

# The Kroc Center Report



KROC  
CENTER  
DAYTON

Volume 17, Issue 35, Fall 2022

## Our Love Flows 365 Days a Year

There's a perception that The Salvation Army's sole mission is to feed the hungry at Christmastime. And then there's reality.

The holiday meals we provide to families are but a single point on a year-round continuum of love. The examples are many.

Mobile Canteen volunteers deliver meals twice monthly to three neighborhoods with great need. We've nourished hungry residents, including many children, with more than 23,000 meals over five years.

Volunteer Jim Fry recalls handing a bag of food to a young woman who at first said, "No thanks." As he walked away, he heard her exclaim, "There's food in here?"

"I knew right then it was a GOD moment," said Jim.

Since 2018, our Emergency Support Services has helped 16,000 individuals pay heat and electricity bills. The Gift of Power program has provided \$142,000 in 2022 to keep the heat and lights on in 465 households.

One client in poor health had run out of options. "You don't know how much this means to me," she said.

And thanks to donors, 37 youngsters experienced a life-changing week at Camp SWONEKY. Their grateful parents paid only a \$20 registration fee for this opportunity.

"Camp SWONEKY is a place of hope, rest and transformation. Every time I took a group of our kids over, I felt the love radiating," said camp alumna Corinne Duperree,

Poverty, hunger, illness and despair are a year-round struggle. As long as needs exist, however, The Salvation Army will be there to help with hope and love beyond Christmas.





# Meet Captain Wonni and Lieutenant Shawn Williams

New England native Captain Wonni Williams was on assignment at the Ashland, Ohio, Kroc Center, when, in 2016, she visited Majors Stan and Gayle Senak at the Dayton Kroc Center. She often wondered what it would be like to be stationed in Dayton.

Fast forward to 2022: She and her husband as of September, Lieutenant Shawn Williams, find

themselves as the Dayton Kroc Officers for Congregational Life.

A Kentucky native, Lieutenant Shawn feels right at home, having spent a week serving at the Dayton Kroc Center in 2019.

"We love it here," he said. "The people, the community, the culture. Even before we arrived, we felt blessed by the immense love, kindness and prayers that have been shown to us."

Captain and Lieutenant Williams are eager to pour themselves into their new ministry. "We acknowledge all that has been done before and we are honored to be here," they agreed.

According to Lt. Shawn, "I'm thrilled to fully immerse myself in the Dayton community, to serve and meet the needs of the people."

The newlyweds approach marriage as a team, often echoing to each other, "We are a team. At the Dayton Kroc Center, we want to enhance the feeling of unity that is already present."

"Colossians 3:14 reminds us that to do this, we must overflow with unselfish love for others. To serve Dayton at a high standard and with excellence, it requires unity with staff, volunteers, church members and community."



*Captain Wonni and Lieutenant Shawn Williams*

## Help Spread Christmas Love

Volunteers help us brighten the Christmas season for thousands of community residents with holiday giving programs. Won't you help?

**Christmas Food Assistance** – People are ever so grateful for a proper holiday meal with loved ones. Last year, we fed some 3,100 local families and will do so again this Christmas.

Volunteers are needed for application intake on Monday, Oct. 31, from 5-7 p.m., and Tuesday, Nov. 1 through Friday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteer training starts one hour before intake sessions begin.

Please contact Tim Erlandson at 937-528-5205 or [Tim.Erlandson@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Tim.Erlandson@use.salvationarmy.org) for details.



**Red Kettle Bell Ringers** – Dayton's



Red Kettle Bell ringers are invaluable to our mission, having raised \$1.2 million last Christmas season. Volunteers are needed Friday, Nov. 25, to Saturday, Dec. 24.

Interested in volunteering? Contact Tim Erlandson at 937-528-5205 or [Tim.Erlandson@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Tim.Erlandson@use.salvationarmy.org).

**Christmas for Seniors** – To know you're brightening a nursing home resident's day is truly magical. Last year, the Christmas for Seniors program delivered 3,250 gifts to 35 area nursing homes. Volunteers are needed this year to drop off gifts. Please contact Capt. Wonni Williams at 937-528-5100 or [Wonni.in@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Wonni.in@use.salvationarmy.org) for volunteer details.



# Summer Love



## Kroc Day Camp

Friends, field trips and food (especially seconds) topped the list of campers' favorite things about Kroc Day Camp. For seven weeks, youngsters spent their days active in swimming, adventure parks, team sports, fun science, slime day and even ice skating! Also, Samaritan Behavioral Health introduced tools encouraging kids to talk about emotions and friendships.

Thanks to generous donors, we were able to provide scholarships for most campers.

"We were very thankful for the opportunity, especially because it was through the scholarship program," said one mom.

"My kids loved everything about camp. We will definitely be back next summer," said another.



## Camp SWONEKY

Kids head off to overnight camp with visions of sun, fun, campfires and new friends. At Camp SWONEKY, they find those things – and more. The camp's ministry focuses on bringing kids to Christ through love, acceptance and support. Because of this, many have found hope despite poverty, broken spirits and broken homes.

Thanks to the love shown by our donors, Camp SWONEKY was made affordable for the families of 37 scholarship recipients.

"The evening programs where we learned about Jesus were awesome. I can't wait to go back next summer!" said camper Beverly Chamberlain.



## July 3rd Celebration

The biggest crowd ever – about 1,000 people – gathered on the front lawn of the Kroc Center for music, fellowship, food, fireworks and a celebration of Independence Day. Kids romped in bouncy houses while

others danced to tunes played by a DJ. And then came the city of Dayton's spectacular fireworks.

"We aimed to provide a safe environment for families and friends to get together," said Major Gayle Senak. "People enjoyed just hanging out and relaxing."



# Field of Dreams: Leveling the Playing Field for Dayton's Kids

## Dayton Kroc Soccer Club: 'A Beautiful Thing'

A "perfect storm" created the success that is the Dayton Kroc Soccer Club. It started with The Dayton Salvation Army's opening of first-class soccer facilities at Kroc Park in 2019. That fall, two boys' teams were fielded.

Then word began to spread about the Army's vision of giving all kids the opportunity to play competitive soccer, regardless of family income. Enter two former Oakwood soccer dads, Chris Eifert and Vipal Patel.



With their own children having played soccer in the pay-to-play system of select sports, the two had casually discussed the idea of giving kids from Dayton's underserved neighborhoods the opportunity to train and compete at a high level.

In 2020, Chris and Vipal approached the Kroc Center's fitness and recreation director, Erin May, and set the wheels in motion.

With Kroc Center staff and Chris's wife, Sheila, they

went to work on the details of organizing a soccer club, while Vipal and Oakwood resident Alfred Dupuy led the volunteer coaching staff. Likeminded families and altafiber (formerly Cincinnati Bell) contributed seed money.

Thanks to sponsors, families pay no more than \$100 per season, per athlete. Many receive scholarships, reducing the cost to \$50 or less.

According to Chris, the Kroc Center partnership provides critical back-office support, field staff and a geographically accessible hub in Dayton. Another partner, Omega Baptist Church, is providing free access to a vacant northwest Dayton site

developed by the Army and soccer club as a soccer field.

Dayton Kroc SC is now represented by ten teams with 140 players, including many children of immigrant cultures with strong soccer traditions.

"We're reaching the people we need to reach," said Erin, noting that 80% of players come from targeted, urban neighborhoods.

"Solving the inequity of the club sports model was always something my wife, Sheila, and I wanted to take on," said Chris. "We're super excited about the club and the partnerships making it possible. It's been a beautiful thing."

## Dayton Kroc Soccer Club: Just the Facts

- 140 boys and girls, ages 7-14, on 10 teams
- 80% participation from Dayton's urban core neighborhoods
- 19 volunteer coaches providing professional training
- \$100 maximum participation fee per player
- \$50 scholarships awarded by The Salvation Army, depending on need
- Uniforms and sweatshirts provided
- 2 new soccer fields geographically accessible to Dayton families, provided free of charge
- Transportation program under development
- Financial support from The Salvation Army, corporate, nonprofit and individual donors
- Administrative support and field staff provided by the Kroc Center





# One Park, A Multitude of Uses

## What Parents Say About Kroc Soccer

"It's nice to see the kids gradually improving every game."

"The staff and families were amazing! I really liked the inclusion of everyone on the field."

"Erin (May) was amazing working with the children, and also very flexible and helpful working with the parents."

"The program, from start to finish, was very well-organized. I loved that the kids received a medal, certificate and pictures at an affordable price."

"Great coaches, positive team synergy, strong parent involvement and cooperation; thorough, frequent, and timely communication from Kroc program administration."

"Clean facility and friendly staff."

## Kroc Kids Recreational Soccer: Fun and Fundamental

The Kroc Kids Rec Soccer has taken off! Some 130 youngsters, ages 3 to 12, are playing this fall. The rec league emphasizes fundamental skills and rules of the game, without the pressure of elite competition.



## Flag Football has Arrived

Who knew that flag football is a program of the National Football League? Across the country, 500,000 boys and girls, ages 4 to 17, are participating on 1,600 NFL Flag Football teams.

Flag football rules allow no contact, including tackling, diving, blocking or screening. Instead, the sport gives kids the chance to develop fundamental football skills in a positive, inclusive environment.

Dayton youngsters began participating through the Kroc Center this fall.

## Summer Day Camps: Time for Teamwork

Summer camp is all about outdoor fun and games – and Camp Kroc was no different. Summer Mondays and Wednesdays were set aside at Kroc Park for campers for team sports like kickball, soccer and relay racing.



# Dayton Salvation Army Advisory Board

## Officers

Kathleen Carlson, Chair  
Vince Russell, Vice Chair  
Mark Fornes, Past Chair  
Kevin Hurst, Secretary  
John Stinson, Treasurer

## Members

Paul Anderson  
Maryann Bausman  
Stephen Budde  
David Butt  
Thomas Cronin, Jr.  
Thomas Cronin III  
Robert Easterling  
Sharon Howard  
D. Jeffrey Ireland  
Doug Kash  
Thomas W. Kemp  
Timothy Kenner  
Jeff Lecklider  
Samuel Lumby  
John Brock MacDonald  
Barry W. Mancz  
John Marshall  
James Murphy  
E. Gerald Parker Jr.  
David N. Reed  
R. Daniel Sadlier  
Wendy Scholl  
Richard L. Smythe  
Kevin Washington  
  
Majors Stanley W. & Gayle Senak,  
Dayton Kroc Center Administrators  
  
Tim Erlandson, Business Administrator

## Meet Our Advisory Board

### Doug Kash

Doug Kash didn't learn about parenting from books, manuals or webinars. Instead, it was his dad's example that taught him everything he's needed to know about raising his own two sons.

Doug and his dad, Lee, always enjoyed a strong father-son relationship. Their bond grew as they worked side-by-side in the elder Kash's electrical contracting business, Saturn Electric. After Doug bought the company 20 years ago, they continued as co-workers until Lee retired.

"Those were the best of times, learning from my dad," said Doug, one of the newest Advisory Board members. "I would go back to those days anytime."

Now a parent to two young-adult sons himself, Doug has prioritized spending time with them. Whether it's been coaching select baseball teams for older son, Matt, or hydroplane racing with his younger son, David, he's bonded with both sons in ways that really matter.

Doug recently volunteered at the Kroc Center's Backpack Giveaway. He took the opportunity to teach by example and brought David along.

"David got right in there to help," said Doug. "My goal is to raise my sons to be good people who give more than they take."

In addition to being a hands-on volunteer for Army programs, Doug is involved in the Board's building committee.

"Doug lent his hands giving out turkeys, school supplies and shoes. He's also shared his time and expertise on a variety of property projects, which has been invaluable," said Business Administrator Tim Erlandson. "I appreciate Doug's enthusiasm to help make a difference."



*Doug Kash*



## In Memoriam

Longtime Dayton Salvation Army Advisory Board member, Paul W. Heintz, passed away on April 16, 2022, at the age of 94.

A certified public accountant, he spent his career as the chief financial officer for PK Lumber. He was a passionate supporter of The Dayton Salvation Army and held every major office on the Advisory Board during his 36-year tenure.

Paul was always proud that the Board raised \$1 million in leadership gifts from among its members for the building of the Kroc Center.

"We saw it as such a wonderful opportunity to provide services that wouldn't otherwise be available in that neighborhood," he said. "It's been a wonderful addition."



# Fall Family Fun at the Kroc



## KROCTOBER *Family Treating Event*

### Kroctober

You're invited to join all the young princesses, superheroes, pirates and kittycats who'll come dressed for Halloween success in Kroctober's safe, family-friendly environment. Candy collecting, bouncy houses, games and group photos will keep the kids busy as parents store away precious memories of time shared with family.

Join us for this free event at the Kroc on **Saturday, October 29, from 1 – 3:30 p.m.** Costumes are optional.



### Backpack Giveaway

Some 725 youngsters started the new school year with a brand-new backpack and a fresh set of grade-appropriate school supplies, thanks to our Backpack Giveaway. Parents of larger families are especially grateful since back-to-school expenses add up quickly. And students like picking the backpack they'll be carrying through the school year.



## *Celebrate Christmas*

### Celebrate Christmas

Don't miss our traditional Kroc Center Christmas with all its holiday magic, goodies, gifts, music, lights and even a live nativity scene.

Mark your calendar for **Friday, December 2, from 6 – 8 p.m.**



### Back-to-School Bash

The Dayton Salvation Army traditionally brings comfort to souls. At this year's Back-to-School Bash, we brought comfort to soles, as well.

Our free summer event brought 1,400 people to the Kroc Center. It was all food, fun and games – with one major addition. The nonprofit, Shoes for the Shoeless, gave 375 pairs of new shoes and socks to the event, and volunteers helped to fit and distribute them to kids on a first come, first served basis.

In addition, 275 kids received bags of new school supplies.



## Mia: 'Nothing is Impossible'

Armed with her hard-earned self-confidence, award-winning dancing talents and 100-megawatt smile, Mia McAtee recently embarked on her college career at the University of Cincinnati. The

Stivers School for the Arts graduate is studying communications and hopes for a future that includes professional dance.

Mia's destiny was anything but guaranteed when she became a Kroc Center regular at age six. Like many Dayton area families, hers struggled to make ends meet, let alone provide the "extras." But Salvation Army programs and opportunities expanded her world.

**"As soon as I got to the Kroc Center, I got to have hope,"** Mia said.

Thanks to donor-funded scholarships, Mia experienced the joys of Camp SWONEKY. When staff recognized her gifts for the performing arts, they helped her develop them and sponsored her in the Army's talent competitions. She learned to work with kids as a Camp Kroc counselor. As she applied for college, staff encouraged her to aim high.

"Being here helped me face my fears," she said. "I learned that nothing is impossible."



## 'Tomorrows' Begin Today with Your Legacy of Hope

Mia's "today" started 12 years ago, when her potential was recognized, nurtured and allowed to shine at the Kroc Center. And her "tomorrow" is full of possibilities yet to be realized.

Elsewhere at the Kroc Center, today may bring a single mom relief from the crippling stress of unpaid heat and light bills or motivate a student who masters a difficult math concept thanks to a homework helper. Their tomorrows may be full of possibilities.

The Dayton Salvation Army's goal is to utilize the Hometown Endowment to provide programming, services and facilities that inspire hope and breakthroughs to brighter futures.

Because human needs never end, we rely on the generosity of donors to continue building our endowment to ensure resources for the long term.

**Won't you help?**

# You Can Leave a Legacy of Hope!

### Why an Endowment?

When you create an endowment, you establish a permanent fund that supplies resources in perpetuity for what matters most to you. You may direct it to a specific need, or make an unrestricted gift.

Virtually any asset can be used to start an endowment, including cash, real estate, stocks, mutual funds or IRAs, life insurance policies and many others.

We invite you or your financial advisor to call Tim Erlandson, Business Administrator, at 937-528-5205, or send in this form to learn more.



The Salvation Army  
1000 N. Keowee St.  
Dayton OH 45404

Yes, I would like to learn more about the Hometown Endowment.

☐ Please contact me by phone.  
My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please contact me by email.  
My email address is \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_