

Poplar Word

January 2024

Newsletter for the Women's Auxiliary
of The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte

Happy New Year 2024!

I was so grateful to see so many of our members participating by working at the Christmas Center, Angel Tree locations, and ringing bells to spread good tidings everywhere! You truly are such a blessing to so many of those less fortunate. I had an opportunity to see how powerful the Salvation Army work truly is at the Christmas Center. The work with the clients brought me to tears in many cases as their gratitude and kind appreciation was shown. One man said, "It means everything to see people that care about you! Thank you for just being here and showing up." I was there after we finished giving out bags to families and were cleaning up. My grandson called to see if he could help. He was amazed at the dedication and hard work that goes into this event. It was such a humbling experience. Beth and Major Bethany are amazing and their dedication to this event is such an inspiration.

As we step into 2024, please think about recommitting yourself to help others once again this new year. We will be looking toward our fundraiser on April 11, 2024, at Quail Hollow. We have much work to do to raise \$100,000, which is our goal this year. We are hoping to help many, and this would go a long way in helping to accomplish this. Think of the opportunities our auxiliary extends to you, so that you may be a blessing to others.

At our January 16, 2024, meeting we are honored to have Deronda Metz from COH speaking with us. This is truly a treat as she is retiring in January. She is someone that you will want to meet. You won't want to miss this month.

Remember, you can always bring a friend or neighbor to the meeting. Lunch is available for \$12. I look forward to our time together at our next meeting on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.

Gratefully,

Rosella Bergen
President, 2022 - 24



January Meeting

REMINDER: our next meeting will be next **Tuesday, January 16th at 11:30 am.** Please **RSVP** to Beth at 704-714-4720 or beth.butchino@uss.salvationarmy.org ASAP as we need the count by this **Friday, January 12th.**

The Auxiliary Board meeting will take place just prior to the General Meeting at 10:30 a.m. All Auxiliary officers and committee chairs, please plan to attend.

Scholarships

Fellow Lewis, a determined student and musician, graduated in December (a semester early!) with a degree in Criminal Justice from Jackson State University, Jackson Mississippi. For three years Fellow was a member of the nationally-recognized Sonic Boom of the South, JSU's band, playing the mellophone.

Though living 626 miles from Charlotte for the past four years, Fellow appreciates that his college education has provided him with valuable life lessons and "a boundless fulfillment of knowledge that could have been achieved in no other way." He has benefited from overcoming challenges such as "adaptation, time management, and consistency." This young man has learned much about himself while studying the justice system in this country, including that there are "many loopholes and discrepancies embedded within the foundations of our system of justice." Admirably, this college senior is focused on advocacy and what his future role should be. "Advocacy must become the forefront of the cognitive process of people, for their people, in any field of work or study in order to communally instill equal justice and opportunities."

With these altruistic goals, Fellow plans to attend law school at Howard University to become a criminal defense attorney. With appreciation for the SAWA scholarship, he acknowledges that the auxiliary's support has helped him to achieve his educational goals. However, his academic journey continues with his personal commitment to three years of law school. We are proud of your accomplishments, Fellow, and we applaud your important goals.

Diane Minsker

ARC Update

Thank you to everyone who helped in sorting jewelry and filling the treat bags for the fall and spring events. Major New sent her thanks to the ladies who helped trim a few Christmas trees and for Christmas gifts for the residents. They are thankful and happy. We will continue to sort jewelry on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

Becky Herring



January Birthdays

Please wish the following members a Happy Birthday and blessed day!

Judy Vinroot	Jan. 15
Nelle Rose Beverly	Jan. 23
Diane Minsker	Jan. 27



Member Spotlight

Brenda Rorie

It is hard to imagine what our SAWA would be like without our Brenda Rorie. She is a force for good, and her efforts have positively impacted more lives than we can possibly know.



Brenda grew up in Batesburg- Leesville, South Carolina. After attending the University of South Carolina, she married her first husband and had two sons. She later moved to Charlotte and became a realtor, which led her into the construction business and to meeting her beloved Jim.

They married and became partners in a thriving custom home building business. Jim was not only her life and business partner, but also an avid supporter of Brenda's many altruistic endeavors. One example is the cabinets he built for the teen room at the Center of Hope. Jim's death in 2021 has been difficult for Brenda, but their combined families have given her five children, ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. In a deserving tribute, Brenda has endowed a SAWA scholarship to honor Jim.

In addition to all the fundraising Brenda does for us, she has been an active member of Providence Presbyterian Church for forty years and serves on the property committee. She has been a long-time member of Charlotte's Charity League. She is the President of the Ivy Hall Home Owners Association and regularly plays Bunko with her neighbors there. She says she loves to work in her yard, so she recently joined Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens.

Brenda joined our SAWA in 2014. She attended her first Festival of Tables, and as she stated, "I looked around and thought, 'You aren't making enough money, and I know why.'" So, after only one year as a member, she took on the momentous and challenging role of chair of the Festival of Tables Committee. She went on to be our fearless and highly-effective leader and fund-raiser through the next several Festival of Tables events, the pandemic on-line auction, our yard sale, and last year's Fashion Show and Auction. She also serves as our Vice President too!

In reflecting on our SAWA, Brenda said, "I have such a heart for what we do. When you can serve the Lord while making friends, what more can you ask?"

Thank you, our Brenda Rorie!

Community Care Update

Our Birthday/Christmas party for the seniors at the Belmont Corps, Tuesday December 5th, was great fun. Our reindeer craft project was an idea provided by Gayle Somervell. Attendees were treated to a wonderful lunch of ham, mac and cheese, green bean casserole, a delicious cranberry dish, and rolls, along with their choice of drinks.

Each birthday celebrant received a gift bag of donated items from the SAWA members. Each participant received a Christmas gift bag and homemade goodies to take home. Many also received door prizes.

Helping with the festivities and to spread Christmas cheer were Diane Thomas, Gayle Somervell, Dana Vaden, Marilyn Withrow, Terry Pope, Melanie Mason, Kim Franchesci, Sandra Wilson, Suzanne Duncan, and Susan Harmon. Tina Fort and Diane Minsker were unable to attend but helped with food preparation.

Our next birthday party is March 5th, please join us.

Kay Major



Social Services Update

What a wonderful 2023 for the Center of Hope and Booth Commons.

The Auxiliary was able to provide needed blankets for the residents and growing population of those requesting immediate shelter at the Center of Hope. The totes we provided make life a little more manageable and secure for the residents. We brought additional food items to those making the first step with apartment style rooms with a kitchen. The ladies have donated towels and home supplies but one of the biggest hits I have been told were the knitted toboggans.

We have had great participation for Center of Hope lunch service with five ladies for each lunch. If you haven't already signed up for the remainder of the year, please see the sign up book at the meeting. Looking forward to the meeting next week.

Suzanne Duncan and Betty Thalinger