



DOING THE MOST GOOD

The Salvation Army / 2901 North Clinton Street / Fort Wayne, IN 46805

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THE BRIDGE BUILDER

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Major Harold Poff, Allen County Coordinator, Corps Officer/Major Lynnetta Poff, Corps Officer/Captain Sonja Jenkins, Assistant Corps Officer

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From the Major' Desk

*"But of the day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of Heaven, but my Father only."
Matthew 24:36 NKJV*

Well, we've all survived the end of the Mayan calendar.

I must confess I was amused at all the attention given to the end of the Mayan calendar, and all of the possible reasons for the supposed fact that they got it right and everyone else was wrong.

It goes to show, yet again, that people will look for the answers anywhere and everywhere, except where they will find it: God's Word. Jesus told us in Matthew 24:36 that no one knows when the end will come, except the Father. He alone knows when He will call an end to time and the troubles of this world.

So, what does that say to us? Well, to me it says we need to be ready.

When Jesus comes, we need to be about our Master's business. He needs us to be working up until the end providing a light to those who are lost. He needs us to be binding up the wounds of those who are hurting and to bring words of comfort to those who have lost their way.

So often as Christians, we are content to sit back and wait for Jesus to come. We justify it by saying the time isn't right or the world doesn't want to hear what we have to say. True, the world doesn't want to hear what we have to say, but when did they?

The gospel of Jesus has always been a source of contention. The world has never wanted to hear that Jesus, and He alone, saves. This is not good news to those who want to continue in their life of sin. It's not good news to those who are able to enslave our bodies and minds

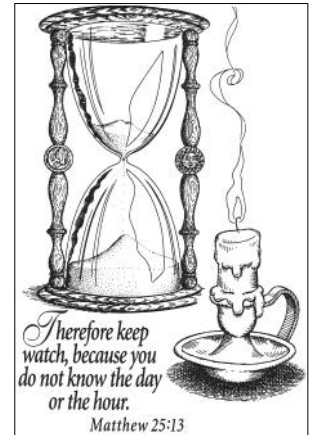
with substances that take away our ability to think and reason. It's not good news to those who want to keep people enslaved by their ideas and philosophies.

But, it is good news to those who need the love and grace and mercy of God, to help them survive today.

Jesus is coming back to take His inheritance, but we don't know when.

So, let's be ready!!

God bless you.
Major Harold Poff



Super Bowl Party
February 3
5:30 pm



I know, the Colts, Packers and the Broncos were knocked out during the playoffs, but there will still be fun to be had at the Fort Wayne Corps' Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 3. The doors will open at 5:30 pm. The San Francisco 49'ers and the Baltimore Ravens will be the teams battling it out for the Super Bowl crown.

There needs to be food to make a party fun. Please bring snacks to share and your own drinks. Captain Jenkins will keep the scorecard on snacks. Please let her know what you are bringing to the party.

A Super Bowl Party can become serious, with everyone's eye on the game. This is why children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Fabulous Fitness to begin

Fabulous Fitness, a time for fun, fitness and laughter, will begin on Thursday, February 7 at 6:00 pm in the gym. This is open to anyone who is interested in regaining their fabulous form before the summer months. There is no cost, it is free.

We have exercise balls, weights, some mats and Zumba! Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Come join us. Be prepared to laugh and exercise with those who think exercise is going from the couch to the kitchen for snacks.



The teens who participated in bell ringing, outmatching the adults by raising \$204.35, were invited to a pizza party on Saturday, January 19th. Thanks go to DJ Crosby, Erica Dennis, Betty Rice and TC Snawder for ringing their hearts out and raising \$204.35. Pictured from left to right; Major Lynnetta Poff, Kyra and Braxton Lowe, Jessica Lowe, DJ Crosby and Betty Rice.

One for the record books



How I set out to ring a bell and found unbridled support from my community.

Steve Batzka (above) began his quest for the World Record of Bell Ringing at 1:00 pm on December 11.

It all began on a cold December day in front of the newly remodeled Village of Coventry Kroger Marketplace. I parked my car and began heading into the store. Except this was no ordinary visit to the grocery store, I was going to attempt to set a world record. A record for the worlds longest bell ringing session for The Salvation Army. I had my classic bright red apron and trusted bell in tow. Ready to start a feat that could go down in history.

The current record was 60 continuous hours of bell ringing and it dawned on me what a crazy idea this was.

Ring for more than two straight days? With limited breaks? And standing the whole time? I've been bell ringing since my freshman year in high school, but nothing quite this extreme. But, I didn't hesitate as I set up my mat and laid out my whiteboard.

Then I started ringing, greeting people with my usual holiday cheer as they came and went. It went on like this for most of day one; relatively unnoticed at first just appearing as a normal volunteer bell ringer to the many who entered the store.

For those who stopped and asked what was going on, I explained what I was attempting to do and would generally get one of two responses. "Wow that is crazy, good luck" or "Wow that is amazing, is there anything I can do to help you?" This blew me away. Total strangers moved to take action by what I was doing? I felt humbled by the sheer amount of support people offered. From food to drinks to seasons greetings and words of encouragement. The Fort Wayne

community showed me a side I feel many people don't get to see often enough.

Early the second morning I was visited by a woman who had heard of me on the radio during her commute. She had come out of her way to bring me a coffee and a donation, along with well wishes on my attempt. The day started out quietly with steadily increasing traffic as the morning drew on. The most popular comment I received from people was, "Are you the man I heard about on the news going for the world record?" "Yes, yes I am," I would reply. It was very encouraging to see how generous people were being now that some knowledge of what I was doing had spread.

Then things got busy around noon. News crews came to do stories for the 5 o'clock news on me. The Journal Gazette sent several people out to take pictures and Frank Gray came by do an interview. I was making some good waves to draw attention to this year's Kettle Campaign and it felt great. Later that night once the crowds had gone and the energy level bottomed out, it became increasingly hard to stay upright and ringing. I could hear every ring pound through my head as a migraine set in. As I pushed through the night towards hour 36, I knew it was time to lay down my bell. I came in fourth out of seven ringers attempting to set the world record. The winner of the competition rang 80 hours. Now, that is crazy!

I would again like to thank everyone who helped and supported me, including the managers and staff of the Village of Coventry Kroger Marketplace and the official 'witnesses' who timed my breaks. Without you, I never could have done this. It was an experience like no other and I would gladly do it all over again. While I might not have set a world record, I did give attention to a cause close to my heart this holiday. Not to mention I set a new kettle record for this Kroger store by raising a total of \$1,091.16. Thank you Fort Wayne!

Steve Batzka

Steve Batzka is a lifelong Fort Wayne native and a co-founder of startup hapn.co. He has successfully gotten the ringing sound out of his ears. You can follow him on twitter @stevebatzka.com

A special thanks to our volunteers; over 12,000 hours were logged from our hard-working volunteers in 2012 for The Salvation Army in Allen County. Our volunteers really are the "army behind the Army!"

Jama Smith, Volunteer Coordinator

CYC youth given opportunity to experience the 'Arts'



On Sunday Dec. 16th, six youth and two staff from the Community Youth Center attended "The Nutcracker" ballet, performed by the American Youth Ballet at the St. Francis Performing Arts Auditorium. This was a first time experience for all six youth and they were very excited about the opportunity.

The St. Francis Performing Arts Auditorium is located in the former Scottish Rite Center. The youth were first impressed with the architecture of this fine old theatre. Before the performance started, I took some time to explain what a theatre experience would have been like 'back in the day'. It was hard for them to picture in their minds what a day at the cinema would have been like before shopping malls and mega-movie complexes became commonplace.

After opening comments from the stage thanking sponsors of the program, the lights dimmed and the overture began. After about thirty seconds, the boy sitting next to me asked, "When does it start?" I explained, "It did start."

In a day when video games begin instantly with explosions and lights, this was a brand new concept for some of the youth. But they did learn how people can use nothing more than dancing, lights and music to tell a story.

Wade Meadows,
Community Youth Center Director

Indiana's NewsCenter staff supports The Salvation Army



Curtis Smith (foreground), Melissa Long (in back) and Tommy Schoegler (not pictured) were enthusiastic bell ringers.

Fort Wayne celebrities from Indiana's NewsCenter, Chief Meteorologist, Curtis Smith, Evening News Anchor, Melissa Long, and Sports Director, Tommy Schoegler, rang bells for **one hour** at the Dupont Kroger Store on Tuesday, December 18. They raised an amazing **\$179.53**. This is an all-time bell ringing record. The INC team also did a friendly Facebook challenge between themselves to raise some additional funds for The Salvation Army. They agreed to contribute 10 cents for every "LIKE" they received on their individual INC Facebook pages and donated an additional \$200.00.



Many customers came by to chat and ask for autographs.

Paying it forward with love



Camree and Marcus Harper had fun dancing, ringing the bell and saying, "Merry Christmas", to all who entered the doors.

I was diagnosed with Cancer 10 years ago and was not able to work for 5 years. Thankfully, my family received help from The Salvation Army with Christmas during that very difficult time in my life. One year, we were adopted by Gordon's Food Service and were able to meet really great people who gave us an amazing Christmas. We still think about our Angels often and especially at Christmas time every year.

For the last five years since I have been back to work, we pick out Angel Tree Tags from the tree at Wal-Mart. One year we adopted a single mother with two small kids. This year we again picked up an Angel Tree Tag, donated a few toys to Toys for Tots and for the first time, volunteered as bell ringers for a few hours.

My youngest daughter, Camree, is 14 and has always noticed the bell ringers as we go into the stores. She told me she wanted to do something this year to help kids, so I suggested volunteering as a bell ringer. My son Marcus is 15 and also wanted to volunteer. The kids rang at the Dupont Kroger on the afternoon of December 21, 2012 for two hours. They loved it!! They became more excited as more people donated. They were ringing the bells and dancing. Many people told them thank you for volunteering as they dropped in their donations. It was a great experience for them. They decided volunteering as bell ringers was going to be their new Holiday tradition.

Its their way to help other kids for Christmas and our way of paying it forward to The Salvation Army for the years of Christmas Assistance they gave my family.

Dawn Harper



Thank you from an Adopt a Family recipient

"We are so thankful for the blessings that were poured out before us on Christmas morning. It's a beautiful thing how God just knows what is needed, and provides. I can only imagine what it took to prepare and deliver everything. The time, the money, and effort are so much appreciated. There is not one item that won't be worn, used or played with. This is the first time I have applied for assistance with the Salvation Army. I expected absolutely nothing and just prayed as I stood in that line freezing for three hours that God would provide at least a toy for the babies and a gift card for my teen. I didn't even know about the Adopt A Family program until I received a call a month later. When I picked up the gifts it was overwhelming. I could not believe how many there were. We loaded them up and I cried all the way home. We had to keep them in my teen's room so the babies wouldn't rip them open! Then on Christmas morning, we received our miracle.

We have unbelievable respect, love and thanks for the Adopt a Family program and the people who donate to it.

-Family 1908

Shared by Jama Smith
Volunteer Coordinator and
Adopt a Family Coordinator



Women's Ministry Opportunities in February

Wednesday evening programs beginning at 7:00 p.m.

February 6:	Wii Bowling
February 13:	Craft-Valentine's Day
February 20:	Bible Study- Women of the Bible
February 27:	Card Bingo

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2901 N. CLINTON ST.
FORT WAYNE, IN 46805

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Major Lynnetta Poff, Corps Officer
Captain Sonja Jenkins, Assistant Corps Officer

REGULAR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

6:00 pm Adult Bible Study
6:00 pm Singing Company (for youth 7-12 yrs. old)
7:00 pm Women's Ministry and Band
7:30 pm Praise and Worship

THURSDAY

11:30 am Senior Group (2nd Thursday of the month)
4:30-6:00 pm Character Building activities (Sept. through May)
4:30-6:00 pm Cub Scouts (September through May)
6:00-7:00 pm Junior Soldiers and Corps Cadets (September through May)

FRIDAY

6:00 pm Singles Fellowship (4th Friday of the month)
Giggles Group Activities will be scheduled monthly

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.

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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.

Thank you Indiana's NewsCenter evening team! See story inside.



All are welcome to attend Indiana Divisional Spring Scrapbooking Retreat on March 8-9, 2013



The Fort Wayne Salvation Army is hosting a scrapbooking retreat called 'Making Memories' on Friday, March 8 and Saturday, March 9. Do you love to scrapbook? Would you love to get away for a weekend? Then join us for our retreat featuring blissful hours of scrapbooking with your buddies, making new friends, leaving your routines at home and pampering yourself.

The \$30 package includes: use of one cot for the night, one T-Shirt, three meals, (Friday dinner, light breakfast and lunch on Saturday) a 24 hour scrapbooking room and free make and take projects.

Those attending the scrapbooking retreat need to bring pictures and their own scrapbooking supplies. There will be a "swap" table, where miscellaneous items will be available for whoever wants them. Also, those who attend are usually willing to share their supplies with others. That being said, everyone is expected to bring the essential supplies they need.

If you want more information about the retreat or housing arrangements (which are very flexible), please call Major Lynnetta Poff at (260) 744-2311 x234 or email her at: Lynnetta_Poff@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Registration is due no later than February 19th for a T-shirt and final registration is due to Major Lynnetta Poff by February 27th. Checks may be sent to 2901 N. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

Come and make memories for those you love.



Thank you for partnering with The Salvation Army

Thank you Bob and Sandy Geisler, owners of the Dupont Culver's Restaurant, for asking The Salvation Army to participate in Culver's Day of Giving on Wednesday, December 12, 2012. Culver's donated 10% of their sales, sent an additional store donation and allowed us to place kettles on their tables.

Salvation Army staff enjoyed serving meals and sharing information about the mission of the Army to Culver's customers.

Thanks to this partnership, The Salvation Army received \$1,214.98. Thank you to the Dupont Culver's Restaurant and all your generous customers.

Thank you to the following restaurants that donated lunches for our volunteers. If you eat at any of these restaurants, please make sure to thank them for their generosity!

Big Apple Bagels, Chick-fil-a, Halls, Nine Mile, Olive Garden, Pizza Hut, Qdoba and the Tilted Kilt