

The Kroc Center Report



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Thanks to You...

In this newsletter, we often share stories of the lives you've helped to transform through your support of Salvation Army programs. Perhaps you remember some of these:

Mia McAtee, a shining star at the Kroc from age six, displayed talents for dance and music – and a magnetic personality – that blossomed before our eyes. Thanks to you, Mia's camp experiences and Army talent competitions gave her the self-confidence to pursue a degree at the University of Cincinnati.

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

Eric and Sean Hawkins, now 23, first entered the Kroc Center's after-school program as 10-year olds and immersed themselves in choir, teen nights, Camp SWONEKY – and their friends.

"They were young Black males whose lives could have gone in a very different direction," said their mother, Sharon.

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

Mia McAtee

In 2019, Johnny held on tight to his two children as a tornado sheared off the walls of his corner apartment. Thanks to you, we could help them find temporary housing while also providing vital assistance and thousands of meals to tornado victims.

Right now, your support of Kroc sports teams is giving hundreds of youngsters the chance to learn skills, teamwork and discipline.

But for every Mia, Eric, Sean and Johnny, there are hundreds more who just need a hand up. And so, we ask, "What if we could do even more?"

Your compassion and generosity have shown us that, together, through God's grace, we can.

With your gift or legacy commitment to our Hometown Endowment, you will provide life-changing opportunities today and secure them for years to come. On page 8, you can learn how by making The Salvation Army a part of your estate plan.

Thank you for all you've done to bring so much help, hope and love to our neighbors in need.

Message from the Majors

Jesus, in explaining the posture we are to have as ministers of His Name, said these words: "...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28 (NIV).

Jesus' Jewish disciples referred to Him as "Rabbi" (teacher). They left family, friends and livelihoods behind to learn from Him and apprentice under His teaching. To be a Rabbi is to serve in an esteemed position. Yet, what did the disciples think of their Rabbi who engaged with sinners, touched the unclean, conversed with the despised, confronted religious leaders and washed the feet of His apprentices (disciples)? Whatever beliefs they had of Him at the beginning, those beliefs would be proven wholly inadequate or downright wrong after spending time observing their teacher.

As we submit ourselves to Jesus as our Rabbi, what beliefs or expectations do we carry into our relationship with Him? What do we believe we are owed? How do we expect Him to bless us? Do we give to get? Or do we serve out of humbleness of heart and gratitude for such a great love and marvelous salvation?

There is a chorus in The Salvation Army Songbook that says,

"To be like Jesus!

*This hope possesses me,
In every thought and deed,
This is my aim, my creed;*

To be like Jesus!

*This hope possesses me,
His spirit helping me,
Like Him I'll be."*

May we live, love, give and serve as ambassadors for Christ; representing well the example He gave us.



Majors Paul and Martina Cornell
Kroc Administrators

Welcome to Our New Administrators

The Kroc Center welcomes Majors Paul and Martina Cornell, who were appointed to the Dayton Kroc after assignments at The Salvation Army Training College in New York. Major Paul grew up in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and Major Martina, in Puerto Rico.



Backpack Giveaway

Your donations to The Dayton Salvation Army have again supported kids' success in the classroom by providing the tools of learning. Thanks to the Kroc Center's Backpack Giveaway, 919 Dayton youngsters selected brand new backpacks stuffed full of grade-appropriate school supplies, and an additional 431 bags of school supplies were distributed at the Back-to-School Bash. "Oh, I could never afford all this," said one parent when she saw her children's collection of school supplies.



Back-to-School Bash

Kids of all ages and their families had a blast kicking off a new school year at the Back-to-School Bash. Where else would they find epic attractions that include treats from the Ice Cream Trolley, bouncy houses for jumping, Kroc Pond for splashing, a balloon artist for entertaining, new books for a home library and a chance to reconnect with school friends after a summer apart?

Sunshine and Summer Vibes



Camp Kroc

Another season, another collection of five-star reviews for Camp Kroc. Campers raved about the swimming, zoo visits and inflatable bouncing, not to mention delicious meals and awesome counselors.

We can't thank you enough for providing camp scholarships for so many kids from Dayton's needy families. Thanks to you, they stayed active, learning, playing and praying" in the safe, loving environment of the Kroc Center.



Read and Feed

Imagine the buzz created around Stuart Patterson Park when eight firefighters showed up for the Kroc Center's Read and Feed program. The kids were excited to hear them read books, eat a nutritious lunch and check out a fire engine, up close.

Neighborhood kids came to the park every summer Monday for a meal, a book read by a guest reader and a brand new book to take home. Sometimes, they even got to meet their heroes.



July 3rd Celebration

July 4th at the Kroc has grown into a full-blown, star-spangled event. Some 900 like-minded area residents looking for a safe, secure, family-friendly good time came together at the Kroc for music, dancing, free food, fellowship and, of course, fireworks.



Camp SWONEKY

Of all the Camp SWONEKY experiences young camper Celestin might have anticipated, escaping the attention of a curious goat was certainly not among them. Yet it became his favorite story to tell after a week at camp.

For urban kids, Camp SWONEKY reveals a new world where they get to try boating, archery, horseback riding, farm animals, ziplining, rope climbing and singing around the campfire.

Because of your generous gifts, Celestin and 64 more kids from needy Dayton families received Camp SWONEKY scholarships – and made the memories of a lifetime.

"It is an unbelievable gift for these kids to be able to go to camp," said Gary Laughlin, a volunteer who works with dozens of immigrant kids as soccer players and arranged for many to attend Camp SWONEKY. "It was unquestionably an answer to prayer."

Together, We've Done So Much. What If We Could Do More?

Your generosity – and your faith in The Salvation Army – are transforming lives in our community. Thanks to you, children in need are receiving nutritious meals, developing talents and life skills, interacting with positive role models, gaining self-confidence and discovering their God-given potential. Vulnerable adults are receiving the physical, emotional and spiritual support that brings stability to their lives.

But knowing the hardships our neighbors continue to face, you might be like us and ask, “What if we could do more?”

Now imagine the impact you could have by deepening your commitment to The Salvation Army. A contribution or legacy gift to the Hometown Endowment will secure the future of the life-changing programs – like the ones on these pages – that you’ve made possible in the past.

Kroc Sports: The Kids are Rocking It

Kids who play sports enjoy better physical, emotional and mental health. They’re more fit and doing better in school.

Thanks to you and overwhelming volunteer support, hundreds of kids in need are getting the chance to play. And they’re rocking it.

Dayton Kroc Soccer Club

One year ago, we introduced volunteers Chris Eifert and Vipal Patel, who spearheaded an effort to provide affordable elite soccer for kids from Dayton’s urban core. It was a major challenge, considering the sport can cost each player up to \$1,000 or more.

Chris and Vipal’s fundraising efforts generated sponsorships and donations that now provide scholarships to some 40% of our soccer players and keep individual costs low for all participants.

What a joy it’s been to unleash the talents of so many youngsters. With exceptional volunteer coaching, some of our teams finished last season undefeated, and some moved up to the highest divisions in their age groups.

This fall, 134 elite players, ages seven to 13, are playing on six boys’ and four girls’ teams.

And the parents? They’re delighted, reporting that their kids are doing better in school, display a better attitude and have greatly improved skills.



Pam and Gary Laughlin and friends.

A Big Job Calls for Big Hearts

A labor of love has blossomed out of a huge need in the Kroc soccer program.

Sports teams rely on players getting to practices and games on time and ready to play. But for many urban kids on Kroc soccer teams, especially those whose parents work second shift, transportation has been unavailable.

Volunteers Gary and Pam Laughlin are providing solutions. On any given Saturday and some weekdays in soccer season, the two ferry children from more than a dozen African families to games and practices at various locations.

With two grown sons living out-of-town, the couple first got involved several years ago through a church ministry working with immigrants. When they heard about the Kroc program’s transportation needs, they didn’t hesitate. While Gary transports Kroc kids, Pam drives the FC Dayton players and also organizes the overall transportation schedule.

“We have no idleness in our lives,” said Gary, a former teacher and now city of Dayton surveyor. “God puts energy in my step.”





Kroc Kids Rec Soccer

Rec soccer is perfect for kids who want to play for fun, without the pressure of elite competition. Its focus is on basic skills.

This fall's rec program has 166 players, ages 2-13, playing on 18 teams. Some of last year's players moved up to one of the elite teams.



Sports for Dayton Students

The Kroc Center has partnered with Dayton Public Schools to provide children in grades K-6 the opportunity to participate for free in the Kroc Center's sports and cheerleading programs. The Salvation Army gives every DPS student a scholarship that pays 50% of program fees, and DPS covers the rest.



Flag Football

Kroc Kids flag football was introduced last year. A program of the National Football League, flag football is a no-contact recreational program that focuses on catching, throwing, formations, routes and defense.



Basketball

Army basketball has earned a reputation for high-quality basketball and talent development. Last year, 42 youngsters played on six Army teams in the Dayton Metro League.

Meeting Needs, Giving Hope Mobile Canteen

In addition to the Christmas Assistance food program, the Kroc Center sends the Mobile Canteen to deliver meals twice monthly in three neighborhoods where the need is great. Nearly 3,000 meals were served last year.



One grandmother learned about the Back-to-School Bash at the canteen. She was beyond grateful to learn about Kroc Center programs that offer so much to her family.

Support Services

Facing escalating utility costs and threats of disconnection, many more families are turning to The Salvation Army for help to pay their bills. Through the Gift of Power program, we've paid nearly \$240,000 for utility bills in 786 households so far this year – 300 more households than in all of 2022.

The stories are heartbreaking. Imagine being a single father of three, a school teacher, facing the choice of paying the overdue water bill or electric bill. He asked us for help to keep the water running so his kids could shower and brush their teeth. He was later overjoyed when Support Services helped him pay both bills.

About the Hometown Endowment, an Estate-Planning Option

What is the Hometown Endowment?

The Hometown Endowment is a donation tool being implemented for all local Salvation Army units. It allows donors to make a significant and self-perpetuating contribution to their local Salvation Army through an immediate donation or estate planning. Various assets can be committed. Money given to this endowment is invested and grows with interest, in perpetuity.

How will the Hometown Endowment improve the lives of people in the Dayton community?

Needs fluctuate, but they will always exist. Improving the lives of people who struggle takes resources. The Hometown Endowment ensures donors their gifts stay right here in Dayton to help people in need.

How can the funds be used?

Hometown Endowment funds may be used for new programs, special projects and annual budgets, but only in the location in which they were contributed. Units may draw up to 5% from the endowment annually.

How is it different from donors' other contributions?

Both types of donations are available to meet the same community needs. While ongoing, special campaigns and annual contributions are the lifeblood of Salvation Army programs and services, the Hometown Endowment is designed for special, significant donations and estate planning purposes.

Why should I consider contributing to the endowment?

A strong Hometown Endowment provides long-term stability and sustainability, ensuring that donors can help to address community needs as they grow and change into the future.



Dayton Salvation Army Advisory Board

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Dayton Kroc Center Administrators

Captain Wonni and Lieutenant
Shawn Williams, *Kroc Officers for
Congregational Life*

Tim Erlandson,
Business Administrator

Meet Our Advisory Board

Steve Budde

Even an organization with a solid reputation for good stewardship never stops trying to improve. In fact, this mindset is a sign of sound management.

In this quest to improve, the advantage goes to organizations with smart, savvy advisors – like The Dayton Salvation Army Advisory Board. One of its newest members is an excellent example.

Steve Budde, a chemical engineer for General Motors Inland Division for 20 years before launching his own manufacturing company and then going on to teach seminars on manufacturing efficiency at the University of Dayton, is analytical, practical and compassionate in equal measures.

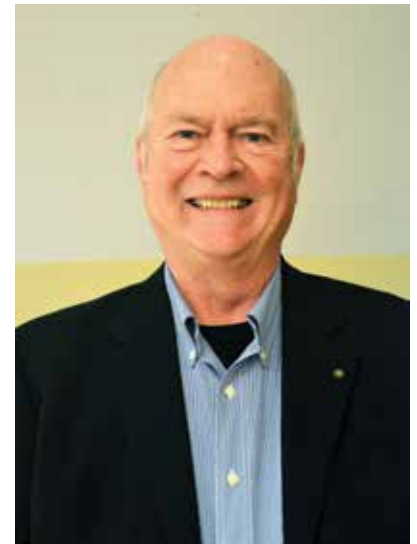
“It’s a way of thinking,” said Steve, a Black Belt in the practice of Lean Six Sigma. “When you see how something is being done, you channel your inner five-year old and just keep asking, ‘Why?’”

Recognizing his skill set, the Dayton Corps tapped Steve to assist with the development of a new strategic plan.

“I’m appreciative of Steve’s immediate involvement and looking forward to his help and guidance for many years to come,” said Business Administrator Tim Erlandson.

Although he’s officially retired, Steve is a go-getter with a big heart. A native Daytonian, he freely shares his expertise on a volunteer basis with several charitable organizations.

“I help nonprofits in the areas where they have skills gaps,” said the husband of 50 years and father of three grown children. “I have fun working with nonprofits and giving back to society.”



In Memoriam

Longtime Dayton Salvation Army Advisory Board member, Richard Smythe, passed away on June 4, 2023, at the age of 88.

Dick was an electrical contractor and co-owner/co-founder of Buckeye Electric. A Salvation Army board member since 1986, he was a driving force behind the Red Kettle Club and a supporter of all Salvation Army projects. Dick was also a diehard Ohio State Buckeyes fan who enjoyed playing golf and deep-sea fishing.

“I’m grateful for Dick’s dedication and support in helping meet the many needs within the community over these past four decades,” said Business Administrator Tim Erlandson.



Let's Spread Holiday Happiness



KroctoBER

Families looking for a Halloween event that's more spectacular than spooky need look no further than KroctoBER.

They can look forward to lots of games, bouncy houses, a photo booth and more treats than tricks. About 725 people attended last year.

Join us for this free event on Saturday, October 28, from 1 – 3:30 p.m. Costumes are optional.



Red Kettle Bell Ringers

Everyday philanthropists look forward to seeing – and hearing – Dayton's Red Kettle Bell ringers and dropping in a contribution to help someone in need. Last year's fundraising efforts generated \$1.2 million for our local programs.

We could use your help this year. Volunteers are needed from Friday, Nov. 24 to Saturday, Dec. 23. Please contact Lt. Shawn Williams at 937-528-5139 or shawn.williams@use.salvationarmy.org.



Christmas Food Assistance

Every household deserves to celebrate Christmas with a traditional meal and all the fixings. Providing those meals is one of The Salvation Army's oldest and most beloved traditions. Last year, we fed some 3,100 local families.

Please consider helping us with application intake on

Nov. 6 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 - 7 p.m., or

Nov. 7 & 8 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Volunteer training takes place one hour before the intake sessions begin.

Please contact Tim Erlandson at Tim.Erlandson@use.salvationarmy.org to volunteer.



Celebrate Christmas

Join us for the sounds, sights and smells of Christmas at the Kroc Center's Celebrate Christmas. Meet Santa and Mrs. Claus while enjoying



cookies, crafts, family photos and a live nativity scene.

Let's kick off the Christmas season together, Friday, December 1, from 5:30 – 8 p.m.



Christmas for Seniors

You can spread Christmas joy among the area's seniors by volunteering to help with our Christmas for Seniors program. Last year, we packaged and dropped off 3,352 Christmas gifts to 39 area nursing home residents. You're invited to help us carry on this tradition.

Please contact Capt. Wonni Williams at 937-528-5100 or Wonni.in@use.salvationarmy.org for volunteer details.





When Jillian Grant first arrived at the Kroc Center as a seven-year-old camper, no one could have predicted that Camp Kroc would lead her to a career vision of helping children with mental health issues.

A camper for four more summers, Jillian says the counselors had the greatest influence, encouraging her to explore interests such as art, dance and athletics. She found the “religious aspects” also important.

“I developed a sense of curiosity,” she said. “They helped me grow with God and other kids at the same time.”

Now a 19-year-old sociology student at Sinclair College and Camp Kroc counselor this past summer, Jillian dreams of someday opening an insurance-eligible art therapy studio to help kids of all ages with mental health issues. Her concept includes using research from the studio to develop strategies that could help even more children.

“Working with these kids and looking into their lives, I know I’ve found my passion,” she said.

Camp Inspires Curiosity, Compassion – *and a Career*

Help Us Do More

Your generosity makes stories like Jillian’s possible. Camps and Salvation Army programs instill values and transform lives. **But what if we could do more?**

- **Increase scholarships to send more kids to Camp SWONEKY and Camp Kroc?**
- **Provide more after school homework help and nutritious food to support kids’ success?**
- **Offer more opportunities for teens to socialize in a positive environment?**
- **Feed more of our hungry neighbors through the Mobile Canteen?**
- **Get more kids and adults involved in sports and fitness programs?**
- **Provide more social opportunities for seniors to combat loneliness?**

Your donation to the Hometown Endowment ensures your legacy of hope and compassion will serve people in need, now and in the future. And you can be assured that every dollar will stay right here in Dayton.

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. You can even set up an annuity for a surviving loved one to ensure they are provided for.

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

We invite you or your financial advisor to learn more by contacting Tim Erlandson, Business Administrator, at 937-528-5205 or **Tim.Erlandson@use.salvationarmy.org**. Or send this form to 1000 N. Keowee St., Dayton, OH 45404.



Please Help Us Do More!

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 _____