



DOING THE MOST GOOD®

# We ste m Divisio n Salute

Major Paul Fleeman, Divisional Commander  
Joanne Bemis, Development Director

Susan Eustice, Public Relations Director  
Haley Henniksen, Public Relations Intern

The Salvation Army Salute  
Volume 27, No. 1 Fall 2014

## SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Over 25,000 Meals Served at Salvation Army Sites This Summer



The Salvation Army of Omaha sponsors 14 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) feeding sites in eastern Nebraska. The locations are at the North Corps Community Center, the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in south Omaha, Gene Eppley Camp and Retreat Center and The Salvation Army Corps in Fremont and Norfolk, Neb. These programs run from the end of May until the end of July and are administered solely by The Salvation Army through the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service and the Nebraska Department of Education Summer Food Service Program in Lincoln, Neb.

The Summer Food Service Program was established to ensure that low income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. Free meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines are provided to all children at approved SFSP sites in areas with significant concentrations of low income children. At Gene Eppley Camp, children must meet low income eligibility requirements.

Listed below are the individual serving sites:

- Gene Eppley Camp:
  - Boys Sports Camp
  - Girls Sports Camp
  - Junior Boys Camp
  - Junior Girls Camp
  - Moonbeam Camp
  - Senior Girls and Boys Camp
  - Teen Camp and Teen Retreat Camp
  - Girls and Boys Camp
  - Music Camp
- Omaha Kroc Center
- Omaha North Corps
- Fremont Presbyterian Church, Fremont, Neb.
- Johnson Park, Norfolk, Neb.
- Central Park, Norfolk, Neb.

Testimonial From Battred Pilger, Nebraska

BaconFest Omaha

We ste m Divisio n al Music Camp

Salvation Army's Women's Auxiliary

## In this Issue

## KIDS CRUISIN' KITCHEN 2014 - A Collaboration With The Food Bank For The Heartland And Hunger Free Heartland

More than 29,700 meals were served at 13 sites in and near the Omaha metro area this past summer. Kids Cruisin' Kitchen brings hot, nutritious meals, free of charge, to the places children live and play such as pools, parks, libraries and apartment complexes. Children 18 years of age and under are eligible for meals.

Listed below are the individual serving sites:

- Platte Valley Apartments, Valley, Neb.
- Park Meadows, Omaha, Neb.
- Bluffs at Cherry Hills, Omaha, Neb.
- Learning Community Center, Omaha, Neb.
- Washington Library, Omaha, Neb.
- Miller Park, Omaha, Neb.
- Sunset Ridge, Omaha, Neb.
- Timber Creek, Omaha, Neb.
- Memorial Park, Plattsmouth, Neb.
- Bellevue Public Library, Bellevue, Neb.
- Chandler Pointe, Bellevue, Neb.
- Crestview, LaVista, Neb.
- Bright Public Library, Ralston, Neb.

www.GiveSalvationArmy.org



# The Real Meaning of Disaster



Perhaps you've heard someone describe another person's unkempt appearance as a "disaster." That is truly an unfortunate use of the word. I know people who have faced real disasters. It had nothing to do with the cut and color of their clothing.

It had to do with losing all of their clothing to a storm. Finding their school or church destroyed. Having a home, where they always felt safe, torn from its foundation. Fighting flooding that threatened lives and property.

Major Paul Fleeman,  
Commander of The Salvation Army's Western Division

The Salvation Army truly knows the meaning of the word "disaster."

Disaster relief is one of our oldest missions here in Omaha at The Salvation Army Western Divisional headquarters. It is a core mission that takes us into homes and neighborhoods across a broad area.

Recently our mission was challenged by an overabundance of disasters. A major catastrophe took place in the little town of Pilger, Neb., in June. Emergency Salvation Army service teams rushed from Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney and Norfolk to be on site after a rare twin tornado devastated the area.

More than 25 Omaha-area restaurants took part in "Pizza for Pilger," raising \$80,000 that went 100% to The Salvation Army relief fund. Other people donated by phone or online. Thank you pizza makers! Your hearts are as warm as your ovens.

It was a hectic spring. The Sioux City Corps provided disaster relief for the fight against flooding in June in the Sioux City, Iowa, area where sandbagging was frantically underway to stop flooding from the Big Sioux River.

Salvation Army relief teams from Huron and Mitchell, S.D. provided meals and hydration for the Wessington Springs, S.D. area struck by a tornado.

Recovery continues in the Beaver Crossing, Neb. area where a tornado in May drew help from the Lincoln and Hastings, Neb. corps. Help is still being provided by the Sioux Falls Corps to the Canton, S.D. area flooded in June.

We carry out our mission always with trust in God as these biblical references tell us: "We don't know all the reasons God brings or permits specific calamities or why particular people are made to suffer by them, but we should trust that in God's omniscience and ultimate wisdom He knows how to work out what is best for everyone in the end." (Romans 8:28; 1 Timothy 2:4).

Please remember that your fruitless meeting was not a disaster. Your air conditioner going out was not a disaster. Your new haircut was not a disaster.

Be careful how you use the word "disaster." You may be speaking to someone who knows the true meaning of the word.

Major Paul Fleeman  
Commander, Western Division

# GOD IS NOT IN THE WIND

By Major Jamie Pennington,  
Lincoln, Nebraska Corps Officer



I could hear the wailing and weeping coming from a pile of debris two blocks away while walking through the devastation of Pilger, Neb., following a double tornado that leveled three-fourths of the rural Nebraska town. As I quickly made my way through the devastation, there standing in the midst of the ruins of her home, I found a woman wailing uncontrollably. As I tried to console her in between sobs, she indicated that her dog was missing. She had left for work and locked the dog in his kennel. This was the first she had seen of her home since she left for work the day before. It was all gone. There was literally nothing left.

As she described the location of where she left her dog, our canteen arrived and immediately our disaster team began searching. Walls of drywall were lifted up and bricks thrown to the side, and within minutes we uncovered the kennel. We all warily peered over the side of the collapsed house to discover the kennel crushed amongst the debris, with the dog lying motionless inside. We were all convinced we were staring at a corpse. Suddenly the dog began to move. We pried the kennel open with our hands, and the dog squeezed out.

As the woman held her dog, and the dog instinctively licked her face, the tears began to dry up and the woman began to smile, then laugh. In talking with the woman and her husband, I learned that she and her husband had actually just separated from each other about three months prior. She had been struggling to piece life together, and now it had suddenly come collapsing down upon her. **Continued on page 3**



More than 75% of the town was destroyed after twin tornados struck the area last June. Emergency disaster relief teams from Lincoln, Norfolk, Omaha and Kearney, Neb. provided relief to residents of Pilger and surrounding communities.



# GOD IS NOT IN THE WIND

Continued from page 2

All of a sudden through the debris of life and the pile of ruins from her home, it no longer mattered. Her dog, Izzy, was fine, and this woman had hope and strength to continue.

It is that strength that we as Christians are called to hold on to. As I talked to countless numbers of survivors from the storm, many people began questioning God. "Why would God allow something like this to happen?" Questions that none of us can fully comprehend and answer. Yet I am reminded of the scripture in 1 Kings 19:11 which reads, "The Lord said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an

earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake." Then later on in the verse Elijah hears the gentle whisper of God after the storm.

I remind people that God was not in the wind. Yet, God is in the hundreds and thousands of volunteers, first responders, and faith based relief organizations that follow the wind. As I stood next to the pile of debris, I prayed to God thanking him for Izzy and his hand of protection for the family. A few days later our friend stopped by our feeding site to let us know that she was doing well and that she and her husband had decided to get back together as a family. The clean-up and restoration physically, spiritually, and materially had begun. Here's hoping for full restoration and a continuation of putting the pieces of the puzzle back together. And through it all God still whispers to us. The question is are you listening?

## MUSIC IN THE WESTERN DIVISION



*Dune Carter (center) took the top prize at the Western Music Academy. Carter is flanked by Scott Coombs, Western divisional music director (left) and Major Paul Fleeman, Western divisional commander (right).*

The Music Department of the Western Division is headed by new divisional music director, Scott Coombs. His responsibilities include the overall musical development of the division, as well as planning and leading the Western Music Academy, directing Divisional Band and Songsters and coordinating all musical ensembles for the Christmas effort.

With a music faculty of 22 and camp staff of 20, this year's Western Music Academy (WMA), the divisional music camp, was a wonderful success. Our special guest for 2014 was Anita Cocker Hunt, the divisional music director from Cincinnati, Ohio. With a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of music, Hunt was an inspiration to both our music camp students and faculty.

WMA includes primary classes in music theory, instrumental technique and voice and instrumental ensembles. In addition, there are numerous elective classes including beginning guitar and piano, creative dance, photography, creative writing and drama. Each year awards are given to students who have shown exceptional music and leadership abilities. The top four awards

include a scholarship to the Central Music Academy, the territorial music camp in Wisconsin.

This year's top awards and their recipients are:

- Commissioner's Award (top camper) – Dune Carter, Newton, Iowa.
- Divisional Commander's Instrumental Award (top instrumentalist) – Landon McClintock, Omaha, Neb.
- Divisional Commander's Vocal Award (top vocalist) – Jasmine Garcia, Fremont, Neb.
- Spirit Award – Edward Rosales, Norfolk, Neb.

For the first time, the Western Division has a corps music director in Lincoln, Neb. named Peter Haslett. This is a new initiative on a corps level designed to develop musical skills and growth for both the community as well as the Lincoln Corps. As he assumes his new duties in Lincoln, Haslett will be responsible for developing new community-based music programs.

## Our Wish List

### Permanent Supportive Housing and Transitional Housing

- New pots and pans
- Dinner plates and bowls
- New sheets, pillows, blankets and comforters
- Dish soap, bleach, sponges and mops
- New beds, dining room tables and chairs and couches
- Used televisions
- New board games for children

### Older Adult Services

- Laundry carts with wheels
- Pocket rockers (hearing aids)
- Bags of potato chips, buckets of ice cream and canned vegetables

### Corps within the Western Division

- Educational computer software
- Art and craft supplies

If you are able to contribute to Our Wish List, please contact Madeline Madden at 402-898-7700 x137.

*Thank you*





*“Summer at the SAL” day campers had a fun filled summer through a wide array of educational and recreational activities.*

## TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

The Omaha North Corps was buzzing last June and July as it reached its limit of campers for “Summer at The SAL” day camp. One of the many things that made this year’s camp so successful was the collaboration between the North Corps and other organizations in the Omaha community.

Once again the Omaha Storm Chasers ran a weekly “Chaser’s FUNDamentals” clinic for The North Corps camp, teaching kids baseball basics. This partnership culminated when they were invited to Werner Park to watch a Storm Chasers game where day campers were honored on the field and met the players up close before the opening pitch. The Storm Chasers weren’t finished with their hospitality as they had a special tent set up for the campers and served a traditional ballpark hot dog lunch.

In June, The National Park Service ran a weekly program for a small group of campers to experience learning in the outdoors.

For the third consecutive year, Ranger Kenneth Points educated the group of campers on nature and led fishing, biking, and hiking activities. In July, the North Corps was able to extend the outdoor adventure program a little longer. The kids learned about geocaching at Hitchcock Nature Center where they enjoyed s’mores over a campfire. Lastly, they had a blast learning to kayak on Standing Bear Lake with the professional help of WoggWorks Kayaking.

Educational activities and collaborations were not limited to sports and outdoor recreation. Sacred Heart, a nearby school, led students in classes focused on reading, writing, and cooking skills as well as some physical education fun.

A program is always more enjoyable and successful when everyone is working together to make it the best it can be, and that’s just what North Corps strives for.

## PRINCESS FOR A DAY!

Princess Day at the Kroc Center is a day filled with fancy dresses, tiaras, fashion shows, prince escorts and lots of photographs. One of the most important aspects of Princess Day is instilling the building blocks of developmental assets in girls, teaching them they are important, beautiful and valued. Princesses ranged from ages 4 to 7 years.

Princess Day began in June 2011 with 10 girls in attendance. It was originally held in the Omaha Kroc Center’s KidZone classrooms, but for the last two years it had to be upsized to the Joyce Mammel Assembly Hall to accommodate a higher number of princesses. Over the four years it has been in existence, Princess Day has bloomed into a fun-filled afternoon for young girls and their families.

The day of the event, girls arrive in their princess dresses and then have their hair and makeup done by the “Princessification” staff. Once the princesses are ready, their volunteer princes escort them onto the stage for the fashion show. After a brief moment in the spotlight, speaking about



*Young princesses pose for photographs in a Cinderella-like carriage, fitting for a princess.*

themselves at the microphone, their Prince escorts them off stage to reunite with their family. This year, military officers from Offutt Air Force Base volunteered as princes and showed the girls how a gentleman should treat a princess.

Treats and craft activities were also on the schedule as the princesses spent time with friends and family. Every princess comes away a winner from this fashion show. To date, 100 princesses have participated in the Omaha Kroc Center’s Princess Day.





## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY DEDICATED TO DOING THE MOST GOOD

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary was created in 1977 to assist The Salvation Army in its mission in Omaha. Today, the 178 members volunteer in many seasonal programs such as Toyland, Bell Ringing, Winter Night Watch and Kids Cruisin' Kitchen. Auxiliary members are ready to step in when needed to help at a moment's notice. "The women in the Auxiliary are thoroughly dedicated to doing the most good for the neediest in the Omaha community because they truly care about the individuals that The Salvation Army serves," said Major Kathy Hellstrom, divisional women's ministries secretary.

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' The Salvation Army Auxiliary works tirelessly 12 months a year to help fulfill this statement. As a dedicated group of volunteers, the Auxiliary continually seeks to find opportunities to fill a gap, lend a hand or fulfill a need, and in doing so, they help to make our community a better place for everyone. Much can be accomplished when a group of volunteers tackle a project to help the mission of The Salvation Army. We are all blessed to be a part of such a wonderful organization," said Kathy Gross, Auxiliary president.

The members also hold an annual fundraiser. In 2014, the Auxiliary raised just under \$64,000 and gave \$50,000 to fund the "wish list" items for the Lied Renaissance Center, Adult Rehabilitation Center, and the Metro Area Salvation Army Corps and Community Centers. The Auxiliary also helps fund



*The members of the Omaha Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary work tirelessly but consider their efforts a labor of love for others.*

the residents' Christmas party and Warm Hands and Hearts which provides winter clothing to the neediest children.

The effort of these dedicated volunteers does not go unrecognized. "The Women's Auxiliary is a godsend! Through their very successful fundraising efforts, our social service programs were able to secure many items which are needed but not routinely budgeted for - everything from bus tickets to shopping carts and beyond what we imagined! Their generosity brought delight and tears to more than one of our program leaders. On behalf of all of our social service teammates and clients, I salute the fabulous ladies of the Omaha Women's Auxiliary," said Linda Burkle, Ph.D., divisional director of social services for the Western Division.

## INTRODUCING OUR REGIONAL PATHWAY OF HOPE COORDINATOR, TRACIE TIBBS

On April 1, 2014, Tracie Tibbs joined The Salvation Army as regional Pathway of Hope (POH) coordinator. She is part of the social service department at Western Divisional Headquarters in Omaha. Tracie oversees the Pathway of Hope initiative which began in the Central Territory and will be implemented at Salvation Army corps across the country. The POH initiative intends to redirect some resources to "double our impact" by offering clients more than just groceries, utility help, and other material assistance. Through ongoing case management, service coordination and support, POH moves people from living "crisis to crisis" to stability.

Tibbs has a wealth of experience which perfectly suits her for leading Pathway of Hope in the division. She attained both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in human services followed by years of case management and supervisory responsibilities. Tracie has worked in human services with a variety of populations, most recently as a case management supervisor for the Nebraska Family Collaborative. She is licensed as a substance abuse counselor.



*Tracie Tibbs, regional Pathway of Hope coordinator.*

Tibbs believes that people can realize long-term positive change. She provides training, oversight, encouragement, practical assistance and information management systems support to those working directly with clients. Currently, a number of corps in Iowa and Nebraska have been trained and are providing Pathway of Hope as an option to their local constituents. By 2016, all corps within the Western Division will use this model

in addition to their basic material assistance services. Please join us in welcoming Tracie Tibbs.



## MARILEE MONROE - THE 'BELL' OF CHARLES CITY, IOWA



There are numerous ways in which generous supporters have furthered The Salvation Army's ability to assist those in need of a helping hand. For Mrs. Marilee Monroe of Charles City, Iowa, her support is her gift of time - nearly 30 years to be exact. Mrs. Monroe has been an indispensable supporter of The Salvation Army's Christmas bell ringing efforts in Charles City and Floyd County, Iowa.

Marilee grew up in Colwell, Iowa. She married Ernest "Bud" Monroe in 1953. The couple moved to Charles City in 1955 where she became a teacher's aide at the local junior high school. In 1975 she was elected to the first of her six four-year terms as the Floyd County Recorder where she served until retiring in December of 1998.

Mrs. Monroe's awareness of The Salvation Army goes back to her childhood memories of The Salvation Army band playing music while a woman in uniform visited with people. Because of these memories, she started collecting Salvation Army dolls, her favorite was the "donut girl". "People that were in World War II remember that," said Mrs. Monroe. She would teach Sunday school for 20 years at her home church and would bring her students to The Salvation Army church in Charles City to learn about how the Army assists Charles City residents.

Her interest in volunteering for The Salvation Army began in 1975 while watching The Salvation Army's distribution of turkeys and food boxes on Thanksgiving. She began as a volunteer helping Charles City resident Steve Clay with The Salvation Army's Christmas bell ringing campaign. Marilee became The Salvation Army's Service Extension representative in Charles City shortly thereafter.

Mrs. Monroe doesn't know the amount of time she spends coordinating the annual bell ringing campaign but welcomes the opportunity to promote the Army throughout town. She is known for asking residents, "Do you want to ring the bell?" Her list of bell ringers is extensive and includes members of the local government and church, school and civic organizations. She laughs when saying that, "Once you're on the list, you don't get off of it. I have four bell ringing locations in town and at times have more volunteers than locations. I don't turn anyone away ... I find extra locations for them."



Mrs. Monroe provides the local newspaper with an end-of-the-year update on The Salvation Army's activities so that Charles City residents "know how the money is spent in town." In past years this has included providing personal items to residents of nursing homes, Christmas food vouchers, eye glasses and crutches.

When asked to summarize why she gives so much of her time to The Salvation Army, Marilee replied, "I do it because I know The Salvation Army does a lot of good and helps many people, and that's what they do. I couldn't do this if I didn't have the support of my wonderful neighbors and the community. I don't do this by myself. I'm good at getting people involved...that's what I do."

## PIZZA FOR PILGER WAS A SUCCESS



*Celebrating the success of Pizza for Pilger are (l-r) Jeff Daley with Ragazzi's Pizza and Bakery; Dan with Pizza Pie Guys; Tom Becka, host of KOIL radio's Tom Becka Show; and Major Todd Thielke, senior officer at The Salvation Army Kroc Center.*

The Omaha Salvation Army partnered with several local pizza restaurants to raise money for victims of the twin tornados in Pilger, Neb. The Army is grateful to all who participated in the June 23 event, Pizza for Pilger. More than 25 Omaha area restaurants took part, raising thousands of dollars for The Salvation Army Pilger, Nebraska Relief Fund. All proceeds went directly to the Pilger long term recovery and rebuilding operation. A special thanks to Omahan, Jeff Daley, owner of Ragazzi's Pizza and Bakery and the inspiration behind Pizza for Pilger. By evening, lines were out the door. Wait time for pizza was up to two hours at some locations, phone lines were jammed and some restaurants simply ran out of ingredients due to the overwhelming response. "While the money raised will not return Pilger to its original state, I couldn't be more proud of my colleagues in the pizza community as well as the folks in Omaha whose generous contributions of their time and resources will go a long way in paving the road to recovery," said Daley. Now for the big news...Pizza for Pilger raised over \$80,000! Quite a feat for one day!



## MARY E. HOWLETTE NICHOLS LEAVES A LEGACY FOR OTHERS

The Salvation Army is fortunate to have many friends who have generously supported us financially throughout the years, making it possible for us to continue providing assistance to those struggling in their day-to-day lives. Sadly, The Salvation Army lost one of these dear friends last April with the passing of Mrs. Mary E. Howlette Nichols.

Mary, a native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, had a long and distinguished career with the federal government. Although Mary's career took her to Des Moines, Iowa, and Omaha, Neb., she always had a soft spot in her heart for the people of Council Bluffs. This love for Council Bluffs was a strong factor in her significant donations to The Salvation Army and was used for the establishment in 2008 of the Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus. In recognition of her donation, The Salvation



Army named its chapel at the campus the Joseph J. Nichols and Mary E. Howlette Nichols Chapel.

Although Mary is no longer with us, we will always remember her love for The Salvation Army.

*Mary E. Howlette Nichols was a loyal, long-time supporter of The Salvation Army, particularly in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She will be missed by many.*

## DIANE MOORE SHARES LOVE FOR DISCOVERING FAMILY HISTORIES



*In her spare time, planned giving associate Diane Moore helps residents of the Durham Booth Manor trace their ancestry.*

Diane Moore of the Omaha Salvation Army has made a hobby of preserving the past and protecting the future.

As a planned giving associate for The Salvation Army in Nebraska, Moore helps donors who are considering leaving a planned gift such as a bequest to The Salvation Army that will benefit the lives of others for generations to come.

Much of her free time is spent researching genealogy. "As a child, I liked being with the grown-ups at family gatherings. I only wish now that I had asked my maternal grandmother more questions about her life," said Moore.

Moore said her interest in past generations started with a family photograph from the 1800s that her grandmother owned. "I wanted to learn more about her parents and siblings – where they lived, who they married," said Moore.

Moore said she enjoys talking with seniors and learning more about their lives, how they grew up and their favorite memories. "I think it's important to document family history, learn where and who you've come from and the struggles they overcame. That being said, you may learn why Grandma so loved that old beat up trunk, broken clock or other items. Often items are passed down through the family, but no one knows really where the item came from or why it's so special. If you ask Grandma, maybe you will find the trunk was one her grandparents brought to America from Germany. Or, that the creamer and sugar set that is cracked and chipped had been handed down from her mother," said Moore.

It's not surprising that Moore shares her passion for family history by volunteering to research family trees. She has worked with a number of senior residents at The Salvation Army's Durham Booth Manor in Omaha. Through her research, she was able to discover that one of Nebraska's American Legion Posts had been named after one of the residents' great uncles who died in 1918 in northeastern France during World War I.

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RAMP UP

The North Corps Community Center A.S.P.I.R.E. (After School Progress In Recreation & Enrichment) Program is back up and running in full force. A new wave of youth have jumped back into school-year mode that brings along with it a number of exciting programs and events at "The SAL" in North Omaha.

On deck this school year are traditional and impactful after school programming initiatives, such as the free meal program, computer lab, homework tutors, game room, arts & crafts, sports activities and organized teams including flag football, volleyball, track, and basketball.

Also back by popular demand will be the late-night open gym basketball events on weekends, regular field trips around the city, Halloween Bash, Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas programs, "The SAL Sleepover" lock-in event, and much more.

Other clubs and programs for youth this school year are "The SAL Sentinel" newspaper group, cooking classes, Girls Teen Empowerment groups, Bible study, and exercise classes to name a few.

Enrollment for the A.S.P.I.R.E. Program is open year-around and free of charge. Stop in anytime at the North Corps Community Center, 2424 Pratt Street, to register your child, or call 402-451-4048.



## BACKPACKS GO A LONG WAY IN BOOSTING A CHILD'S SPIRIT

In its 17th year, The Salvation Army teamed up with KETV 7 Can Help Kids to collect and distribute backpacks and school supplies. Since 1998, more than 145,000 backpacks have been given to children in and around the Omaha metro. We'd like to thank our presenting sponsor Methodist Health System and salute our partners McDonald's, Kaplan University and Q 98.5.

"Methodist is proud to be the presenting sponsor of the KETV 7 Can Help Kids Back to School Backpack Program! Our entire Methodist team stepped-up and brought in backpacks & school supplies for families in need. It's just one more example of living 'The Meaning of Care,' " said Stephen Zubrod, VP/Chief Marketing Officer for Methodist.

Hats off to our transportation partners Payless Office Products, Firefighters on the Move and Two Men and A Truck. Through our shared efforts, The Salvation Army and sponsors were able to do the most good in the lives of thousands of children by helping them go back to school prepared.



New backpacks bring big smiles to kids visiting the Omaha North Corps.



Rob McCartney, KETV Newswatch 7 lead anchor, interviewing Methodist's, Stephen Zubrod, at the August 1 Back to School donation event at Methodist Women's Hospital. John Oakey, of KETV, looks on. Hundreds of new school supplies were donated by a generous public.

## OMAHA SALUTES UNSUNG HEROES



jhd photography

High school seniors in Nebraska who have overcome adversity each received a \$10,000 scholarship in the 2014 D.J.'s Hero Awards program. A record-breaking attendance of 1,430 raised a record amount of \$478,000 to fund Salvation Army programs for children in Omaha.

Back Row (from left): Gabriel Fisher, Amanda Dyas, Majors Paul and Paula Fleeman, Mishala Lewis, and Luke Grossnicklaus.

Front Row (from left): Ryan Kile, Rachel Pavelka, Kara Donovan, and McKenzie Martin.

Imagine this picture. Eight high school seniors walk into the ballroom of Omaha's CenturyLink Center to find more than 1,400 people waiting for them. As most stride across the stage, one rolls across in his wheelchair to accept their D.J.'s Hero \$10,000 college scholarship. Each student is greeted with a standing ovation.

heroes who have overcome adversity to move forward toward college and a rewarding career.

The overwhelmed teenagers are greeted by some of Omaha's leading citizens. Omaha and Bellevue mayors Jean Stothert and Rita Sanders were in attendance, in addition to U.S. Congressman Lee Terry. Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman traveled from Nebraska's state capital in Lincoln to serve as honorary chairman.

The event on May 13 drew the largest crowd in its 15-year history with more than 1,430 showing up to support The Salvation Army. Benefits went beyond scholarships. Lori and David Scott of Omaha were chairs of the 2014 luncheon which raised a record amount of \$478,000 to support Salvation Army programs for children in Omaha.

Advisory board member Gene Spence remembers the first D.J.'s Hero Awards in 2000. "We wanted to work with kids who, after being knocked down, got up and fought harder to be strong and to be the best people they could be," he said.

**Continued on page 9**



Chairmen Lori (left) and David Scott (right) with Dr. Ben Carson.

jhd photography



Their names are little known except in their Nebraska home towns. They are unsung



## OMAHA SALUTES UNSUNG HEROES

Continued from page 8

High school counselor Amy Johnson of Schuyler, Neb. said that the D.J.'s Hero Scholarship is different from other scholarships. "It's a big moment in students' lives," she said.

The first Hero was D.J. Sokol for whom the awards are named. The son of David and Peggy Sokol fought a courageous battle with cancer before his death at age 18.

The D.J.'s Hero Awards selection committee is challenged to narrow down over 160 worthy nominations from across Nebraska to only seven winners.

Suzanne Caruso, who traveled from Dallas as a member of the selection committee, found winnowing the list of deserving candidates so frustrating that she offered to fund an eighth scholarship. Caruso has been a long-time supporter through her late brother's foundation, The Fred Arkoosh Jr. Foundation.

Benjamin Carson, M.D. was the featured speaker. Based on his book "America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made This Nation Great," the speech by Carson, who received the 2008 Presidential Medal of Freedom, drew enthusiastic applause from the Omaha audience. Carson urged D.J.'s Heroes and the audience to esteem education, be courageous in the face of adversity and to remember and emulate the sacrifices that our military veterans made for our country.

## WELCOME NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

Kristin Pike is the new director of development and communications in Des Moines, Iowa. She has worked in churches and nonprofits since 1997 and also as an administrator and a pastor. Kristin is also a Presbyterian minister and has degrees in English and history along with her M.Div. from seminary.

The Des Moines Corps also welcomes Kathy Healy-Burton who took over in June as volunteer and special events coordinator. Kathy oversees the annual Red Kettle Run, the kettle portion of the Red Kettle Campaign, as well as working to provide volunteers for the corps year-round. She is also in charge of special events, including the annual dinner. Kathy is working to plan and coordinate a new summer event for debut in 2015 or 2016.



*Kristin Pike, director of development and communications in Des Moines, Iowa.*

## A BANNER SEASON FOR SAL BLACKHAWKS



*The Blackhawks enjoy success on and off the court in the 2014 season.*

It was another banner season for the North Corps Community Center's SAL Blackhawks basketball team in 2014 as the program and its players excelled both on and off the court.

The top high school boys team set the tone with another undefeated season and kicked it off by winning the YMCA Winter league before jumping into the competitive spring circuit of travel tournaments. The initial Spring Select Tournament was held over spring break in Oklahoma City, Okla., where the squad won every game on their way to the team championship. From there the top select high school team collected tournament titles in their own backyard in Omaha, as well as in Des Moines, Iowa, and Kansas City, Mo. They also added to the program's trophy case with summer league first place finishes in the City of Omaha League and the Kroc Center Summer Klassic.

The program's younger teams followed suit during the year, as the 7th, 8th and 9th/10th grade squads won tournament titles in the Des Moines AAU and Nebraska Elite tournaments and capped off the year with the City of Omaha's Kellom Summer League titles.

But the success didn't stop there for this championship-caliber program as a handful of additional high school seniors joined a prestigious group of past SAL Blackhawks players by signing college athletic scholarships to continue their education and basketball playing days on the next level.

The North Corps Center held a ceremony at the conclusion of the year to honor five of their own players who all signed basketball scholarships to play in college this upcoming school year. The five SAL Blackhawks players include: DeAngelo Peak and Tyler Hall (Minnesota West CC); Ronney Barnes and Warol Gatdit (Central CC); and Seyvon Barnes (Southwest Tennessee CC). This group of 2014 graduates join a list of 10 previous SAL Blackhawks players in just the past three years to take their talents to the college level.



## 2014 TREE OF LIGHTS CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

The Omaha Salvation Army is set to launch its 2014 Tree of Lights Campaign under the leadership of Wayne Smith and Joleen David. Smith is one of the founding partners of SKAR advertising agency, and David, his daughter, currently serves as president. Both Smith and David serve on the Omaha Salvation Army Advisory Board and have been long-time supporters of the Army's mission. As Honorary Chairs for this year's Tree of Lights Campaign, they bring their knowledge, commitment and support to the Army's goal of raising funds to help those in the Omaha community who desperately need the services provided by The Salvation Army.

The Honorary Vice-Chairman for the 2014 campaign is Gary Perkins, President and CEO of Children's Hospital and Medical Center. Ryan Horn, vice president of communications for Redstone Communications, will serve as the General Chairman and Chris Kircher, vice president of corporate affairs for ConAgra, will serve as General Vice-Chairman.

The strong team of Smith, David and Perkins selected an outstanding Kettle Klub Cabinet and will help make the 2014 campaign a success. The Omaha Salvation Army is grateful to have a team of community leaders who bring a strong resolve to make this year's campaign ring out hope in Omaha.

This year's campaign message says it all – When Love Drops In, Hope Rings Out.



*Tree of Lights Campaign Honorary Chairs, Joleen David and Wayne Smith.*

*Tree of Lights Campaign Honorary Vice-Chairman, Gary Perkins.*

## BACONFEST OMAHA



*jhd photography*

*The 2nd annual BaconFest Omaha was held September 7 at the Omaha Kroc Center. It was a beautiful day for families to enjoy games, vendors, live music and lots of bacon!*

The Salvation Army Kroc Center was humming with excitement on Sunday, September 7 for the second annual BaconFest Omaha. The afternoon of food, family and fun was held on the Festival Plaza at the Kroc Center, 2825 Y Street. The money raised at the event went to the Kroc Scholarship Fund to help keep Kroc Center memberships and programs affordable for the community.

BaconFest Omaha offered a wide range of family-friendly activities including games, live music, vendors and more. The Kid's Corral featured games, crafts and inflatables for children of all ages to enjoy. Performances by five area bands including Marcos & Sabor and season 10 "American Idol" contestant Tim Halperin were featured



*jhd photography*

*Season 10 "American Idol" contestant Tim Halperin performs with his band at BaconFest Omaha. From left to right: Nick Brophy, Dana Drege, Halperin, and Aaron Hadenfeldt.*

on the main stage. With other acts throughout the day like Mariachi Las Cecílias and Omaha Street Percussion, BaconFest Omaha was truly an event with something for everyone.

The Farmland Bacon Cook-off was the highlight of the afternoon. More than 1,000 pounds of bacon was donated by Farmland for the competition which featured Omaha chefs cooking their most creative bacon-themed dishes. Attendees of BaconFest Omaha were able to taste these creations and vote for their favorites to decide the winner of People's Choice. A panel of judges also determined the prizes for Best Savory Dish, Best Sweet Dish, and Best in Show.

The Salvation Army would like to thank Farmland and our sponsors for participating and helping make the second year of BaconFest Omaha such a success. Thanks to our media partners WOWT and NRG. We thank our talented chefs and musicians for being a part of the event. Lastly, we would like to thank the more than 1,000 people who attended BaconFest Omaha. We appreciate the community's support of this annual fundraiser for the Kroc Center. We hope everyone enjoyed BaconFest Omaha, and we will see you again next year.





## PATHWAY OF HOPE - BOONE, IOWA CORPS



*Jamie, a Pathway of Hope client.*

Sharon Karpin, the social service director of the Boone, Iowa Corps, has been working for The Salvation Army for 10 years. She is well known in the community and strives to make The Salvation Army's presence known. The introduction of Pathway of Hope was the right approach to assist Sharon in serving clients in the area. Sharon was able to engage Jamie, a mother of two daughters, who attends Character Building

Programs on Wednesdays and church services on Sundays at The Salvation Army corps.

Jamie is a single mother and has a daughter who struggles with mental health problems. Her daughter participates in our youth programs. Jamie has struggled with addiction throughout her life. Due to some bad choices, Jamie ended up in The

Crawford Hall Shelter. Once at the shelter, she was able to find permanent housing. She enrolled in the local community college, and, after completing her courses, she was hired at a nursing home.

Jamie came to Pathway of Hope last April looking for support when she had to quit her job due to her daughter's mental illness. Her income was very limited. She was afraid she was going to have to go back to the shelter with her daughters. She was in jeopardy of losing her housing assistance. We developed goals to improve her family's situation. Jamie's first step was financial stability, and she met with a financial counselor. They created a budget for Jamie to sustain her during this difficult time. Another goal for Jamie is to remain active in the community, and she has been volunteering at the shelter for 30 hours a week. She was able to keep her housing assistance.

Jamie maintained her sobriety during this rough period and will continue her education in the fall. She is working with professionals to help stabilize her daughter's mental health and is learning new ways to cope with her daughter's needs. She hopes to finish college and have a successful career where she can support herself and her family. Jamie still has barriers to overcome but is making progress. Jamie works hard on her goals and maintains a positive outlook on life. She is very grateful for everything Pathway of Hope does to help her and her family.



## GUESS WHO'S 5 YEARS OLD!

The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Omaha, Neb., was completed in November of 2009 and had its grand opening in January 2010. Five years later the Omaha Kroc Center is an inspiring focal point for thousands of Omaha residents.

It all started when Joan Kroc, wife of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc, took a tour of San Diego, Calif. and recognized a community that was in desperate need of a safe gathering place, with facilities and trained professionals to nurture children's social skills, arts appreciation and athletic potential. She described a Kroc Center as being a beacon of light and hope in the community, and she entrusted The Salvation Army with \$90 million to build the first Kroc Center in San Diego. At the San Diego Kroc Center's grand opening celebration in June 2002, she expressed her desire that "tens of thousands of children" would be able to enjoy the facility in the coming years.

Sadly, she passed away a little more than a year after it opened, but Mrs. Kroc was so pleased with what was accomplished in San Diego that she left \$1.6 billion to The Salvation Army to

build Kroc Centers across the country. As of her death in 2003, more than 3 million people had visited the San Diego Kroc Center, far exceeding Joan's hopes. Today, there are 25 Kroc Centers open and operating and two in the development stage.

Since opening in November 2009, the Omaha Kroc Center has welcomed 973,542 people through its doors. More children than Joan could have ever envisioned have enjoyed the countless opportunities at the Omaha Kroc Center. It is living proof that God still transforms lives today.

Happy 5th Birthday to the Omaha Kroc Center!

## OFFICERS ON THE MOVE

As of last June, there are new faces and some new appointments for Salvation Army officers throughout the Western Division which includes Nebraska, South Dakota and the western two-thirds of Iowa. Welcome one and all!

- Captain Charles Williams, Lied Renaissance Center Chaplain, Omaha, Neb.
- Captain Carol Williams, Older Adult Ministries and VA representative, Omaha, Neb.
- Lieutenant Crystal Sherack, Assistant Corps Officer, Council Bluffs, Iowa
- Lieutenant Pam Kasten, Corps Officer, Boone, Iowa
- Majors John and Crystal Joyner, Corps Officers, Mason City, Iowa
- Captain Leanne Tuttle, Corps Officer, Huron, S.D.
- Majors Gary and Vickie Cole, Corps Officers, Mitchell, S.D.



# Save the Date

Red Kettle Run at Zorinsky Lake  
October 25, 9 am

Pumpkin Patch Party  
at the Kroc Center  
October 31, 4:30-6 pm

Tree of Lights  
Red Kettle Campaign Kick-Off  
90th & Dodge - November 7, 6 pm

Military Appreciation Weekend  
Kroc Center - November 8-11

Holiday Concert  
with the Omaha Symphony  
Kroc Center - November 25, 7pm

Adopt-A-Family Radiothon  
December 4 & 5, 6 am to 6 pm

Breakfast with Santa  
Kroc Center - December 13, 9 am

D.J.'s Hero Awards Luncheon  
CenturyLink Center Omaha  
May 5, 2015, 11:45 am

THE SALVATION ARMY  
DOING THE MOST GOOD  
NOVEMBER 7TH - DECEMBER 24TH  
RING THE bells!  
register online at [WWW.RINGOMAHA.ORG](http://WWW.RINGOMAHA.ORG) or call 402 - 898 - 6000

## Red Kettle RUN

The Salvation Army

**WHAT:** A fun 5K Run/Walk to fill the pantry shelves of the Omaha Salvation Army. There will be race awards and a drawing for great door prizes for all participants including an Apple iPad mini, Creighton sports tickets and gift cards!

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 25th at 9 a.m.

**WHERE:** Zorinsky Lake - 156th and F St.

**ENTRY:** 10 items of non-perishable food or \$10 to benefit the food pantries.

[www.redkettlerunomaha.org](http://www.redkettlerunomaha.org)  
Make a run for the Red Kettle this season!  
No pre-registration required • Online registration available

THE SALVATION ARMY

Can your gift of grain to  
*The Salvation Army*  
produce a yield that also  
**shields** you from higher taxes?

To learn how your gift of grain can help others plus secure income and tax benefits for you, call our Planned Giving Department at (800) 274-0628



