

The Kroc Center Report

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Kroc Park: A New Vision of Empowerment



If walls could talk, we might learn a lot about Dayton's history from Duncarrick Mansion. The birthplace and lifelong home of social elite and political activist, Katharine Kennedy Brown, the house likely saw gatherings of prominent local figures – people with names such as Patterson, Winters and Wright.

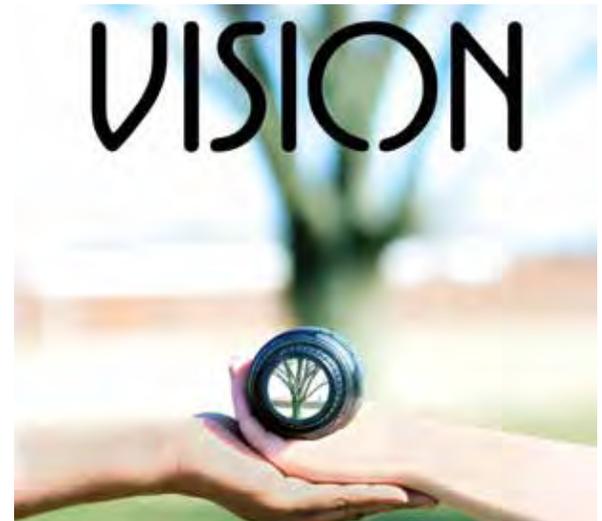
Neglected for 25 years after Katharine's passing in 1986, however, Duncarrick was transformed by the Dayton Salvation Army as the Kroc Center's administrative office. Most recently, an Ohio historical marker was installed to remind us of Katharine's life of activism to empower others.

Now, we're building on that history

Just across the street from our current campus, we are creating the new Kroc Park. It will feature a soccer field, grassy "flex" field, walking trails, pickleball courts, concession stand and restroom building and modified bandshell.

"We're expanding our vision of how we serve the community. These facilities will bring people together as neighbors and empower them to take charge of their fitness and health," said Business Administrator Tim Erlandson.

"We envision the entire Kroc campus as a holistic approach to serving the needs of our community for years to come."



A Message from the Majors

Growing up in my neighborhood, there was one porch you wanted to visit if you were a little thirsty or hungry. It was Mrs. Portman's house. She always seemed to have a pitcher of Kool Aid and cookies for the children. We could gather and enjoy each other's company and conversation with Mrs. Portman.



Majors Stanley and Gayle Senak

She was everyone's auntie. We felt safe.

In his book, *Celebrating the Third Place*, author Ray Oldenburg identifies "third places" as the public places on neutral ground where people can gather and interact. This is different from the home (first places) and work (second places). At a "third place," people put aside concerns and enjoy company and conversation – much like Mrs. Portman's porch.

Our vision for Kroc Park is to bring community and cultures together, creating a "third place" for neighborhood gatherings, such as carnivals, outdoor theater, concerts and special events.

In New England, where I grew up, nearly every town had a "common," essentially the yard outside the public meeting house. We envision Kroc Park in much this way: as a common space – a "third place" – for people of all races, cultures and ethnicities to come and spend time in the company of others.

Forbes Magazine calls on 21st Century leaders to "have the ability to make the most out of every situation." This includes seeing the potential in people and also in property.

We've embraced Forbes' challenge. We see the potential of Kroc Park to be a safe, fun place to gather – just like Mrs. Portman's porch or a New England town commons. In 2019, it will emerge as a reality right here in the Greater Old North Dayton Neighborhood.

Give the Gift of Time

This Christmas season, why not set aside some time to help the Dayton Salvation Army do God's work in the community? Here are three holiday programs that need the helping hands and open hearts of volunteers:

Christmas Food Assistance – Last year we fed 4,400 families and expect similar numbers this year. We need capable, compassionate volunteers to help with applications:

Monday, Nov. 5, from 5 – 7 p.m., and Tuesday, Nov. 6 through Friday, Nov. 9, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Training is provided each day of application intake, one hour before start time. Please call 937-528-5207 for more information.

Red Kettle Bell Ringers – As a Red Kettle Bell Ringer, you make it easy for thousands of generous individuals to support our programs. Join us from Friday, Nov. 23 to Monday, Dec. 24. Please call 937-528-5139 or email bryane.bender@use.salvationarmy.org.

Christmas for Seniors – Help us bring gifts and holiday cheer to the residents of the area's 42 nursing homes between Sunday, Dec. 2 and Sunday, Dec. 23. We need 150 volunteers. We provide the gifts and scheduling. Training will take place Nov. 28 at 6 p.m. Please call 937-528-5125 with questions.



Back-to-School Bash: 'The People Were So Caring'

For Lauren Slye and her kids, this year's Back-to-School Bash at the Kroc Center was a can't-miss event.

"My kids had a blast last year, and they wanted to return for the festivities," said Lauren, a mother of six children, three biological and three adopted. "At other places, it would just be a giveaway with a long line, but the Army makes it fun. It's a party. And the food was awesome."

This popular program relieves parents and teachers of the financial burden of buying the tools that students need to succeed. This year, 375 youngsters chose their backpacks and school supplies, and a total of 521 people participated.

"School supplies are so expensive, and the backpacks are the priciest," said Lauren. "Thanks to the Army, all we have to buy this year is a box of tissues."



A family event with games, activities and food, the Back-to-School Bash was reorganized this year. Families visited different stations to select supplies rather than picking up stuffed backpacks. This provided more opportunities for Kroc Center staff to interact directly with the families.

"The people were so caring," said Lauren. "They didn't just hand you your supplies. They made sure you were really taken care of."

You're Invited

Come Join Us...Celebrate Christmas

Our Celebrate Christmas event brings together the Dayton community for a family-friendly evening centered on the theme, the Polar Express. The evening will feature the lighting of a 25-foot tree, live nativity, caroling, photos with Santa, children's craft, holiday cookies and more.

When? Friday, November 30 from 6 – 8 p.m.

Where? Kroc Campus, 1000 N. Keowee St.

"Celebrate Christmas brings together Dayton-area families as 'family,'" said Major Gayle Senak. "It's a great reminder of the reason we celebrate Christmas: the coming of Jesus."

Lunch & Tour

Many members of the Dayton community have never experienced Kroc Center's wonderful programs and facilities. Groups that meet regularly are invited to come for a delicious lunch at the Kroc Café and a tour of the campus, including the historic Duncarrick

Mansion. Call 937-528-5100 for more information.

Pickleball Mania

If you haven't heard of pickleball, you haven't been paying attention. Part badminton, part tennis and part ping-pong, this new pastime is fun and fitness rolled into one.

With designated courts, the Kroc Center is a hub for all things pickleball. Nearly 16,000 players of all ages participated in open gyms last year. Also popular are ladder leagues, tournaments, clinics, and special events as well as monthly and drop-in lessons. Stop by and see if pickleball is for you.



Teaching Enhanced by High Tech

One of the many challenges reading teachers face is tracking students' progress and adjusting lessons to challenge but not frustrate them.

Now, technology is delivering the solution – and no one is happier than educators at the Kroc Center, where literacy is a priority.

i-Ready Literacy is an instructional program that continually assesses students' reading progress during lessons and personalizes new lessons as they go along. After piloting i-Ready Literacy last spring and summer, Kroc Center staff has enrolled 12 after-school students for reading and six more students in the similar iMath program.

All participating students are at least two grade levels behind in the subject. Students who invest one and one-half hours per week in iReady Literacy during the school year can advance their reading by one-half grade.

"I like i-Ready because it helps me get smart," said one enthusiastic second grader. "And we get to learn new stuff."



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Meet Our Advisory Board

Kathleen Carlson

After Kathleen Carlson came to the University of Dayton to study economics and finance in 1974, she was glad to have a reason to stay. The St. Louis native had not only met her husband, she'd also discovered her ideal city to call "home."

"I like the size of Dayton," she said. "It's big enough to find plenty to do and yet small enough to get involved and make a difference."

Despite the demands of family and work – she and three partners started and ran their own investment management business for 30 years – she always made time to volunteer. She served on a hospital board, worked on domestic violence issues and recently became a mentor to three high school seniors as they complete their assignments for graduation.

Kathleen has also served on the Dayton Salvation Army Advisory Board for the past four years. Her analytical skills have been tapped to help with the comprehensive mapping of the Army's programs.

"Kathleen has energetically engaged with our fundraising and evaluation of our programs to best serve the community," said Kroc Center Business Administrator Tim Erlandson. "She is a wonderful person who genuinely wants to see those in need being helped."

She also believes in the Army's approach of helping people help themselves.

"They're not interested in simply handing things out," she said. "That's not how you empower people."



*Advisory Board Member
Kathleen Carlson*



Summer Camps Expand Kids' Horizons

Day Camps: New Programs for Older Campers

This year's Kroc Center day camps saw more seventh- and eighth- and ninth-grade students than usual, and this gave the staff new opportunities to innovate.

While field trips, sports activities and tech time are favorites of all ages, Education Director Beth Zientko wanted to engage the older campers differently, even while continuing the Leaders in Training program launched last year.

Then her own son's questions about careers sparked an idea: the Kroc Career Exploration Fair. Thirteen professionals – covering careers from forensics, library science and healthcare to mechanical engineering, robotics and firefighting – spent an afternoon sharing what they do with older campers.

The response was outstanding.

"The fact that you put something like this together was absolutely AWESOME!" said Tiffany Dulin, a presenter from Montgomery County Juvenile Court's Intervention Center. "I wish every school system added it to their curriculum to expose the youth... early on, so they can have a goal to strive for."

And the kids enjoyed it too.

"I learned a lot," said one camper. "I will use what I learned to help me get my goal in life."



Camp SWONEKY: 'My Kids Didn't Want to Come Home'

Summer days spent swimming, ziplining or horseback riding, and evenings spent singing around the campfire are gone, but for Camp SWONEKY overnight campers, the memories will last forever.

"My kids still sing the prayers they learned for meals," said one mom. "They want to sing them before every meal."

Thanks to the generosity of community donors, the Dayton Salvation Army has been able to waive camp fees, except for a \$20 registration fee.

"I would normally have to choose between sending my kids to camp and paying my car payment or rent," said the same mom. "It's not that we don't want them to have fun, but people of low income just can't afford it."

"My kids made so many friends. They can't wait to go back!"

Good Summer, Good Times

July 4th Celebration

Nearly 500 people – including many families – turned out to celebrate July 4th at the Kroc – and they were not disappointed. Majors Angelo and Virginia Bermeo performed magic and people danced to a DJ's lively tunes.

"We had a great view of the downtown fireworks and avoided all that traffic," said one participant. "It was a blast!"



Summer Read and Feed

This Monday program brought story lovers of all ages – from toddlers to senior adults – to Stuart Patterson Park for lunch, a story and a book to take home. A total of



283 new books were given to kids for their own libraries.

"We love sitting on blankets and having a lunch while listening to great stories," said one parent.



The Stars are Out

Under the direction of the Kroc's new music and arts supervisor, Ricardo Colon, seven performing groups and 10 individuals showcased their artistic talents in the Salvation Army Star Search competition. These performers advanced to compete Territorially:

- Dance Troupe Level II (took 3rd place)
- Guitar Level IV - Rayya Brooks (took 3rd place)
- Dance Solo Level IV - Melyndee White
- Vocal Solo Level IV - Eric Hawkins

Performer Mia McAtee explains her motivation: "During the practices, I'm able to spend time with my friends. Also, everything that we do, we do for God."

High School Basketball

High school athletes again spent evenings in intense competition as 12 boys' teams and seven girls' teams took to the courts at the Kroc Center for annual summer league play.



Norris Cole Basketball Camp

Dayton's own NBA star Norris Cole is an annual Kroc Center favorite. Norris teaches more than skills: He emphasizes values such as sportsmanship and integrity. "It's a great pleasure for my kids to go to a well-organized camp every summer doing something that they love. This is their

third year, and they come home excited every day like it's their first day," said parent Danielle Brooks. "Thank you so much for providing a great community for children to have fun, learn and see individuals like them succeed."

And according to camper Jarrell Miller, "They push you to your limits and don't let you just give up. Most camps don't do that. It's a camp that's very supportive, even if you're having an off day."



Doing God's Work Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



A generous community has stood in support of the Dayton Salvation Army and its 135-year history of "doing the most good." That generosity has provided the means – in good times and bad – to minister

to the needs of people who have no food, shelter or a path out of despair.

It's not always easy for donors to see the direct impact of their gifts to The Salvation Army on the children, adults and families of our community. Those contributions are helping...

- Kids to become better readers
- Struggling families to get their lives on track
- Motivated people of all ages to get fit with exercise
- 4,000 families in need to have food at Christmas
- Young athletes to improve their basketball skills
- Families to celebrate July 4th close to home
- Kids to successfully complete their homework
- People in need to keep their heat on
- Kids to discover new talents at summer camp
- Generous people to connect with people in need at Christmas
- Working parents to keep their children safe after school
- All God's children to find spiritual nourishment
- Young people to develop their talents in drama, music and dance
- Students to succeed by providing school supplies their parents can't afford
- Seniors to enjoy programming that sparks new friendships with same-aged peers

With your continued support, we can continue this ministry for years to come.

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.

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