

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

February 2014
Volume 15, Issue 3

Major Harold Poff, Allen County Coordinator, Corps Officer/Major Lynneta Poff, Corps Officer

Inside this issue:

Queens of Charity contestants do more than just compete **Page 2**

Four year old contestant holds early fundraising event **Page 2**

Students from 10 area schools bell ring to help others **Page 2**

Lives of Adopt a Family recipients who were helped last Christmas **Page 3**

Kroger managers bell ring to help community **Page 3**

Thank you Christmas volunteers and donors **Page 3**

Thank you Mary Sherer and Re/Max Home Connection Realtors **Back page**

Outstanding bell ringing team from IndianasNewsCenter **Back page**

From the Major's Desk

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease."

Genesis 8:22



It's been a long winter. I don't know about you, but, I'm tired of the snow. I'm tired of the cold. I'm tired of cancelled meetings and programs, and I'm tired of gray cloudy days.

With all of the winter weather, we are reminded of God's promise recorded in Genesis 8:22. For as long as the earth remains, the seasons will pass in order. God is keeping His promise to Noah and to the rest of us. For, God is not a liar. He keeps His word. The seasons are passing in order, proving that God is faithful to His word: what He says, He does.

Are we as faithful? Do we spend these dreary cold, snowy days serving Him? Are we keeping the promises we have made to God as faithfully as He is keeping His promises to us?

These cold days full of snow, wind, and bitter chill will pass. In a few weeks they will moderate into beautiful spring days full of flowers, promise, and hope. And we will, once again, enjoy the beauty of God's awesome creation.



But, will we continue to serve Him, and worship Him in the beauty of His holiness? I hope so. And, I plan to. Will you worship and serve Him?

God bless you!
Major Harold Poff



Mrs. Poff and I are very grateful to God for the birth of our healthy grandson, Coty Allen Benjamin Poff, born on February 5, 2014. Our first grandchild is 18 inches long and weighed 4 lbs, 8 oz. God is so good!

Salvation Army opens two shelters in January



Snow and predicted sub-zero temperatures prompted local Homeland Security officials, as well as Fort Wayne's mayor, to request The Salvation Army provide two warming centers and overnight shelters in January.

The Salvation Army's first shelter opened at noon on Sunday, January 5th and closed at

noon, Wednesday, January 8th. Our second shelter opened at 9:00 am, Monday, January 27th and closed at noon on Wednesday, January 29th. Each of the shelters remained open until our social worker made sure all of our guests found more permanent shelter.

The Salvation Army served 226 meals and snacks to a total of 33 families and individuals who stayed in the shelters. The National Guard assisted by taking one of our guests to their dialysis appointment and they transported a young man to the Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center. The Fort Wayne Police were very helpful and drove a mother and her baby daughter to the corps when the shelter on the south side of town closed.

Volunteers served a total of 226 hours through both events. Major Lynneta Poff said, "We were blessed with some awesome

volunteers, some of which "camped out" with us here at the building." Mrs. Poff continued, "The National Guard, Fort Wayne Police Department, Allen County Homeland Security and our guests were very appreciative of the service The Salvation Army was able to provide."



The corps' gymnasium has a curtain which was used to separate our male and female guests.

'Queens of Charity do more than compete in pageant

The Salvation Army's Queen of Charities pageant is anything BUT a beauty pageant. The Queen of Charities Pageant is a fund-raiser that promotes celebrating inner beauty while encouraging youth to get involved with giving back to the community. This year's pageant, "Need Knows No Season", will focus on a holiday theme for contestants and will take place on May 3, 2014.

However, the charity won't end for those who win the title of Miss Queen of Charities. Newly crowned queens have a busy schedule ahead of them, including meeting the press, kick-offs,

fashion show modeling, shopping for children in need, sorting school supplies, promotional events, kettle ringing, wrapping and distributing Christmas gifts...and much, much more. "It is a busy schedule," says

current Mrs. Queen of Charities, Jody Lepley. "But I wouldn't want to be



Jody Lepley, 2013 Mrs. Queen of Charities, volunteered to bell ring.

doing anything else!"



Amaria Nester, the 2013 Little Miss Queen of Charities, volunteered at Culver's Restaurant.

"I get excited for every event," says current Junior Miss, Aurora Kulp. "As soon as one is over, I can't wait for the next one. I'm sad the year has to end, but I'm not going to stop volunteering for charity work."

Registration is now open for contestants, ages two and up.

More information can be found at <http://corps.salvationarmyindiana.org/fortwayne/events/queen-of-charities/> or by emailing Jama_Smith@usc.salvationarmy.org



Women from the Iota Chi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority are crowd pleasers when they volunteer. They always sing Christmas Carols in perfect harmony.

Students from 10 area schools bell ring to help others



Members of Concordia Lutheran High School Student Council rang at Hobby Lobby last December.

The Salvation Army thanks area students for bell ringing. Members and advisors of High School Key and Leo Clubs, Honor Societies, Student Councils, Resident Assistants from IPFW, middle, and a Montessori school volunteered their time to raise donations for Allen County families in need.

These outstanding groups of young people raised \$5,400.91.

Four year old contestant holds early fundraising event



Meet Jaslina!

She is four years old and wants to make a difference through fund-raising.

She is one of our miss Queen of Charities contestants who is selling lunches and dinners to raise money for our organization. A

little girl with big, big goals to help those in need.

Jaslina and her mom will be at The Salvation Army at 2901 North Clinton on **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21st** (1st and 2nd shifts for businesses) serving meals for donations.

A dinner comes with (1) BBQ pulled pork sandwich, (3) homemade sides, and (1) slice of pound cake for a donation of \$7! They will deliver to businesses and residencies with 5+ orders (if you know any businesses or groups that would be interested, please let them know.

PLEASE show your support to this little girl who is going above and beyond for charity.



Canterbury Middle School students braved the cold to bell ring at Walgreens. The youth wore Santa hats and sang their hearts out to stay warm.

Lives of Adopt a Family recipients who were assisted last Christmas

This is just a sample of one of hundreds of applications submitted for assistance in our 2013 Christmas sign-up.

This family has a single mother with two children. Her two year old son (Amere), was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in August of 2013. He is hospitalized at Riley's Children's Hospital for three to four weeks for each cycle of chemotherapy he is given for his leukemia. In October he was admitted for his third cycle (was there through the beginning of December).

His mother just found out she is pregnant with a boy. She is a first time applicant.

The mother of this family has had several spinal surgeries and just had part of her colon removed due to Cancer.

The two youngest girls this family obtained custody for a few weeks ago, had never been to see a doctor or a dentist and had no shoes. They were removed from the home due to sexual abuse. The girls had outgrown their clothing (the seven year old was wearing a size 4T when she was removed from the home). Just looking through the documentation on what had happened to these two girls was heartbreaking. The family is seeking to adopt the girls, as their mother is going to prison.

The youngest girls have no toys other than what the family has been able to provide at a moments notice, which has been difficult since the loss of the father's job and the mother's health issues.

The father's sister lives in the home; she is mentally retarded and has the mental capacity of an 8 year old.

They are first time applicants. The

Salvation Army was very glad to be in the position to help these girls, who have been so damaged, and to take care of their sister in need.

This family has a single mother and one child. The mother has just started working as a Kindergarten aide at a Lutheran school. She is still recovering from a recent surgery that had her hospitalized.

Her son is a Cancer survivor; suffering from Gorlin Syndrome. Gorlin Syndrome has caused skin cancer, as well as tumors in his jaw. He recently had oral surgery to remove several keratocystic tumors.

Her son also has Desmoplastic Medulloblastoma (brain cancer) and had surgery to remove three tumors in his head.

This mother is a first time applicant.

Thankfully these and 226 other financially hard hit families were assisted through The Salvation Army's Adopt a Family Program. Giving individuals, families, organizations and area company employees went the extra mile to provide a Merry Christmas for the children. The generosity of our donors gave families in need the one thing they most desperately needed: hope. Through the selfless gift of Christmas, recipients knew that not only the spirit of Christ was alive, but that they were loved, and not alone.

*Jama Smith
Resource Development Director*



Kroger managers bell ring to help community

All Fort Wayne Kroger managers, executives and some members of their staff braved the cold and flurries to volunteer to bell ring for The Salvation Army on Friday, December 20, 2013. Despite the poor conditions (imagine bell ringing now), Kroger employees raised \$1,775.70. Thank you Kroger!



Larz (upper left), Emma (bottom left), Abby Engquist (bottom right) and Austin Schnelker (upper right), were ringing bells at Hobby Lobby in 2012. As of 2013, Larz has been bell ringing nine years in a row on the Friday after Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. Larz began when he was six.

Thank you Christmas volunteers and donors

It was only with your help that The Salvation Army was able to provide Christmas assistance to hundreds of families last December, in addition to those families in the Adopt a Family Program. Here is what **your support** accomplished:

- # families assisted by Angel Tree: 509
- # individuals assisted by Angel Tree: 2,089
- # children assisted by Angel Tree: 1,277
- # gifts given to children: 4,956
- # gift cards given to teens: 112
- # food baskets given to families: 738

THE SALVATION ARMY

2901 N. CLINTON ST.

FORT WAYNE, IN 46805

Major Harold Poff, Allen County Coordinator, Corps Officer
Major Lynnetta Poff, Corps Officer

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

FORT WAYNE, IN

PERMIT NO. 636

REGULAR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

“Return Service Requested”

SUNDAY

9:30 am United Sunday School Opening
9:45 am Sunday School
10:45 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Open gym and game night (first Sunday of the month)

WEDNESDAY

4:30 pm Band
5:00 pm Theory and Singing Company
6:00 pm Bible Study
6:30 pm Praise Team
7:00 pm Women’s Ministry

THURSDAY

4:30-6:00 pm Character Building activities (Sept. through May)
6:00-7:00 pm Corps Cadets (September through May)

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE HOURS

Food Pantry-Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm
CURF- Tuesday morning walk-ins (call for more information)
Other assistance provided by appointment (744-2311)

YOUTH PROGRAMS

After-school programs-please check the calendar for other events.



Thank you Mary Sherer and Re/Max Home Connection Realtors



Mary said, “When one of my realtors, Chip Perry, came to me and asked about RE/MAX Home Connection participating as a company for Realtor Ring Day, I was so compelled by his belief in the cause and his passion about us as REALTOR®’s giving back that I had to say yes. I will say yes again next year as I was personally enriched by the public’s reaction to us and their gracious giving.”

The idea to hold Realtor Ring Day came from a Realtor in Fargo, North Dakota who wanted to give real estate professionals an opportunity to support a cause familiar to them: housing. The Salvation Army was the perfect fit because it offers so many housing –related programs. Four years later this has become a nationwide, annual event.

The Fort Wayne Salvation Army is recruiting Allen County realtors to volunteer for this year’s event on Friday, December 5, 2014. Please contact Roxanne at (260) 744-2311 or by email: Roxanne_Albrecht@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Pictured above is Re/Max Home Connection owner, Mary Sherer (left), and Shelly Gaff (right), one of the realtors in her company.

Outstanding bell ringing team from IndianasNewsCenter



Curtis Smith and Melissa Long (rear) bell ringing in 2012.

If you wanted to bell ring for one hour, how much do you think you could raise, \$40.00, \$100.00 or more? Well, Indianas NewsCenter’s Melissa Long, Curtis Smith and Tommy Schoegler decided to find out. Channel 21’s on air personalities rang for only **one** hour on December 10 at the Kroger’s store on St. Joe Center Road. In this short amount of time the team raised **\$402.11**, which is \$222.58 more than they raised in one hour in 2012! The sky is the limit with these three, so please support them in 2014, if they decide to break this Ft. Wayne Corps bell ringing record.

Thank you Ft. Wayne Kroger managers See page 3.