

# The Kroc Center Report

Volume 9, Issue 22, Fall 2015

**A**s Christmas approaches, we embrace the many opportunities we're given to do God's work in our community, because...

## We believe in...

- ▶ Helping each person to reach life's full potential
- ▶ Taking the time to care for our elders with respect, love and patience
- ▶ Opening every child's eyes to the new worlds that await them in books
- ▶ Taking action to fight hunger and its devastating effects on children
- ▶ Creating opportunities for youngsters to develop their God-given talents
- ▶ Providing students and teachers the tools they need to succeed in the classroom
- ▶ Teaching families to honor their bodies with life-sustaining nutrition, exercise and rest, and
- ▶ Encouraging others to do God's work through prayer and service.



## ***And we believe in you.***

Thanks to your generosity last Christmas season, the Red Kettle Campaign generated more than \$1 million in donations. Your gifts made possible our Christmas assistance and other programs throughout the year:

- ▶ Volunteers visited 42 nursing homes and distributed 3,980 gifts.
- ▶ 128,153 meals were served in 2014 through our programs.
- ▶ 93,099 individuals participated in 4,224 character-building and recreational programs.
- ▶ And much, much more.

With your support, we will continue to "do the most good" for the people of our community:

*Be generous and share your food with the poor.  
You will be blessed for it. – Proverbs 22:9 (LB)*



## A Message From The Majors



Barbara and Tom Duperree

This summer we decided to try our collective hand at growing some vegetables and herbs. Nothing too laborious; just one tomato plant on the porch, along with some basil and oregano. We agreed that one of us would be the gardener if the other would be willing to use our harvests to make her incredible Bruschetta. What a wonderful hobby for daily fun and diversion in our home!

If you've ever tried to grow plants from seeds, you know the fascinating paradox of producing a harvest. Here's how Jesus put it in John 12:24: **"I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels – a plentiful harvest of new lives."** (NLT)

God's ecology is truly amazing! The harvest produced from one single seed is incomprehensible.

By September, our tomato plant died. This incredible tomato-maker had withstood neglect for an entire week while we were away in July. These robust Romas stood up to a rogue groundhog who claimed the plant as his own – just because he could. And the plant survived the novice efforts of one "green" gardener who was clueless about tying up vines.

But we learned a few things along the way:

**Don't forget to water!** Plants need water to grow. What area of your life have you neglected to "water"? *If we fail to tend those areas, they will wither away.*

**Give away your harvest, as there's plenty more.** Our one plant yielded an amazing number of tomatoes. We shared what God gave us, and He continued to bless us with all that we needed. *What do you have that needs to be shared with others?*

**Plan for growth and expansion.** We never imagined a seed could become such a large plant. We planted it in a small pot and had to repot it in a much larger one. *Don't allow your vision to become limited.*

Here at the Kroc Center, we're applying these lessons as we expand our vision to serve our community's growing needs. We feed a growing number of hungry people through our mobile canteen ministry. We provide more than 200 programs and services weekly. And we continue to reach out to help the underserved and underprivileged in new ways.

As you read this report and learn all that's been happening since our last newsletter, we believe you'll understand the many positive outcomes generated by our work. God is most certainly causing things to grow.

We encourage you to stop by for a visit, or become involved by praying for our ministries or sending a gift of support. For service is our watchword, and there is no reward equal to that of doing the most good, for the most people, in the most need.

God bless you!

## Volunteers needed for Santa Loves Seniors Program

Looking for ways to spread the holiday spirit that don't involve trips to the mall? Look no further than the Kroc Center's Santa Loves Seniors program.

Major Barb Duperree is recruiting 150 volunteers who will go in groups of four to six to visit the residents of the area's 42 nursing homes. The Salvation Army provides gifts to deliver, training for the visits and scheduling with the individual nursing homes.

She especially encourages families with children to make the visits a family affair.

"I know from personal experience the benefits of starting nursing home visits at a young age," she said. "It creates a mindset of service to others that carries on into adulthood."

Caring individuals, and especially adults with elderly parents or loved ones, are encouraged to volunteer for this ministry. To sign up, please call 937-528-5222 by November 15. A one-hour training session will be held at 6 p.m., December 1, at the Kroc Center, and the visits will take place between December 2 and 22.

*Gift bags are prepared for volunteers' visits to nursing homes.*



Please visit our website at [daytonkroc.com](http://daytonkroc.com)





## Lunch and literacy come to the park

The Kroc Center's new Read and Feed program wrapped two Salvation Army priorities into one tidy package. On eight Mondays this summer, Old North

Dayton kids, and even a few adults, gathered for lunch and literacy at Stuart Patterson Park.

The Canteen brought nutritious boxed lunches, and celebrity guests – including children's authors, a police officer, a firefighter, and even a Dayton Dragons' Green Team member and mascot Gem – read to the youngsters. As part of the program, kids selected a new book every week to add to their home libraries.

"We were happy with our results in this inaugural year. Over the course of the summer, we served more than 500 meals and distributed 270 books," said Beth Zientko, director of education. "2016 will build on our successes of this season."

## Feeding the hungry: Canteen meal distribution surges

The Dayton Salvation Army's commitment to feeding the hungry is off to a running start. In March 2015, we began taking our mobile canteen to Stuart Patterson Park in Greater Old North Dayton the last two Fridays of the month.

"We did not know what to expect at first," said Major Tom Duperree. "We gave out 125 meals each night we went in March."

Fast forward to the end of August. Within six months, the program had scaled up to 450 meals distributed each night.

"The program has nearly quadrupled in the number of meals given out in just one-half year," said Major Tom. "As we finish 2015, our Program Committee will evaluate the frequency of meals and consider going out every Friday night."



## Families learn 'The Healthy Way' to nutrition

It's been a year since we began our focus on feeding the hungry. We're excited to see our canteen deliver meals to our neighbors and kids enjoying our child-sized salad bar.

But we know we've just scratched the surface. The epidemic of childhood obesity and sedentary lifestyles continues to grow. Juvenile diabetes is rising at an alarming rate. Many parents lack the awareness and resources to help their children eat nutritiously.

To tackle these issues, we've reached out to Dayton Children's Medical Center for help. They brought the Ohio State University Extension Office and the Children's Hunger Alliance into the discussion, as well.

Together we've launched "The Healthy Way," a pilot program to help families move toward healthier lifestyles. It includes separate educational sessions for adults and kids, recipe sharing, and a nutritious meal prepared here at the Kroc Center.

"It's a long road, but we've started the journey toward helping people to make healthier choices," said Major Tom Duperree. "Our ultimate goal is for each of them to reach their fullest potential in life."



## Stars are born at the Kroc

Groups from the Dayton Kroc Center rocked the stage during their performances for the Salvationist Star Search Eastern Territory talent display in Hershey, Pennsylvania, in June. Seven of the nine Dayton groups that participated placed first, second or third.

Congratulations to our older and younger dance troupes, older and younger timbrel brigades, younger drama troupe, youth chorus and acoustic guitar soloist Rayya Brooks for their winning performances.

"All this young talent has blossomed before our very eyes," said Major Barbara Duperree. "It's rewarding to know that the music, drama and dance training we provide at the Kroc Center is the catalyst that allows these youngsters to develop their God-given gifts."



*Dayton Sacred Dance Troupe*



*Dayton Youth Chorus*

## Kroc's own Karate Kids

The North American Sport Karate Association has honored two Dayton-area youngsters in its national competition. And we're proud to announce that both take their karate training at the Kroc Center. Malia Mize is rated number one in forms and weapons and number two in fighting, while Michael Care, Jr., is ranked number three in the nation for fighting. Congratulations to both Kroc Karate Kids!



*Malia Mize*

*Michael Care, Jr.*

Remember to designate **The Salvation Army** when you make your donation to the United Way Campaign.

*Thank you!*

## Filling the school-supply gap

Can you imagine a carpenter without a tool box? A doctor without medical instruments? Or a chef without cookware?

Can anyone be expected to excel at a job without the tools of their trade?

This situation faces many students at our partner school, Kiser, whose families cannot afford to buy school supplies. In the past, the teachers have spent their own money – hundreds of dollars a year – to fill the gap.

The Salvation Army has found a way to help. For the past several years, we've provided all the classroom

supplies the teachers request – everything from pencils and backpacks to flash drives and calculators – for all of Kiser's 600 students and 35 teachers. We present the supplies at a luncheon for the teachers at the Kroc Center, and then deliver them directly to the school.

"The teachers are thrilled!" said Kroc Center literacy specialist Michelle Roll. "We receive heartfelt thanks from them every day."

The effort is extended to Our Lady of the Rosary, as well, where we provide all the supplies for kindergarten classes.



# Dayton Salvation Army Advisory Board

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## Get to Know Our Advisory Board: Jeff Lecklider

**G**em City Tire president Jeff Lecklider spent his early adult years learning the tire business from the ground up. His start as the guy who changed tires and oil at a tire dealership in downtown Dayton gave him a solid foundation for advancement to positions in sales and service, and even a partnership.

Then 15 years ago, the Greenville native established his own company, which now has expanded to six tire stores in three states and 150 employees.

As the incoming vice chairman of the Advisory Board, he approached his commitment to serve The Dayton Salvation Army in much the same way: steady and deliberate.

"I drive by the Kroc Center twice a day, so I was actually thinking about it for several years," Jeff said. "I'd heard about the Christmas dinner distribution, and thought that was pretty neat, so I started making inquiries."

After he learned about the Army's ministries, and how they're put into action at the Kroc Center, he was sold.

"I like The Salvation Army's philosophy of giving a helping hand, and not a handout," Jeff said. "A lot of people just need someone to help them get back on their feet."

Jeff, who joined the Advisory Board in 2010, has embraced every opportunity to serve.

"He expressed such excitement and enthusiasm about our events and activities for the community," said Tim Erlandson, Dayton Salvation Army business administrator. "I remember Jeff saying, 'I just want to help in any way I can. This is great. It's like Disneyland!'"

"That enthusiasm, passion and love for the Army's work has only grown over the years."

Even so, when Jeff was asked to serve on the leadership team, he took a slow and steady approach to the decision.

"When The Salvation Army invited me, I didn't take it lightly," he said. "I look at it as a big commitment, and I don't want to let anyone down."



## Happy campers at the Kroc

If you ask Kroc Center summer day campers how they spent their summer vacation, be prepared for a lengthy reply. Kids explored dozens of awesome activities – everything from junior chef, gardening, PhotoShop and sewing, to theater, art, robotics and karate.

Expect also to hear about Dayton firefighters, police officers and their canines; animals from the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery; field trips to the Cincinnati Zoo, Young's Dairy and the Kettering Rec pool; acting roles in weekly skits; and the opportunity to select and keep a new book every week.

“What kids really like is making choices and trying new things,” said Beth Zientko, director of education. “And they enjoy getting to know new friends.”

According to Beth, summer camp's popularity keeps growing: All seven one-week sessions were at capacity, and each week had a waiting list.

### And what did their parents think?

When asked for their impressions about summer camp, parents said they liked the variety of activities, designated reading time and spiritual dimensions of the programming. The new weekly newsletter was also well received. In their reviews, they commented, “Love, love, love!” and “As a parent, I'm completely satisfied,” and “I wouldn't send (my kids) anywhere else.”







## Pro brings basketball camp to the Kroc

Although we're fortunate at the Kroc Center to see numerous VIPs and celebrities walk through our doors, no one stirs up excitement like Dayton's own NBA star, Norris Cole.

For the fourth summer in a row, Norris brought his basketball camp to the Kroc Center – and to 114 aspiring young athletes. Boys and girls, aged 5 to 14, learned dribbling, shooting and passing fundamentals directly from the pro. They even had the opportunity to work out with him.

"The kids love Norris, and Norris loves the kids," said Dwayne Hansbro, director of recreation. "He personally sponsors at least half the kids who attend his camp."

A Dayton Dunbar grad, as well as Salvation Army youth basketball alum, Norris was part of two NBA championships with the Miami Heat.

"When he's in town, he spends a lot of time here and calls the Kroc Center 'home,'" said Dwayne. "He's someone the kids always look up to."



## Summer leagues heat up under the lights

On any June weeknight, there's no mistaking the sounds of summer at the Kroc Center. Bouncing basketballs, shrieking whistles and cheering fans take over the outdoor court for high school summer league basketball.

Thanks to McDonald's, sponsor of the summer leagues, 16 of the Dayton area's best boys' teams, and 10 girls' teams meet up for intense competition, practice and conditioning in preparation for the coming high school basketball season.

"Our basketball facility is within easy reach of many area teams," said Dwayne Hansbro, director of recreation. "It's a community need we're proud to support."





# What would happen if 4,000 families showed up at your door for Christmas dinner?

**At The Salvation Army, we invite them in!**



**A**gain this December, The Salvation Army – with your help – will be providing food for Christmas dinner for more than 4,000 families in the Greater Dayton area. Your generous contributions allow us to help the less fortunate during Christmas and throughout the year.

### Won't you please help us?

Mail your donations to:  
The Salvation Army  
1000 N. Keowee St.  
Dayton, Ohio 45404

We also invite you to stop by one of our Red Kettles, or visit us online at **www.dayton.salarmykroc.org**  
May God bless you and your family!

**DOING THE MOST GOOD** “... For service is our watchword, and there is no reward equal to that of doing the most good to the most people in the most need.” –Evangeline Booth

## You Can Make A Difference!

**Please join us in our mission** to feed the hungry in the Greater Dayton Area. “Be generous and share your food with the poor. You will be blessed for it.” - Proverbs 22:9 (LB) God Bless You!

To make your tax deductible donation, mail your check made out to The Kroc Center to: The Salvation Army, 1000 N. Keowee St., Dayton OH 45404.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Erlandson, Business Administrator, at 937-528-5200. Thank you very much!

**Please help us make the Kroc Center a Beacon of Hope for the entire Miami Valley!**



RAY & JOAN KROC  
CORPS COMMUNITY CENTER

DAYTON

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

### Yes, I would like to be a sponsor of the Kroc Center's Mobile Feeding Program for Families.

- \$500 sponsors 250 meals
- \$300 sponsors 150 meals
- \$100 sponsors 50 meals
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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