."



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Helping hands (and paws) bring comfort

Gossamer, an 8-year-old golden retriever, gets hugged a lot by people who are going through perhaps the worst moments of their lives.

He is part of the HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response (AACR) organization, a group that has partnered with The Salvation Army nationally in emergency disaster services for a number of years. HOPE AACR offers emotional support following natural disasters and other crisis situations with its

trained dog-and-handler teams.

"Gossamer's quiet steady calm eases people around him, allowing them to feel—with no judgment," said Janel Zuranski, state coordinator of HOPE AACR in Illinois and owner of Gossamer and 3-year-old Moose, another golden retriever and HOPE dog.

A new training component with HOPE staff and emotional and spiritual care (ESC) teams has been introduced, said Dr. Kevin Ellers, Central territorial disaster services director.

"We have trained our people on what the HOPE dogs do. We are now going to fully integrate the HOPE staff members within our own ESC teams," Kevin explained. "They will take our training, and they will fully integrate within the ESC plan—not just for disasters but for other crisis and trauma situations."

ESC has three levels: leaders, chaplains and specialists.

"We are very excited about partnering with the ESC team," Janel said.

According to Kevin, the new training expands ESC capacity and will



Gossamer, who is part of the HOPE organization, was on hand to provide comfort in Highland Park, Ill., after the mass shooting there in July 2022.

streamline the deployment process and expedite the response.

HOPE staff and volunteers will expand their knowledge of how to be present in a time of crisis; will learn the science behind how animals can provide comfort; use tools for recognizing signs of distress; and learn how to integrate animals in the ESC disaster operation, Kevin said.

Training will take place live or online through Zoom, Teams calls or modules with independent studies. Dogs will be incorporated into the training and exercises.

HOPE dogs must first serve as therapy dogs for one year. This is followed by a screening and then more training for crisis response, including psychological components, first-aid and more. Following the training, dogs become members of HOPE.

HOPE handlers and dogs were deployed to Highland Park, Ill., after the mass shooting in July 2022. Teams also have been sent for first-responder support, emergency management drills, educational events and to sites in the aftermath of hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, school shootings and other disasters and crises.

"Kevin Ellers teaches about 'holding space' and that is exactly what Gossamer does," Janel said of her pet. "Someone told me they like dogs because they never ask, 'How are you doing?' Dogs just listen and hold whatever fear, joy, hope, anxiety, pain or anticipation that is brought to them...it is the palpable love of God embodied."



A passion for helping people

by Annie Beurman

Helping others is in Barbara Elliot's blood. After retiring at age 40 from being a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, she discovered yet another passion for helping people when she and her late husband, Steve, took a trip to Greensburg, Kan., in 2007 for his high school reunion. It was just one week after an EF-5 tornado had destroyed nearly the entire town and killed 11 people.

"We decided we'd volunteer...The Salvation Army put us on the canteen truck, and it was just a heartwarming experience delivering food to those people in need," said Barbara.

Moving to Kansas City, the Elliots began volunteering at Thanksgiving and Christmas. After Steve passed away in 2017, Barbara transitioned into volunteering in many areas all year long. No task was too small or too big, whether stuffing envelopes or running background checks on volunteers.

"She gives so much of herself, her time, her energy and her resources to people she doesn't know or may never meet," said Jennifer Stepp, social services director, who has worked with Barbara for more than six years. "She has so much faith in the Army and what we do."

But it was the pandemic that revealed where Barbara could have the biggest impact.

"When COVID hit, I knew I could not sit in my house doing nothing," said Barbara. "I looked for volunteer opportunities, and Honk N Holler



Barbara receives the William Booth Award from Major Kelly Collins, Kansas and Western Missouri divisional commander.

was, at that time, desperate for people to make sandwiches."

Currently, Barbara and fellow volunteer Dora Hicks make 220 sandwiches every Tuesday for Honk N Holler, a mobile program to feed the homeless.

This summer Barbara received the William Booth Award, one of The Salvation Army's highest honors, at the civic breakfast in Kansas City.

"I received lots of awards when I was in the military, but I've never received anything like this," Barbara said through joyful tears, referring to how rewarding volunteerism is in itself.

"To me, she's the hands and feet of Christ," said Rick Marston, Kansas and Western Missouri divisional donor relations director. "She believes so much in helping those that are in the most need—helping those that have hit the bottom—and giving back to them with her time and her treasure."

Recognized for service

Don Dewar, a volunteer with Emergency Disaster Services, including the Salvation Army Team Emer-

gency Radio Network (SATERN), recently received the bronze-level Presidential Volunteer Service Award. The award, established by the President's Council on Service and Civil Participation, recognizes the importance of volunteer work within our nation's fiber. Don, who has volunteered with The Salvation Army for three years, completed 105 hours of volunteer work in 2022. He said he

was excited to learn he was receiving the award. "Awards are nice—but I really get my reward from the volunteer work I do," he said.



(From left) Dr. Kevin Ellers, Central territorial disaster services director, presents the Presidential Volunteer Service Award to Don Dewar.

Juneteenth celebrates community, heritage and hope

by Captain Denesia Polusca

Juneteenth is more than a time of remembrance. It's a time of celebration and education. And it's an opportunity to focus on hope—hope in our present circumstances and hope in an even better future. Seven units from across the North & Central Illinois Division and two departments from territorial headquarters gathered on

June 17 at the Freedom Center in Chicago, Ill. Our focus was celebrating community and heritage—the resilience of a people and the faithfulness of God who loves us all.

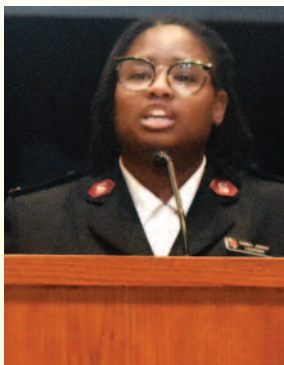
We celebrated Central Territory officers of color and others featured in the museum's *Changemakers* exhibit by incorporating them into the table's centerpieces thanks to Captain Nikki Hughes' creativity.

We celebrated our faith and God's faithfulness with energetic and emotive selections by the Chicago Temple Corps gospel choir, TSA Madison, and the Decatur Corps mime group, Set the Atmosphere. Their meaningful perform-

ances engaged our hearts and minds. Lt Shanell Johnson powerfully delivered an original spoken word. And since no celebration is complete without tasty food, we enjoyed a delectable selection of soul food. There is something special about sharing with each other around a table.

Performing artist and educator Ted Williams III taught us about 1619 when the first Africans arrived on American soil. Attendees appreciated his imagery to explain diversity. He said that rather than a cake where all ingredients are combined and indistinguishable, it should be a stir fry where each ingredient combines to make a savory dish but retains its flavor.

Celebrating Juneteenth reminds us



Lt. Shanell Johnson presents an original spoken word.



Major KK Mathews and Captains Denesia and Norman Polusca

of where we have been. It also propels us to a future reflective of the power and freedom of the unifying gospel: "There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female since you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28, CSB)

Our individuality matters, but it pales in comparison to the redeeming work Christ did for us on the cross. We recall when freedom was withheld to remind us not to withhold freedom. We remember the cruel treatment given to those seen as "other" or "less than" to remind us each person is beautifully created in the image of God with immeasurable value. We remember so that we, in turn, will not be guilty of the sins of our ancestors.



The Decatur Corps mime group, Set the Atmosphere

Photos by Patrick Simmons

Serving better together



Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey, then Central territorial leaders, Terry Hildebrandt, Northern divisional social services director, Paul Deakins, Northern executive development director, Major Michele Heaver, Northern emergency disaster services secretary, and national leaders Commissioners Jolene and Kenneth G. Hodder

At a time of great sorrow and political, cultural and social unrest following the death of George Floyd in May 2020, The Salvation Army came together to minister to individuals and serve the community in Minneapolis, Minn. The Northern Division's exemplary work was recognized this spring with an award for collaboration at the national Better Together Conference in Dallas, Texas.

Without reservation, the emergency disaster services team deftly navigated the turmoil on the frontlines to serve people. Canteens also made food deliveries to multiple locations for food and water distributions. Social services teams walked into the heat of the situation to provide emotional care. They stood alongside community members as they pleaded for justice, unity and peace. The Salvation Army also held a prayer service and led a prayer walk.

While many nonprofit organizations were scaling back fundraising efforts due to the COVID-19 pan-

demic, the development team stepped up appeals as they foresaw an increase in the need for financial support. Donors responded. The development team participated in a radiothon that quickly raised more than \$36,000. Within the next five months they raised nearly \$300,000 through major gifts, more than doubling the amount raised during the same timeframe the previous year.

When the Minneapolis Temple Corps was the only building left completely unharmed while 1,300 other buildings were looted, vandalized and burned, it was clear the community recognized The Salvation Army as an organization they could count on in the worst of times. The morning after rioters tore through the neighborhood, Salvationists joined with hundreds of others to begin picking up the pieces. Soldiers of the Temple Corps arrived ready to serve by making sandwiches, handing out bottles of water and offering words of comfort and prayer to residents and volunteers as they began the process of cleaning up.

Perspectives receives national recognition



by Nanci Gasiel

The Central Territory Museum has been recognized with an Award of Excellence by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for its exhibit *Perspectives*. The award is part of the AASLH Leadership in History Awards, the country's most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation of state and local history.

The AASLH awards committee was "impressed by the breadth and depth of the project: providing on-site and online exhibitions, utilizing a multilingual platform, reaching out to your entire 11 state territory, launching an oral history project, and adding to your archival collection."

Perspectives encourages visitors to examine different beliefs, thoughts and feelings through the stories of dozens of officers, soldiers and employees in the territory. The exhibit also looks at how corps, often in marginalized communities, positively impact their neighborhoods through programs and services designed to meet the needs of adults, families and children.

The exhibit recognizes the

history of and diversity within The Salvation Army in the Midwest. Using personal narratives, photographs, video and artifacts, *Perspectives* reflects we are all created equal in God's eyes. The theme woven throughout is "God sees color, God made color, and color is beautiful."

Perspectives, an exhibit at Territorial Headquarters, is open not only to Salvationists but to the public and is available in both English and Spanish. It also may be viewed online (sacentraltmusem.org/perspectives).

The museum is humbled to be among 51 recipients of the 2023 Awards of Excellence. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history. The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States.

The museum previously has received awards from the Illinois Association of Museums for *Perspectives* and other exhibits and programs. This is its first award from AASLH.



Faith and basketball

From a young age, Linnell Jones-McKenney knew God had a purpose for her life. As a child growing up in Flint, Mich., God's presence was evident to Linnell, and she believed He would send her around world, playing professional basketball and inspiring young people.

There was only one problem: there wasn't a girls' basketball team at her school, let alone a women's professional league, in the early 1970s.

"I was bullied," recalled Linnell. "In class I would gaze out the window and dream about playing basketball, traveling, working with young people and as a motivational speaker. I knew that was God's plan for me."

More than 50 years later, God has fulfilled all of Linnell's dreams. As the new director of the Flint L.I.F.E.

Center, Linnell is finally realizing the last part of her calling—to not only inspire and motivate kids to go for their dreams, but to do it as part of ministry.

For many years, Linnell's journey centered around basketball. She was the first girl to play on her elementary and middle school teams, became an immediate star when the girls' basketball league started in her high school as an all-city, all-conference and all-state player, won a college scholarship, and went on to qualify for the 1980 Olympic team. Although the United States didn't compete in the Olympics that year, Linnell soon found herself traveling the world as a professional basketball player and motivational speaker. Her dreams were coming true, but something was missing.

"There was something empty on the inside of me," said Linnell. "So I went back to church. God took control of my heart where basketball had been. I was realizing that God had to be the head."

After a long career including five hall of fame inductions, Linnell returned to Flint, where she volunteered at her church and worked with local schools at a city-wide afterschool program. She was recognized again and again for her contributions to the community.



Grand opening check presentation

Still, something was missing.

Although Linnell was working with youth as she'd always known was her calling, she felt stunted. She felt Christ was evident in her life, but working in the secular realm, she wasn't able to overtly share her faith. Then Major Randy Hellstrom asked her to advise on the L.I.F.E. Center, and as she learned more about The Salvation Army, she

began to see God's hand at work in her life once again.

"You mean I can share my faith openly?" she asked the major. "I can teach the Gospel in all of the programs? You mean we can have character build-

ing where we can share Scripture? I think I want to be a part of this!"

Linnell accepted the director position at the L.I.F.E. Center in February, a move which she says was confirmed by God opening doors.

"It's amazing to know how God puts us on a path and as we look back on our lives we begin to see it," Linnell concluded. "Here I am, 64 years old, and I am doing what God called me to do."



Majors Kathy and Randy Hellstrom with Linnell McKenney, L.I.F.E. Center director.



Participants at the L.I.F.E. Center learn basketball principles from Linnell.

Taking their best shot

by Carlie Murkve

The Northwest Indiana Command held an archery tournament earlier this year at the Marion, Ind., Corps and included participants from the Marion, Goshen and Porter County corps and the Marion Christian Lakeview and Eastbrook schools. Twenty-five young archers competed in the Pee-Wee, Junior Varsity and Varsity brackets, while 10 adults went bow-to-bow to obtain the highest score.

Sarah Welch, Marion Corps coach, expressed her joy, saying, "This is my tenth season coaching archery here in Marion, and I love it! We've seen hundreds of kids and adults come through our program. Some just want to learn the basics, some just come to have fun, and some really enjoy competing on our team."

The Marion Corps had a total of 13 archers, seven of whom were awarded medals. It placed first for overall team score with six outstanding archers exceeding 200 points!

"Our kids come from a variety of

circumstances and to see how they can come together to form a team is awesome! Kids are learning to focus and discipline themselves to achieve their goals," said Sarah. "They are learning to put God first in their lives and to help others along the way."

Daijah Webb, youth ministry outreach coordinator for the Porter County Corps, added, "Archery teaches patience, focus and self-motivation. I love seeing the reaction on my students' faces when they beat their score from the previous week or when they finally hit the target."

The Porter County Corps had 11 archers in the tournament. Two were awarded first and second place in the PeeWee bracket, scoring 113 and 81 points.

"Though I am their instructor, I try to make my students know that this is for fun and that we are all a family," said Daijah. "And knowing that I can share the love and joy of Jesus through archery makes me feel like I am helping lead this generation to Jesus."



New L.I.F.E. in Flint

Continued from page 1

ing esports/gaming, computer programming, robotics and engineering. A retired professor instructs Trade Scouts, a program which prepares participants for careers in trades such as carpentry, plumbing and mechanics.

"We have to prepare young people to utilize their dreams and their talents," said Linnell. "We give them skills and prepare them to develop their gifts and talents to be the best musician, the best engineer, the best tradesperson they can be. At the same time, we're introducing them to Christ."

In addition to afterschool and youth development classes, Dinner Church is held each Wednesday evening. With an average attendance of more than 30 individuals, it's an excellent time of fellowship and an opportunity to bridge the center and Flint Citadel Corps. Soldiers from the Citadel Corps attend Dinner Church regularly to help people feel welcomed and invite them to Sunday services. Bridging also is taking place in youth activities, which combined for an SA Gaming night and

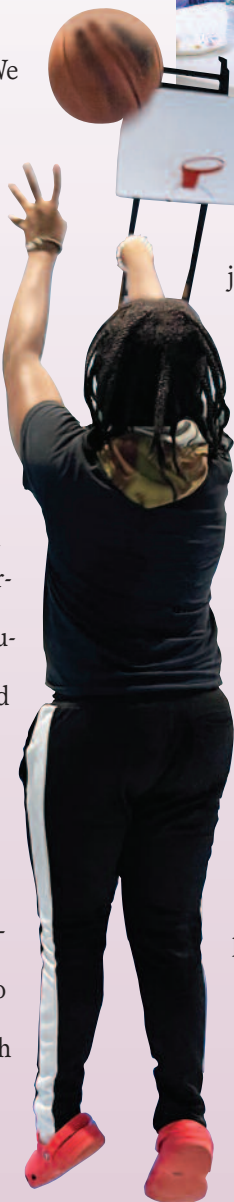


plan to continue meeting together regularly.

"The L.I.F.E. Center is not just a program," said Major Randy. "It's something that we're really melding with the Citadel and The Salvation Army as a whole, working toward the same mission and goal."

A grand opening event was held this spring to help spread the word about the center. Visitors were welcomed to enjoy booths by partnering community organizations as well as booths showcasing the programs and services offered through the L.I.F.E. Center. A highlight of the day was the opportunity to interact with the Detroit Pistons' Earl "The Twirl" Cureton who shared an inspiring message and ran basketball drills with the youth.

"This is a great place. These places are where everything starts," said Earl. "When I was a kid, all I had was...my Salvation Army. The passion I feel in this building is incredible...I encourage each and every one of you to take advantage."



Ministry at The Wall that Heals

They came to remember, to pay their respects, to teach their children, to grieve, and to heal.

For five days this summer in Eureka, Ill., an emergency disaster services (EDS) team from the North and Central Illinois Division (NCI) stood beside families and individuals as they visited The Wall that Heals. The three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and mobile learning center honor the 58,281 men and women who lost their lives and more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the war. In its twenty-eighth season of traveling the country, it allows people who don't have the means or time to go to Washington to see the memorial and grieve and helps communities remember the sacrifice.

In a very practical ministry, EDS team members provided snacks and 2,000 bottles of water to volunteers and visitors. In addition to managing the EDS truck, they walked the wall, especially during the searing afternoons, to offer chilled water and to talk with people. They listened to parents, spouses, children and veterans as they shared their stories.



Benny Benedict, Wisconsin/Upper Michigan divisional emergency disaster services director, makes an imprint.

"Some people would talk for quite a long time and others for a shorter time. I think that meant they needed to talk," said Steve Johnson, NCI EDS chaplain. "Just recognizing their tears, being there, being willing to talk, being emotionally available, and handing a Kleenex was healing for them. That was valuable."

"I am a Vietnam veteran myself, and that allowed me to make connections with people," Steve added, reflecting on how these interactions brought back feelings and memories of being a helicopter mechanic in the war.

"Hearing people's stories gives you a deeper appreciation for our military services

and what people went through for our country, yet they were condemned for it," said Mike Troth, NCI Central emotional and spiritual care (ESC) coordinator, who along with Steve gave out dozens of EDS teddy bears to children.

Mike also volunteered with others from the community to staff the wall, which had to be manned around the clock. He helped people find their friend's or loved one's name which can be daunting as names are listed by date of casualty, beginning to the right of the V's point, flowing to the end of the wall, then looping back to the wall's beginning on the left and ending at the V's point.

The names of those killed first and last are thus across from each other.

"Many touched the wall, making imprints of a loved one's name."



EDS chaplains Steve Johnson and Mike Troth

Some walked the length of the wall touching each stone," said EDS volunteer Chris Amick. "My brother lost a friend. I looked up his name on the wall. I remember when he was killed; I was 11."

According to Sam Amick, NCI EDS director who arranged for the ministry at the request of local event coordinators—10 of whom now want to volunteer with EDS—The Salvation Army's legacy of service during wars and conflicts made this a natural fit.

He concluded, "It was important for us to be there."

To learn more about The Wall that Heals, visit vvmf.org



EDS volunteers Chris Amick and Becky Adams



(From left) North & Central Illinois Divisional Emergency Disaster Services Director Sam Amick with Mike Troth, Christie Dunham, Chris Amick, Marilyn Brown, Holly Hostetler and Steve Johnson

Heaven honored for disaster services

by Craig Dirkes

Major Michele Heaver, Northern divisional disaster services secretary, has received the North Star Award from Minnesota Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (MNVOAD) this year for her tireless work in disaster relief.

In addition to leading the Salvation Army's emergency disaster relief response in Minnesota and North Dakota, she also serves as vice president of MNVOAD, a consortium of disaster relief agencies that work together to mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters.

Since joining MNVOAD three years ago, the major "has been instrumental in setting direction for key portions of MNVOAD," according to an award statement. It said, "The Major's relationships with other nonprofit agencies and government units reflect well on the MNVOAD organization."

The North Star Award is given in honor of the late Garrett Allesandrone, a volunteer who spent 16 years serving at disasters in Minnesota and nationwide. He exempli-

fied MNVOAD's four major principles: cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration.

"Garrett Allesandrone was a great example of the impact the VOAD 4 C's can have on our communities, and Major Michele is clearly on that same mission," the award statement reads.

Major Michele said she was "totally surprised" by the award.

However, it came as no surprise to those who know her. She is widely respected for her work in disaster relief and has been deployed to some of the largest U.S. disasters in the past two decades, including Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

An officer for 35 years, Major Michele became interested in disaster relief through her husband, Major Bill Heaver, who passed in 2019. He spent many years traveling throughout the Midwest to teach



staff and volunteers how to use the Salvation Army Emergency Radio Network (SATERN), which allows communication when power or phone lines are unavailable.

"He was passionate about EDS," she said. "In working alongside him, I became passionate about it, too."

The Salvation Army is one of the largest disaster relief agencies in the world, providing food, hydration, emotional and spiritual care, and other services for survivors of disasters and relief workers. In the Northern Division there are more than 600 disaster volunteers in Minnesota and North Dakota.

On the path to service

EDS training and certification more accessible than ever

Through harnessing new technologies and creating an ever-expanding library of courses and learning paths, the territorial emergency disaster services (EDS) team has brought training to a new level.

The online learning platform that was developed during the pandemic catapulted EDS into the virtual realm and proved to be a popular and effective way to connect with and train personnel including volunteers, employees and officers. Continuing to build on the platform, the EDS team has produced a user-friendly training experience that appeals to a diverse demographic.

"The pandemic forced us to take a hard look at our disaster training program to see how we can adapt and

make it better," said Kevin Ellers, territorial EDS director. "The outcome has been great...It has expanded our reach and allowed us to train people in more remote areas."

EDS Training Coordinator Micheal Stack's background in technology has enabled him to develop simplified ways to collect and house data and increase communication and collaboration among EDS leaders in the territory. He also has developed online tools to help in the streamlining and organization of training materials so they're more accessible and inclusive.

"If we want to do the most good, we need to be thoughtful and considerate of the fact that people learn differently," said Micheal, who indicated the online courses include videos, reading and hands-on portions to appeal to every type of learner.

Through the revamped online training hub, individuals are able to pursue areas of interest, such as food service, logistics and coordination or chaplaincy, through learning paths. Getting started is simple. By going to the website, a person can create an account, then complete an introductory



HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response handlers are trained in emotional and spiritual care.

course on The Salvation Army which explains the organization's mission and EDS ministry. Next is a background check, territorial registry check and Safe from Harm training. Once these prerequisites are finished and approved, trainees are able to move on and complete as many training modules, or learning paths, as they want.

Each learning path consists of several courses. Some subjects can be completed entirely online while others require in-person practical application for certification. For example, after completing all of the courses in the learning path for food service, an individual will be assigned to serve with an experienced team to ensure they have experience in food safety measures like storage, safe temperatures and hygiene.

"The goal is to make sure that people can do a lot of the training online, at home, on their phone, whatever works best for them, and then come in person for a skills assessment and practical application," said Micheal. "When you think about training, something that's important is consolidating, making it easily accessible, putting it in smaller, bite-size packages so that people won't get overwhelmed."

Upon successful completion of selected learning paths, newly certified EDS personnel are issued a badge which serves as a photo identification with The Salvation Army. It includes a QR code that a site leader can scan to access training records and assign personnel accordingly.

"We're continuing to create avenues and opportunities to work closely with the field to meet their specific needs," concluded Micheal. "At the same time, we're rolling out more courses online and learning paths which give people a checklist of what they need to do to be credentialed for a specific area."

Visit edscentral.org to get started on your EDS certifications!



In-person food service training



Steve Johnson and Karen Hanton (center) are congratulated by Sam Amick and Kevin Ellers upon receiving their emotional and spiritual care certificates.



A heart for God and others

Emergency disaster services (EDS) is close to Micheal Stack's heart. As territorial EDS training coordinator, he is using his passion to develop comprehensive training opportunities for officers and volunteers throughout the Midwest.

"I'm equipping people across the Central Territory to help others in their darkest time," said Micheal. "God is going to use us when we

have a heart that is prepared to love Him and love others."

It is Micheal's faith that drives him. Although he didn't grow up in a Christian home, he was invited to a youth meeting and accepted Christ at a church in high school.

"I remember not knowing a lot about God and being interested in what He might have for my life," he said. "I accepted Jesus, and it's been a wild ride!"

Micheal began attending the Flagstaff, Ariz., Corps with his future wife, Jessica, while completing his studies at Northern Arizona University. He knew The Salvation Army was the right place to be.

"I loved the fact that the Army was a church that was doing something. This isn't just a church that's preaching. They're walking the walk and talking the talk," he said. "The young adult Sunday school

teacher taught me a lot, and God was giving me the answers I was looking for. It made a tremendous difference in my life."

Several years later Micheal's love for EDS developed while he was an officer serving in Hawaii. As both divisional youth secretary and EDS director, his responsibilities were as varied as they were important.

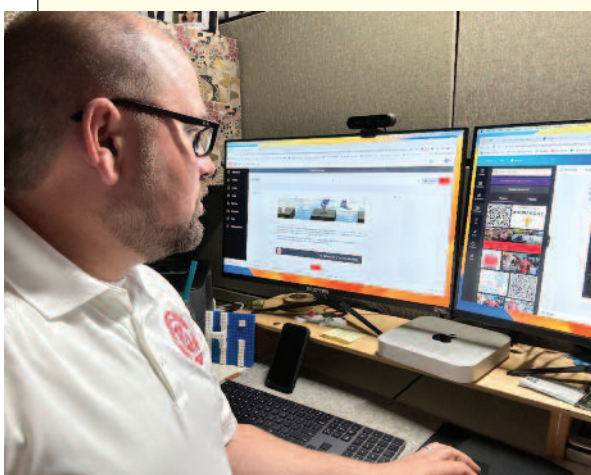
When a youth rally had to be canceled at the last minute due to a volcanic eruption on the Big Island, instead of leading youth in worship Micheal met with the mayor. The Salvation Army was asked to manage all of the in-kind donations and feeding for the thousands of people



Micheal Stack, his wife Jessica and children Aidan and Aria

who were displaced. It was a big job, but Micheal trusted God to provide the resources and volunteers to serve the people affected while enabling vital ministry to youth.

"What I loved about the EDS work was I could be helping clean out a damaged home in the morning and meeting with the mayor in the afternoon," he said.





Newly accepted candidates



Paul Kim and Gloria Park

First-generation Salvationist, Multigenerational Salvationist

Chicago, Ill., Mayfair Community Church (Corps)

North & Central Illinois Division

Majors Michael and Alisha Cho, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Paul: Leadership ♦ Evangelism ♦ Teaching

Gloria: Administration ♦ Leadership ♦ Teaching

Ministry Passion or Experience

Paul: Children/Youth ♦ Missions ♦ Preaching/Teaching

Gloria: Children/Youth ♦ Missions

Spiritual Mentors

Paul: Byungsoo Kim and Youngsook Ha (parents)

Gloria: Jungsik Park & Eonju Yu (parents)



Juan Hernandez Castro and Omayra Cervantes Gutierrez

First-generation Salvationists

Milwaukee Cold Spring, Wis., Corps

Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division

Majors Clifford and Yaneth Scott, corps officers

Captains Abraham and Leta Marin, former corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Juan: Leadership ♦ Serving ♦ Giving

Omayra: Mercy ♦ Serving ♦ Giving

Ministry Passion or Experience

Juan: Social Services ♦ Preaching/Teaching

Omayra: Women's Ministries ♦ Social Services

Spiritual Mentors

Both: Captains Abraham and Leta Marin

Captains Alex and Carolina Yanez



Danielle and Kyle Moody

First-generation Salvationists

Battle Creek, Mich., Corps ♦ Great Lakes Division

Captains Mika and Grace Roinila, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Danielle: Leadership ♦ Evangelism ♦ Teaching

Kyle: Serving ♦ Teaching

Ministry Passion or Experience

Danielle: Children/Youth ♦ Worship ♦ Preaching/Teaching

Kyle: Missions ♦ Preaching/Teaching

Spiritual Mentors

Captains Mika and Grace Roinila



Christina Trejo

Multigenerational Salvationist

Aberdeen, S.D., Corps ♦ Western Division

Majors Joel and Ramona Arthur, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Mercy ♦ Serving ♦ Giving

Ministry Passion or Experience

Children/Youth ♦ Worship

Spiritual Mentor

Lt. Macy Gantner



Willie June Dunn

First-generation Salvationist

Chicago Englewood, Ill., Corps/Red Shield Center

North & Central Illinois Division

Captain AJ Zimmerman, corps officer

Spiritual Gifts

Leadership ♦ Giving ♦ Teaching

Ministry Passion or Experience

Preaching/Teaching ♦ Women's Ministries

Spiritual Mentors

Captain Nikki Hughes and Envoy Christal Johnson

The blessing of relationship



Lt. Colonel Norman Marshall conducts retirement of Lt. Colonels John and Theresa Turner

Lt. Colonels John and Theresa Turner love people. Both third-generation Salvationists, they met while growing up in the Army and married in 1976, remaining soldiers and serving at the St. Louis Maplewood, Mo., Corps, as they started their life together.

After 10 years building successful careers, John as a private contractor and Theresa as an executive assistant, they left it all behind in favor of following God’s call to officership.

“We had both felt called in our younger years and had kind of ignored it,” Colonel John said. “Then at a spring youth retreat we felt God’s urging. In August of that year we were in training.”

Commissioned in 1988 with the “Messengers of Joy” session, the Turners enjoyed serving in corps and divisional appointments throughout the Midwest for 35 years.

While they felt fulfilled as corps officers, they embraced the opportunity to utilize their gifts and talents in divisional roles, with Colonel Theresa leading in the youth,

women’s and development departments while Colonel John worked as finance or general secretary. In each appointment, the Turners maintained a focus on building relationships and ministering to those around them.

“We love working with people,” Colonel Theresa said. “Daily interaction—whether at the corps with soldiers or at DHQ with officers and employees—I think that’s what we’ll miss the most.”

The Turners led three divisions, including navigating the Eastern Michigan Division through the pandemic and the transition during Project Advance resulting in the Great Lakes Division (GLD). They retired as divisional commander and divisional leader for officer development of GLD.

Colonel John concluded, “My favorite appointment has always been the one we were in. Now that we’re going into retirement, we’re looking forward to this being our favorite appointment as well, still allowing God to use us.”

Lindsay Ann Photography

Faith of a Viking



Photo by Major Curtiss Hartley

Major Kjell T. Steinsland retired on August 1 after serving 42 years as an officer. Born in Norway in 1957, he moved to Chicago with his family in 1959. He was commissioned in June 1981 as part of the “God’s Soldiers” session. He married Vicki Poulson a year later, and they raised two sons, Erik and Michael, while serving in seven different divisions. He spent a little more than half his career as a corps officer and held multiple appointments at divisional headquarters, many drawing on his business acumen. Major Kjell was honored to be a delegate to ICO in 2011. He retired from his final appointments as general secretary for the Midland Division and St. Louis area commander. Major Vicki has not retired yet and continues to minister as an active officer as retired officers’ secretary.

730... AND BEYOND

1,907 days and counting

by Captain Brian Hoscheit

“Keep it simple.” When I hear these words, I tend to doubt how this philosophy can get me through any difficult—and complicated—obstacle in ministry. Yet, the biblical maxim to “love God, love people” invited me to trust God and led me to love others as He first loved us (1 John 4:19). And Jesus’ simple invitation was “Follow Me.”

Until recently my wife and I served in Kirksville, Mo., since our commissioning in 2018. While we don’t have an official feeding program in place, my wife and I feed the hungry in most of our corps programs including Sunday breakfast before worship. By beginning these meals, we have ministered to others through van rides, assisting with errands and visiting homes. Eventually, we have been able to lead others to follow Christ, teach a variety of discipleship classes, enroll soldiers and install local officers. I believe relationships should have simple beginnings in order to gain others’ trust so they will accept invitations to spiritual growth.

It is a sad thing to let complications deter us from God’s calling.



When I was first called to be a part of The Salvation Army, I was quite simple-minded in the worldly sense. So many people in my life doubted me and doubted God so much that I was tempted to move on. If we try to simple-mindedly lay down our own plans instead of trusting God’s plan for us, life gets way too complicated. I think about how God “is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20, NIV). That will take place by simply and faithfully following Jesus.

May God faithfully reveal His power in you as you decide to simply trust Him.

Long Service Awards

We salute the following officers on their service milestones

25 Years

- Major Susan Dalberg
- Major Wesley Dalberg
- Major Cassandra DeJesus
- Major AmyJo Ferguson
- Major Paul Ferguson
- Major Heather Holman
- Major William Holman
- Major Jodi Montgomery
- Major Jason Poff
- Major Mary Poff
- Major Brendon Robertson
- Major Karen Salsbury
- Major Kathy Wolfe
- Major Michael Wolfe
- Major Roberto Viquez

30 Years

- Lt. Colonel Christine Merritt
- Lt. Colonel Steven Merritt
- Lt. Colonel Charlene Polsley
- Lt. Colonel Randall Polsley
- Major Troy Barker
- Major Normalene Daniels
- Major Sandra Hartley
- Major James Irvine
- Major Gerald O’Neil
- Major Evangeline O’Neil
- Major Candace Voeller

35 Years

- Lt. Colonel John Turner
- Lt. Colonel Theresa Turner
- Major Michele Heaver
- Major Prezza Morrison
- Major Debra Pascoe
- Major Timothy Pascoe
- Major Arnel Ruppel
- Major Tracy Ruston
- Major Wayne Ruston
- Major Marina Womack

40 Years

- Colonel Janice Howard
- Colonel Steven Howard
- Lt. Colonel Lonneal Richardson
- Major Mark Anderson
- Major Deborah De La Vergne
- Major Nelson De La Vergne
- Major James McDowell
- Major Valerie McDowell
- Major Judith Tekautz



Great faith in Great Lakes

Be energized by the faith and service of the Great Lakes Division's representatives on the Territorial Soldiers' Forum

Curtis Britcher

Curtis has been the director of Little Pine Island Camp for 32 years.

"Staying in one place for so many years has been a bit strange for me," Curtis said with a laugh. "My upbringing was not like that at all."

Having parents who were officers meant Curtis, a fifth-generation Salvationist, spent his youth moving from place to place.

"It was always a mixed bag—always a disappointment when you left a situation where you were really happy," Curtis recalled. "But

there is always great anticipation of something new."

Curtis is the divisional sergeant-major for the Great Lakes Division. He attends the Fulton Heights Citadel Corps in Grand Rapids, Mich., and has been the bandmaster there since 1991.

"I have been a Sunday school teacher, a songster leader and divisional bandmaster," he said. Curtis, who plays the trombone, tuba and cornet, also has been part of the Chicago Staff Band and part of the Southern Territorial Band when he lived in Florida in the 1980s.

Curtis and his wife Vicky have been married for 43 years. They have four grown children.

He smiles when he remembers marrying Vicky in Booth Manor on a Tuesday night at the College for Officer Training in Chicago.

The success of their long marriage is due to their shared faith in God.

"Faith is the real foundation," he said. "You can't be successful in a lifelong relationship without some sense of sacrifice and compassion. Christ's example is the greatest example of that."

In the past Curtis served as The Salvation Army's national camp liaison to the camping industry and was involved with the American Camp Associa-



Curtis pitches in with landscaping at camp.

tion. His time overseeing activities at Little Pine Island Camp has shown him how important a camp can be to a child's future.

"I think camping is one of The Salvation Army's greatest life-changing opportunities—the other probably being the ARC," Curtis said. "I think back at over 30-plus years and the number of kids who were connected to The Salvation Army and Christ-building relationships through camp. A camp is a marvelous place for that to occur."

With the divisional merger from Project Advance, Little Pine Island Camp is redefining its focus as more of a retreat center.

"Just because there won't be a Salvation Army camp/program here this summer does not mean there won't be children here," he said. "One of the partnerships we have is with an organization that serves foster children. We have this new opportunity for their program," Curtis said.

Curtis has been responsible for all financial, administrative, licensing, hiring and accreditation aspects at the camp. He pitches in wherever help is needed—even caring for the grounds when the facilities manager is unavailable. "I am sitting on a tractor right now," he said, during a telephone interview. "It's a camp world!"



Territorial Soldiers' Forum

Reach out to your Soldiers' Forum representative with your ideas, needs and concerns for our Army. Your voice matters.

Territorial Sergeant-Major

Rochelle Holman, chairperson

Central.SoldiersForum@usc.salvationarmy.org

Assistant Territorial Sergeant-Major

Hewitt Gage

Central.SoldiersForum@usc.salvationarmy.org

Great Lakes Division

Curtis Britcher, DSM

Todd Miesch, ADSM

GLD.SoldiersForum@usc.salvationarmy.org

Indiana Division

Beth Curtiss, DSM

IND.SoldiersForum@usc.salvationarmy.org

Kansas and Western Missouri Division

Carrie Dixon, DSM

Ricardo Cardenas, ADSM

KWM.SoldiersForum@usc.salvationarmy.org

Midland Division

Kevin Hodges, DSM

Travis Heard, ADSM

MID.SoldiersForum@usc.salvationarmy.org

DSM = Divisional Sergeant-Major

ADSM – Assistant Divisional Sergeant-Major

North & Central Illinois Division

Mark Bender, ADSM

NCI.SoldiersForum@usc.salvationarmy.org

Northern Division

John Foster, DSM

Doug Leslie, ADSM

NOR.SoldiersForum@usc.salvationarmy.org

Western Division

Heather Guthrie, DSM

Bobby Calkins, ADSM

WST.SoldiersForum@usc.salvationarmy.org

Wisconsin / Upper Michigan Division

Paul Augenstein, DSM

WUM.SoldiersForum@usc.salvationarmy.org



Salvationists attending the commissioning weekend this year had the opportunity to stop by the Territorial Soldiers' Forum table to talk with representatives, learn about this new initiative, get information and updates, and to contribute their ideas and feedback. Pictured are Indiana Division forum representative Beth Curtiss and Territorial Sergeant-Major and forum chairperson Rochelle Holman.



Todd with his wife Sarah, children Harper, Greyson and Larson with their pet rabbit, Karl.

Todd Miesch

The Miesch family is a faith-filled and artistic group. Todd and his wife Sarah are very active at the Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps, as are their daughter Harper, 15, and sons Greyson, 13, and Larson, 10. Todd plays drums and is the worship band leader with his wife Sarah, who also sings in the band. Their two sons are drummers in the youth band. Harper is in youth chorus and enjoys dancing.

"In our house, it would not be uncommon to hear a drum rhythm coming from the kitchen while someone is singing in the living room, and my daughter is dancing upstairs in her bedroom," Todd said.



Todd is a third-generation Salvationist. He is also assistant divisional sergeant-major for the Great Lakes Division.

Todd's grandparents and parents also attended the Royal Oak Corps, and that continuity is important to him.

"For me it is about being able to come together in a community that I have grown up with, with people I absolutely love, and being able to worship Jesus together," he said.

Todd and Sarah both teach at Rochester High School in Rochester, Mich. Todd is a language arts teacher, while Sarah teaches social studies. They don't leave their faith at the door when they arrive at work.

"I have invited coworkers to my church. I have prayed with coworkers in my building, and shared the gospel that is the day-to-day stuff," he said. "I am a firm believer that you have to have relationships with people before you have gospel conversations with them."

He also brings his faith to his community. If there is a family who is

struggling, Todd and Sarah will be there through prayer and will check-in on the family.

Todd knows God is with him through all of the twists and turns of life.

"I have over the past few years dug deeper and deeper into His Word, which has allowed me to know He has been right there," Todd said. "On the other side, I know He was with me through the storm."

Todd said his children also carry their faith with them wherever they go.

"They talk with friends at school about their faith. They are constantly inviting friends to church. Sarah and I see God through our kids," he said.

When he was asked to be a member of the Soldiers' Forum, Todd was humbled and reached out to colleagues. "I talked with Rochelle Holman [forum chairperson] and Captain Mike Sjogren [then officer liaison to the forum]. They filled me in about the goal and vision. I was super-excited to be part of

the forum. This is something soldiers have been needing, wanting for a long time."

To learn more about the forum, visit salarmycentral.org or scan



The Salvation Army

PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

October Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Sunday	Numbers 22-24	Flint, Mich., ARC
	2 Monday	2 Chronicles 11-15	Detroit Grandale, Mich., Corps
	3 Tuesday	Psalms 117-118	India South Western Territory
	4 Wednesday	Proverbs 28	Lawrence, Kan., Corps
	5 Thursday	Jonah	Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps
	6 Friday	Acts 3-4	Quincy, Ill., Area Command
	7 Saturday	Hebrews 5-7	Grand Island, Neb., Corps
	8 Sunday	Numbers 25-27	Pathway of Hope
	9 Monday	2 Chronicles 16-20	Kansas City Eastside, Mo., Corps
	10 Tuesday	Psalms 119	New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga & Samoa Territory
	11 Wednesday	Proverbs 29-30	Iron Range, Minn., Area Coordinator
	12 Thursday	Micah	Young Adult Ministries
	13 Friday	Acts 5-6	Grandview Southland, Mo., Corps
	14 Saturday	Hebrews 8-10	Rochester, Minn., Corps
	15 Sunday	Numbers 28-30	Marshalltown, Iowa, Corps
	16 Monday	2 Chronicles 21-24	Kansas City Westport Temple, Mo., Corps
	17 Tuesday	Psalms 120-121	Black Hills, S.D., Area Coordinator
	18 Wednesday	Proverbs 31	Kenya West Territory
	19 Thursday	Nahum	South Bend, Ind., Kroc Center
	20 Friday	Acts 7-8	Grand Rapids, Mich., ARC
	21 Saturday	Hebrews 11-13	Vincennes, Ind., Corps
	22 Sunday	Numbers 31-33	Mitchell, S.D., Corps
	23 Monday	2 Chronicles 25-28	St. Paul Citadel, Minn., Corps
	24 Tuesday	Psalms 122-124	Quad Cities, Iowa, Area Coordinator
	25 Wednesday	Ecclesiastes 1-2	New Albany, Ind., Corps
	26 Thursday	Habakkuk	South America West Territory
	27 Friday	Acts 9-10	Grand Rapids Fulton Heights, Mich., Corps
	28 Saturday	James 1-3	St. Paul Eastside, Minn., Corps
	29 Sunday	Numbers 34-36	Omaha, Neb., Kroc Center
	30 Monday	2 Chronicles 29-32	Watertown, S.D., Corps
	31 Tuesday	Psalms 125-127	Rock County, Wis., Area Coordinator

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

--Mustard Seeds--



Depot musings

by Ken Wyatt

In late October 1886, General William Booth stopped overnight in Jackson, Mich. So long ago, it was forgotten by passing generations. In itself, the visit was hardly noteworthy. Thousands of people have passed through Jackson's train depot, including famous military figures, writers and poets, presidents and wannabes, men going off to war and others returning from battle.

But something in the newspaper account of Booth's visit caught my eye during research in 2009 while working with Jackson's Salvation Army to prepare for its 125th anniversary.

As it happens, I am the son, grandson and great-grandson of Salvationists. I came to Jackson in 1972 at the invitation of The Salvation Army to take a job as youth center director. And I knew my Salvation Army history.

Buried in a report in the October 30, 1886, *Jackson Daily Citizen* about the General's speech at a Friday night rally was mention of his welcome earlier that afternoon at the depot by a crowd of 400 to 500 cheering Salvationists.

"His speech is broken, sometimes disconnected, and when interested drops his h's, but when speaking more coolly gives the letter. He has the appearance of being very earnest, and said, 'This is my first opportunity of addressing an audience in the United States. I shall be glad to say anything this evening that would make anyone here love their God more and their country more, which also means more love for their fellow man. There is no denying that there is a great prejudice against The Salvation Army, and I would like to see it removed, and when the people know what we are doing, I think, it will be removed.'"

This was the historic tidbit Linda Hass and the Jackson County Michigan Historical Society Board thought worth highlighting in one of five new historic markers unveiled inside the depot earlier this year. Jackson Corps Officers Majors Matt and Patricia Grindle and soldier Holly Locke were delighted to be part of the event and spent time talking with many of us.

At one point Major Patricia took some photos for me at the new state marker outside the depot. Major Matt and I talked about the Army's current work.

Truth be told, it was trains and rails that enabled The Salvation Army to spread quickly throughout the U.S. and Canada in the late 19th century. That rapid growth no doubt also had something to do with the bold, bearded evangelist who stepped off a train in Jackson and launched his first tour of the U.S.



Majors Matt and Patricia Grindle with Linda Hass, president of the Jackson County Historical Society.

Promoted to Glory

Major John Crampton

Major John Crampton was promoted to Glory on June 28, 2023. With a joyful spirit, John passionately served the Lord.

He was born to Alfred and Iva May Crampton on July 13, 1946, in Saginaw, Mich. As a young man, John served in the United States Air Force and then earned a bachelor's degree in history and theology from Central Michigan University. He married Margaret Cumming on October 29, 1966.

In 1981, John became an envoy and began serving as an assistant at the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps. He and Margaret continued to serve in corps throughout the Midwest for more than 30 years, receiving their full commission in 1991 and retiring in 2012.

John loved jogging, playing softball, making people laugh and playing with his grandchildren. He cheered on the University of Michigan football team and enjoyed traveling with his wife.

John is survived by his wife, Margaret; daughters Jacqueline (Alan)



Ross and Kimberly Lange; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and siblings Dan (Pam) and Beth. He was preceded in death by his brother Bob.

Major Eloise Van Tull

Major Eloise Van Tull was promoted to Glory on June 28, 2023. She loved people and dedicated herself to sharing Christ's love and meeting people's needs.

Eloise was born on March 15, 1933, in Bermuda, to Nina and James Peter West. She met The Salvation Army at age 12, attended the Hamilton Citadel Corps as a teen and followed God's call to become an officer, being commissioned in 1952 in Kingston, Jamaica. In 1955 she came to the U.S. to continue her education and earned several certificates. In 1958 she was certified as a practical nurse and became a member of The Salvation Army Medical Fellowship.

In 1960, Eloise married Frederick Van Tull in Panama. Together, they served in Panama and Bermuda



Mission accomplished

A mission team from the New Albany, Ind., Corps, led by Majors Jonathan and Catherine Fitzgerald, traveled to Guyana earlier this year to lead youth councils and perform a work service project. Having been stationed in the Caribbean Territory, the Fitzgeralds were excited for people from their corps to have the opportunity to experience its culture and worship and serve people there.

"I knew our corps people would benefit from experiencing the work of The Salvation Army in another culture," said Captain Catherine. "I also knew they would be wonderful witnesses and bless the youth in Guyana during youth councils."



Traveling for eight days, the team painted the Queenstown Corps officers' quarters in preparation for a future officer or lay person; currently one officer leads it as well as another corps.

"Major Davidson was so great to work with. He works hard leading the Queenstown and Wortmanville



corps. He had such a joy about him, but I could also see that there is great sacrifice to being an officer," observed team member Logan Saydera.

Among the ways the team participated in a youth councils, themed "Youth Reflecting Christ," was a panel discussion on abuse and suicide, topics chosen by the youth and for which the team had prayer and received training. Following the discussion, many youth sought prayer and shared it was a significant time of healing.

"One of the highlights of the week was observing the joy and passion for the Lord through their worship and service," said team member Elines Flores.

Worship lasted all afternoon and included both singing and dancing. Members of The Salvation Army's addiction recovery program also participated in the meetings.

Matthew Manley, a graduate of the adult rehabilitation center in Indianapolis who is now a cadet, said, "I was so excited to meet other people in recovery and to be able to share my testimony with them."

Major Matignol Saint Lot, Guyana divisional commander, thanked the team for their ministry. He concluded, "There was not even one dull moment. Every minute was a blessing. You all made an impact on the young people and allowed the Holy Spirit to use you in a mighty way."

until 1973 when they were transferred to the USA Central Territory where they led corps until retiring in 1997.

Eloise was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her children, Angela (Charlie) Anderson, Michael (Brenda) and Andrew; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Major Jeanetta Fortching

Major Jeanetta Fortching was promoted to Glory on June 1, 2023, after a life dedicated to serving the least of these in Jesus' name.

She was born on October 5, 1928, in Saginaw, Mich., to John and Jemima Fortching. In 1955 she entered offi-



cer training and was commissioned a year later with the "Swordbearers" session.

Most of Jeanetta's ministry was in inner-city Detroit, Mich. To better equip herself for ministry, she obtained a master's degree in social work. After 37 years of meeting the needs of countless people, she retired in 1993.

In retirement, Jeanetta was a social worker and volunteered many years at the Detroit Veterans' Hospital where she visited and prayed with patients. She connected with many of them through her love of the Detroit Pistons.

Jeanetta is survived by her nieces, Catherine Orvis, Margaret Fortching, and Heather (Rick) Mitchell. She was preceded in death by her sisters Georgia, Caroline, Rose (George) Burden and their children George and Juana; and her brothers, Virgil and John and his wife Mary, who was very dear to Jeanetta.