

The Kroc Center Report



Volume 18, Issue 36, Spring 2023



(L-R): Bryce Handy-Stevenson, Ingrid Handy and Cade Handy-Stevenson



Ingrid Handy, Cade Handy-Stevenson and grandmother Marilyn Handy at Cade's Asbury University graduation.

All in the Family

When extended families get together, shared traits tend to come into focus. Thanks to threads of DNA code, features like curly hair, a knack for math or a weakness for coconut pie have a way of showing up from one generation to the next.

A perfect example is the Handy's, a family with three generations of talented singers and musicians, including 22-year-old Cade. When, at age nine, he first came to The Salvation Army for worship, his gift for music was hard to miss. Our Salvation Army family came alongside the hard-working Cade to nurture his natural abilities.

"The Salvation Army pushed him to get better, to see the 'big picture,'" said Cade's mom, Ingrid, herself a praise team singer, Junior Soldier Sergeant and women's small group leader.

Cade went on to win several Salvation Army talent competitions. He attended Stivers School for the Arts, earned a music degree from Asbury University and plans to pursue a master's degree. His career goal is to write music.

Just like Cade's musical talents, The Salvation Army's mission to meet human needs is embedded in our DNA. When our community needs us to provide food assistance, character-building summer camps, inclusive sports teams, disaster relief, family-friendly events, school-supply giveaways, senior-adult fellowship and more, it's in our nature to respond just as generations of Salvation Army leaders did before us: always offering a helping hand – along with love, compassion and hope.

A Star Search performance: (L-R) Eric Hawkins, Rayya Brooks, Cade Handy-Stevenson and Melyndee Mingo.





Message from the Majors Reflections

*Do you sometimes feel that no one truly knows you,
And that no one understands or really cares?
Through His people, God Himself is close beside you,
And through them He plans to answer all your prayers.*

This song, "Someone Cares," was written by Generals John Gowans and John Larson. I first heard it at The Salvation Army Cambridge, Massachusetts. It was a growing time for me. I was attending the corps (church) out of obligation to my parents. One Sunday, my good friend, Barbara, was asked to sing a solo and said, "I'm singing this song for my friend." She looked at me and began to sing, "Do you sometimes feel that no one truly knows you..." That and many prayers offered by friends and family turned my heart to our Savior.

Throughout our officership, my wife and I have seen and have been "...His people, God Himself is close beside you, and through them He... answers all your prayers."

As retirement approaches, we have been reflecting on our appointments over the years. For Gayle, her first and last appointments as a Salvation Army officer have been Dayton, Ohio. There is something special about beginning and ending in the same city. Things were quite different in 1980 for The Salvation Army, then at 138 S. Wilkinson St. and now at 1000 N. Keowee St. The mission, however, has never changed: "...to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs without discrimination."

In our ministry, we served in six very different communities, traveling from Ohio to Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

In March 2016, Major Gayle and I had the privilege of visiting the Dayton Kroc Center. The event featured Dr. Reggie McNeal, who spoke of creating third spaces at Kroc Centers across the country. He explained that the first space is our homes; the second space is our place of work; and third spaces used to be community parks, barbershops, hair salons and churches. The third space is where people gather, feel valued, safe and able to share life together with others outside of their families. These spaces have been disappearing in recent times. They are spaces people want in their



Majors Stanley and Gayle Senak

lives. The Kroc Center can be that space.

We hadn't known we would be appointed to the Dayton Kroc Center in June 2016. It seems like only yesterday we arrived on this beautiful campus, with its great programs and excellent staff who have embraced the mission of The Salvation Army. Even in the most challenging times, their service has not wavered. All hands have been on deck through every challenge to meet the needs of people without discrimination.

The chorus for "Someone Cares" goes like this:

*Someone cares, someone cares,
Someone knows your deepest need, your
burden shares;
Someone cares,
someone cares,
someone cares,
God Himself will hear the
whisper of
your prayers.*



The Kroc: Bringing Families Together

Nothing outperforms "family" – whether the one we're born into or one we create for ourselves – as the source of belonging, learning, love and the strength to prevail in challenging times. The Salvation Army creates opportunities for generations of families to pray, play and stay together.

Making Space for Families

Many families crave togetherness and time away from electronic distractions. To fill that need, we host events such as Celebrate



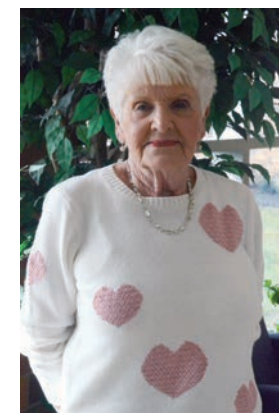
Christmas, the July 4th Block Party, the Back-to-School Bash and Kroctober. Every year, they bring thousands of people to the Kroc Center's safe environment to play, dance, eat and hang out with family

and friends. For those who are new to the Kroc, big events are an introduction to our facilities and programs.



Lending a Helping Hand

After fire demolished two side-by-side houses in Old North Dayton last fall, the owners, a multigenerational family of 16, were left with nothing. Corps leaders quickly responded with food boxes, gift cards and family store vouchers. Our Adopt-a-Family heroes at the University of Dayton generously added the two households to the three they had already committed to, and it took two trips to deliver all the Christmas presents to the families.



Wanda Lacy

Loving Every Generation

The Kroc Center is perfect for active seniors like Wanda Lacy, 86-years-young and a tireless ballroom dancer. She and about 60 others are regulars at the Prime Time for Seniors and Golden Hour programs, where she enjoys the varied programming, her circle of friends, occasional dancing and, most of all, the Kroc staff.

"They have a gift for making you feel very special," she said.

Helping Youngsters Succeed

Sharon Hawkins saw The Salvation Army's positive influence on her twin sons begin soon after they enrolled in the Kroc Center's after-school program at age 10. As teens, Eric and Sean, now 23 years old, "lived and breathed the Kroc Center," refusing to miss Corps music programs, choir, teen nights, Camp SWONEKY – and their many friends.

"They were young Black males whose lives could have gone in a very different direction," said Sharon. "It was a good opportunity to step out of their environment and into something much better."

*Eric Hawkins
(foreground) and Cade
Handy-Stevenson
perform at Star Search.*



A Mission That Stands the Test of Time

Meeting Human Needs:
The Work Continues



When Major Gayle Senak began her career with the Dayton Corps, the facilities at 138 S. Wilkinson St. were modest, but the ministry was not. With only six staff members, they fed the hungry, visited the elderly, organized youth sports, hosted teen

nights and coordinated the Red Kettle program. Time has brought changes. Thanks to the Kroc Center’s staffing, facilities and donor base, the opportunities to serve have grown, and our responses have evolved.



Emergency Support - Provides assistance with utility bills and vouchers for furniture and basic needs.

- The Gift of Power program helped 465 households pay utility bills in 2022, providing nearly \$142,000 in assistance.

“I am so grateful for the mercy and generosity The Salvation Army has shown us. I hope to one day pay it forward.” – *Single mom and emergency assistance recipient*

Feeding the Hungry – In addition to Christmas Assistance, we deliver nutritious Mobile Canteen meals twice monthly to three neighborhoods.

- Volunteers served 2,756 Mobile Canteen meals in 2022.

“One highlight I remember is giving out frozen family

meals on top of the hot meals. That caused a lot of excitement for those families that Friday night.” – *Jim Fry, Mobile Canteen volunteer*



Education – Supplement school and home resources to help students succeed in school.

- Strong Kids, Smart Kids after-school program supports 86 kids with homework help and a healthy after-school snack.

- Backpack Giveaway distributed 725 new backpacks full of school supplies to needy families.

- Clothing closets stocked with new items at three elementary schools.

“Thank you! There’s no way I could have afforded all of this.” – *Backpack Giveaway parent*

Partnerships – Work with other nonprofits to provide needed items and services.

- Shoes for the Shoeless provided 375 pairs of new shoes for kids.

- Gem City Diaper Bank uses the Kroc to distribute free diapers to low-income families.

- Angel Tree and Adopt-a-Family channel the generosity of local businesses and groups to provide Christmas gifts for needy families.

- Miami Valley Meals and Feed the Children programs provide food and other assistance for families in need.

- Dayton Public Schools and Army provide opportunities allowing all students to take part in basketball, soccer and cheerleading at no cost. Partners split the participation fee.

“The Kroc Center provides a safe, positive and welcoming environment

for the Gem City Diaper Bank staff and clients.” – *Rosemary Roberts, Gem City Diaper Bank*



The naysayers were vocal skeptics of The Salvation Army’s campaign to establish a corps in Dayton in 1884. They mocked the officers’ military bearing, the street marches with jangling tambourines and prayer meetings held in saloons.

Half a century later, however, the *Dayton Daily News* wrote, “The Salvation Army prefers to go right on writing victories in the hearts of the human race; helping those who are hard put to help themselves; lifting the fallen; (and) feeding the hungry...”

In the 89 years since, a succession of leaders, each bringing unique gifts and experiences to their roles, has never lost sight of The Salvation Army mission.



Youth Sports – Give all kids the opportunity to compete on select or recreational teams, regardless of family income.

- Ten elite soccer teams with 140 players compete in the Miami Valley Youth Soccer Association league. Rec soccer teams involve 130 youngsters.
- Six Army basketball teams with 42 players compete in the Dayton Metro League.



“The program, from start to finish, was very well-organized.” – *Kroc Soccer Club parent*

Three Generations:
‘They Helped Me Raise My Family’

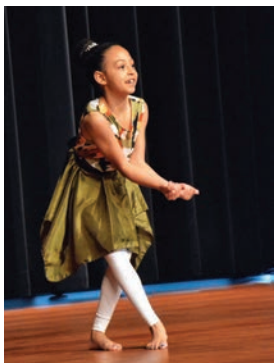
Karen Powell is beyond grateful for The Salvation Army’s role in the God-centered upbringing of her children, nieces, nephews and now grandchildren.

“They helped me raise my family,” said Karen, a Dayton Corps praise team singer and Kroc Center volunteer. “It really does take a village.”

Her older children were six years old when they discovered Salvation Army programs at the Wilkinson Street location. They became campers, and



Karen Powell



Jayleah Powell at Star Search

then workers and counselors, at Camp SWONEKY. They so looked forward to drama and dance classes, after-school programs and teen nights, Karen was able to use the activities as incentives.

“If they didn’t get their chores done, they couldn’t go,” she said. “The only exception was church.”

With Army staff encouragement, some of the children developed their talent for dance and went on to win Star Search competitions. Karen’s daughter, Kendra, found God as a camp counselor and later became a youth pastor.



Dance team members Corinne Duperree (left) and Kendra Young.



DeAngelo Powell at Star Search

Her son, DeAngelo, is a member of The Army’s territorial dance team and Kroc Center dance teacher. Granddaughter Jayleah is following in their footsteps.

“I feel so blessed when I see my children,” she said. “Without The Salvation Army, we wouldn’t be where we are now.”

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Meet Our Advisory Board Kevin Washington

Although he's one of the newest members of The Dayton Salvation Army Advisory Board, Kevin Washington is not new to serving people in need. The vice president of APG Office Furnishings' Dayton Office, and an ordained minister, he has made service a priority throughout his life.

For 16 years, that priority meant juggling his full-time day job, spending 25 hours weekly as prison chaplain for 350 inmates at the Dayton Correctional Institute and carving out family time with Karen, his wife of 26 years, and their three active children.

"I managed to not miss too many of their games, recitals and special events," he said. "My family understood my calling to serve the Lord.

"For me, it was a labor of love."

As a chaplain, Kevin taught a daily Bible study, held Sunday services and counseled hundreds of inmates. He also became close with staff, performing a marriage for one couple and a funeral service for another staffer.

"I was a father figure or big brother for some of the people there," said Kevin, who left the chaplain's position 12 years ago and still receives many cards for birthdays and Fathers' Day from the people he met at the prison.

As a Salvation Army Advisory Board member, Kevin believes in being hands-on and face-to-face with the individuals he's serving. He and Karen welcomed the chance to pass out backpacks at the Backpack Giveaway and fit kids with new shoes and socks at the Shoes for the Shoeless distribution held during the Back-to-School Bash.

"Kevin is a good man who cares deeply about this community," said Business Administrator Tim Erlandson. "I'm thankful for his involvement and the chance to work alongside him."



THANK YOU

Thanks to your generosity, the Red Kettle Campaign generated \$1,237,137 in donations this Christmas Season. Your donations fund our Christmas assistance and programs throughout the year.



Volunteers visited 39 nursing homes, and distributed 3,332 gifts.

Over 3,000 families received Christmas food assistance.

Aided 1,385 households with direct assistance, issuing over \$280,000.

106,389 individuals participated in 3,368 character-building and recreational programs.



and much, much more...

God Bless You



What Kids Love about Camp: Friends, Food and Faith

Salvation Army campers fill their days with awesomeness – from archery and ziplining to outdoor science and boating.

Even though thrills are great, when kids tell us what they like most about our camps, they often say friends, food and faith.

"I'm thankful for the friends I've made at camp," wrote one Kroc camper.

"I'm thankful because we can get good food – like pizza!" wrote another.

"The evening programs where we learned about Jesus were awesome," said SWONEKY camper Beverly Chamberlain.

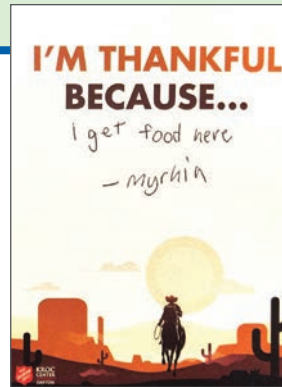
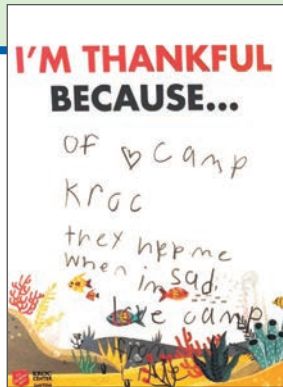
Camp's lifelong impact

Camp SWONEKY alumni celebrate its lifelong influence.

"Many lifelong friends made during those years at Camp SWONEKY made a profound impact on my life," said Major Gayle Senak, a former camper, camp worker and counselor.

For Corinne Duperree, Support Services and Corps Ministries manager, the love she felt as a SWONEKY camper is like no other.

"It's a love that transforms you," she said.



More kids need that kind of love

Sending their children to the safe, loving space of a Salvation Army camp is a dream for many Dayton-area parents. But for families struggling to pay rent and buy food, that dream is out of reach.

The need has never been greater

In past years, generous donors like you have provided hundreds of local kids with camp scholarships. Without scholarships, those youngsters would have missed out on all the camp experiences – and the love.

Please, won't you help send a child to camp?

We're relying on you once again to help us send our community's needy children to a Salvation Army camp – where friends, food, faith and love are abundant, and the fond memories last a lifetime.

To make a tax-deductible donation, please make your check to The Salvation Army and mail it to

The Salvation Army

1000 N. Keowee St., Dayton OH 45404-1520

If you have questions, please contact Tim Erlandson, Business Administrator, at 937-528-5205.



With pleasure, I accept the invitation to help send a youngster to day camp!



A Ministry of The Salvation Army

- ☐ \$800 or more to send two children to Camp SWONEKY for a week
- ☐ \$400 to send one child to Camp SWONEKY for a week
- ☐ \$200 to send one child to our day camp program for a week
- ☐ Other

**Please make all checks out to The Salvation Army Kroc Center and mail to:
The Salvation Army, 1000 N. Keowee St., Dayton OH 45404-1520.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____