

The Kroc Center Report

Volume 9, Issue 21, Spring 2015

*Dayton Kroc Center
Celebrating 5 Years!*

Mission 2015: Embracing the Hunger Challenge

When we opened the doors of the Kroc Center five years ago, The Dayton Salvation Army pledged to provide services and programs that would ease the challenges and enrich the lives of our neighbors in Old North Dayton. We are doing this by offering 200 outstanding programs that address needs ranging from senior adult fitness to literacy interventions for youngsters struggling to read.

Yet through our interactions with Kroc Center members and demographic research, we've discovered another problem they face that is so deep and profound, it surpasses all others: hunger.

Our neighbors, including many children, are dealing with "food insecurity," which means they don't have reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food.

Why should we be concerned about hunger?

Unfortunately, the most affordable food in America is laden with unhealthy ingredients. Combined with sedentary lifestyles, a steady diet of these foods has led to an epidemic of obesity that threatens our youngsters with juvenile diabetes and ultimately, premature death due to heart attacks and strokes.

Poor nutrition is also at the root of many behavioral and academic problems among children. (See sidebar, "Hunger's Damaging Effects on Youngsters," on page 2.)

The time is right for us to take action.

Entering our fifth year of operation gives us the perfect opportunity to expand the Kroc Center's focus and serve our neighbors in a new way. We are launching Mission 2015, or M15, a major initiative to enhance our existing nutrition and feeding activities.

M15 is a multifaceted approach to good nutrition that we will deploy through new and existing Kroc Center programs:

NEW! Neighborhood Mobile Feeding Program – Feeds nutritious meals to families on weekends by means of the mobile canteen.

NEW! Summer Reading and Feeding Program – Combines feeding of children and their families with readings by children's authors and other celebrities in city parks once a week during June and July. Kids will receive free books.

NEW! Joint Healthy Family Program – Involves collaboration with Children's Medical Center, the Children's Hunger Alliance and the Ohio State Extension Service to educate families about proper health and nutrition. The "Red, Yellow, Green Light" program, for example, teaches about healthy salad bar choices and was launched in February.

Nutrition 101 – Expands the Kroc Center's life-skills adult education programs provided by the Ohio State Extension Service to include nutrition and healthy-meal preparation.

Smart Kids/Strong Kids After-school Program – Provides healthy snacks and meals – including a daily salad bar – for participants and their families. Parents learn about healthy nutrition during monthly progress meetings.

"The founders of The Salvation Army took a pragmatic approach in reaching people with the fullest expression of our mission," said Major Tom Duperree. "We are excited to launch Mission 2015 and follow in their footsteps."



A Message From The Majors



Barbara and Tom Duperree

Hunger's Damaging Effects on Youngsters

Various studies have shown hunger's profound effects on school-aged children:

- ▶ Inadequate nutrition is linked to delayed brain development and an impaired ability to learn.
- ▶ Hunger results in reduced academic achievement, lower test scores, higher absenteeism and more grade repeats.
- ▶ Hungry kids are seven to 12 times more likely than at-risk or not-hungry peers to exhibit conduct disorder, such as fighting, blaming others for problems, difficulties with a teacher, ignoring rules and stealing.
- ▶ Children may feel stigmatized, isolated or embarrassed by their lack of food. They exhibit internalizing behaviors, including depression, anxiety, withdrawal and poor self-esteem.

Hunger, especially among children, is swelling. And it's closer to home than you might imagine!

"Take Part," the digital division of Participant Media, is a social action platform for the promotion of positive social change. In its June 2013 issue, staff writer Max Follmer identified Dayton, Ohio, as the fourth hungriest city in America.

In September 2013, the USDA Economic Research Service confirmed the prevalence of food insecurity among Ohioans, while the executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, stated that "...food insecurity rates in Ohio are above the national average. In fact, Ohio tied for third highest in the nation."

The Food Research and Action Center is the leading national organization committed to eradicating hunger and under-nutrition in the United States. In 2010, it reported that 27.6 percent of Dayton households experienced "food hardship," a situation where households lacked enough money to purchase the food their families needed. (Source: ohiofoodbanks.org/sfsspsummit/chi)

When we read statistics like these, our hearts are saddened.

We are not surprised, however. We hear it first-hand from families who are forced to decide between taking their child to the doctor, or putting food on the table; between paying a utility bill, or feeding their hungry children.

With our recent purchase of a mobile canteen, we were able to launch our neighborhood feeding program last month. We are going into the neighborhoods on the last two Fridays of each month to serve meals to the hungry. This is the beginning of an initiative that will include not only feeding, but also educating families about good food choices to promote better health and nutrition.

Beginning June 8, 2015, we will launch another mobile feeding program that will allow us to travel to two city parks to serve meals to hungry children and their families, followed by a reading program. (Read more about this on page 1.) We've even lined up an author to come and read and give away her autographed books.

And we are developing even more plans for the future!

God longs to feed us.

Tucked away in the book of Proverbs is a very simple, yet powerful, truth: "The Lord blesses everyone who freely gives food to the poor." (Proverbs 22:9 CEV)

God desires to nourish our physical bodies not only with food, but with real truth that will bring to us an abundance of life. We believe that as we meet the challenge of feeding our city's hungry, God will, in turn, bless us in our care for those in need, as the passage from Proverbs promises.

We challenge you to become involved and to help us alleviate the hunger afflicting so many of our city's children. Come out and volunteer as we serve meals. Come read a book to a child this summer. Share your time and your money. Share your food with the poor. And be blessed by God!

As you read through the pages of this issue of the Kroc Center Report, we hope you will consider partnering with us to help bring about positive, lasting change in the lives of those who need us most.

God bless you!

Please visit our website at daytonkroc.com

Get Ready for 2015 Summer Camp Fun

"I'm bored."

Parents everywhere dread that familiar summertime refrain from their children.

But when kids participated in the Kroc Center's 2014 summer camp program, their parents were more likely to hear words like "awesome," "fun" and "really cool."

Kroc Center summer camps are a hit with kids and parents.

There's no time for boredom at the Kroc Center. Campers enjoy the daily choice of classes in the areas of recreation and fitness; technology and education; music, theater and fine arts; and life skills.

"Our programs are designed to strengthen the whole person," said Director of Education Beth Zientko. "That's why we make sure to include a variety of recreational, spiritual, educational and arts experiences for the children."

Time is also set aside for daily devotions and twice weekly reading sessions. With additional guest speakers, field trips, art projects, outings to King's Island and swimming at the Kettering Recreation Center, no two days are alike.

All camp experiences reinforce the 40 developmental assets, which are positive qualities that influence children's development and help them to become caring, responsible and successful adults.

"Parents like the positive reinforcement, and the kids love having choices," Beth said.

2015 camps enhanced

Major Barb Duperree, Beth and the Kroc Center staff have spent the past several months evaluating last year's programs and planning for the upcoming camp season.

2015 promises to be another fun-filled summer for campers. Here are the details:

- ▶ Seven one-week camp sessions will be offered Tuesdays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., from June 9 through July 31, although there will be no camp the week of June 30 to July 3. An optional post-camp session with 5:30 p.m. pickup will be available.
- ▶ Camp fees include daily breakfast, lunch and two snacks.
- ▶ Week-long overnight camps at the Salvation Army-sponsored Camp SWONEKY are another option.
- ▶ Half-day Kindercamps are available for children three to five years of age.
- ▶ Scholarships are available for families who qualify.

"We had 750 campers last year and waiting lists for every session," said Beth. "With the fun and exciting programming we have planned for 2015, we expect each week to sell out again this year."



You are Invited!

Planning a special event or meeting?

We cordially invite you to visit us at the Kroc Center to learn more about our outstanding meeting and banquet facilities. We will be hosting a free tour and luncheon on May 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To learn more, please contact Rachel DuFour before May 20 at 937-528-5131 or rachel.dufour@use.salvationarmy.org.

Reservations are required.

Seniors Make the Most of Prime Time

The idea of retiring to the rocking chair is so yesterday.

At the Kroc Center, we know. Every Tuesday, we host about 60 active seniors who gather here to socialize with friends, work out with Zumba, prep for the Senior Olympics, take in a classic movie, surf the Internet, engage with their grandchildren on Facebook and much, much more.

What brings them together is our Prime Time for Seniors Program. For \$10 per quarter, participants may stay all day for the full range of activities – including lunch – or pick and choose only their favorites. There's a new theme every week, such as Groundhog Day, Fat Tuesday and peanut-butter-and-jelly day, so the topics stay fresh and fun.

The program's popularity has skyrocketed since its inception five years ago.

"The first time we held Prime Time for Seniors, we had three people show up, and we almost cancelled," said Major Barb Duperree. "Now we love seeing 60 of them show up most Tuesdays. They really keep things lively here at the Kroc Center."



Spa Night: Ladies Love the TLC

The opportunity for much-needed rest, relaxation and pampering brought 100 women to the Kroc Center recently for the fourth annual Women's Spa Night. It was a chance to break out of the winter doldrums and enjoy manicures, facials, chair massages, makeovers, henna tattoos and paraffin hand treatments, along with devotions and a string quartet for entertainment. Delicious finger sandwiches, heavenly desserts, exotic teas and coffees and many giveaways were also part of the evening's fun.

"So often, women are too busy to make time for themselves," said Major Barb Duperree. "Spa Night is a night just for them – a chance to refresh and revitalize in body and spirit."

Heartfelt thanks to Square One Salon, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Miami Jacobs School of Massage, Papparazzi Jewelry and Thirty-One Gifts for their generous support of Spa Night.



In Memoriam

Bette Rogge Morse

The Dayton Salvation Army community was saddened recently by the January 20 death of longtime Board member, Bette Rogge Morse. A dedicated supporter of The Salvation Army and its mission, she had served on the Board since 1968.

Bette was born June 14, 1922. Best known in Dayton as a WHIO television personality, she hosted the variety show, "The Bette Rogge Show," from 1967 to 1977. Over the course of her television career, she had the opportunity to interview many nationally known celebrities. She resumed her broadcast career on local cable TV in the 1990s and was inducted into the Dayton Area Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2003.

A Dayton Flyer through and through, Bette earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton in 1944 and a master's degree in 1977, the same year she began teaching communications at UD. She was awarded a doctor of humane letters from UD in 1999 for her service to the university.

"Bette opened many doors to the media and the community for The Salvation Army," said Major Tom Duperree. "She taught us how to convert a person mildly interested in our programs into a supporter. And she always did it with grace and class."

Bette is survived by her husband of 58 years, Wayne H. Morse Sr.; daughter Melissa; son, Wayne H. Morse Jr.; and two grandsons, Tyler and Jordan.



Bette Rogge Morse and husband, Wayne Morse



Get to Know Our Advisory Board: Mark Fornes

When The Dayton Salvation Army needed help in 2005 to locate just the right property for the

Ray and Joan Kroc Community Center, Mark Fornes did what he does best: He found the ideal place in Old North Dayton, a 175-acre site that was short on upkeep but long on potential.

As Mark was busy finding this property and negotiating its purchase, The Salvation Army also made a find: an outstanding new member for the Dayton Salvation Army Board.

"What really struck a chord with me was how much good the Army does and how efficiently they do it," Mark said. "The funds raised actually reach the people in need. There's very little overhead."

A Kettering native and graduate of the University of Dayton, Mark launched his firm, Mark Fornes Realty, in 1987. The company has become known as one of the Dayton area's most successful commercial and industrial real estate brokerage and development firms – and with good reason. Mark and his team have completed hundreds of transactions valued in the millions of dollars with individual business owners, small- to medium- sized companies, Fortune 500 corporations and government entities.

Because of his knowledge and experience, Mark is the Board's resident advisor when it comes to property-related questions.

"I was becoming very frustrated and having no success in finding a suitable site for a Kroc Center in Dayton, Ohio, when I was approached by Board member Bill Broad, who said, 'Reggie, you need Mark Fornes. He will find the property we need.' Bill set up a meeting for Mark to meet Major Duperree and me, and within 30 days, he found our present location," said Reggie Winters, senior business administrator for The Dayton Salvation Army.

"Working together to secure this property led both Mark and the Major to the conclusion that those we serve would greatly benefit from Mark joining our Advisory Board team."

Of all his efforts on behalf of The Salvation Army, Mark most enjoys the opportunity to raise funds for the Kroc Center's Christmas feeding program.

"It's rewarding to be involved with fundraising for this program, which feeds more than 4,000 families annually, because I know it's actually going to help people in real need," he said.

Mark and his wife, Tammy, have four daughters. The Fornes family lives in Kettering.



Mia McAtee performs as part of the sacred dance troupe.

Searching for the Brightest Stars

Move over, “American Idol.” The Dayton Salvation Army is on the lookout for young people with exceptional talents in music, drama and sacred dance to compete in the 31st Annual Eastern Territory Salvationist Star Search Talent Display.

The goal of Star Search is to encourage and motivate young performing artists to develop their talents to enrich worship and glorify God.

Youngsters from the territory’s various corps will send their “stars” to the finals in Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, on June 13, to perform before a panel of judges.

Last year, the Dayton Kroc Center’s sacred dance troupe took first place, and the drama troupe took third. Our own Rayya Brooks took second place in acoustic guitar, and Ayriel Brewster was awarded second place as a dance soloist.



Kroc Center’s dance troupe took top Star Search honors in 2014.

Pictured here (l-r): Divisional Director of Women’s Ministries Major Janet Ashcraft, Haven Williams, Sienna Bell, Leonea Young, Mia McAtee, Ayriel Brewster, Alesia Henderson, Melyndee White and Divisional Commander Major Larry Ashcraft.

Kroc is ‘Pretty Cool’

When the National Board came together for a series of meetings and a program at the Dayton Kroc Center last September, General André Cox, the international leader of The Salvation Army, inspired the audience with his wisdom and insights.

But it took 12 talented youngsters of The Dayton Salvation Army Youth Band with their rousing rendition of “When the Saints Come Marching In” to get everyone’s feet tapping and hands clapping in time.

The man behind the band’s success was Jonas Thoms, extraordinary Army volunteer, Eastman School of Music-trained musician and Wright State University professor.

Jonas moved to the Midwest from New York nine years ago for graduate studies in musical performance at the University of Cincinnati. The professorship opportunity at Wright State led him to Dayton – and The Salvation Army. Although he spends many weekends performing with regional ensembles, he also finds time for the Kroc Center, whether it’s teaching a personal finance course, leading the young-adult Bible study group or directing the youth band.

Although he wasn’t raised in The Salvation Army tradition, Jonas comes from a family devoted to service. With his grandmother having logged 15,000 volunteer hours over her lifetime, it’s no surprise that Jonas has made volunteering a priority in his life.

“The mission of the organization is why I’m involved at the Dayton Kroc Center,” the 30-year old said. “I feel it’s my responsibility to help impact the community in a positive way, because I can.

“Just being any part of everything going on here is pretty cool.”



Jonas Thoms (far right) leads the Dayton Kroc Center Youth Band.



Majors Tom & Barb Dupéree
Dayton Area Commanders

THANK YOU

Thanks to your generosity, the Red Kettle Campaign generated \$1,068,512 in donations this Christmas Season. Your donations fund our Christmas assistance, and programs throughout the year.

- Volunteers visited 42 nursing homes, and distributed 4,032 gifts.
- Some 4,000 families received Christmas food assistance.
- 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...

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

God Bless You!



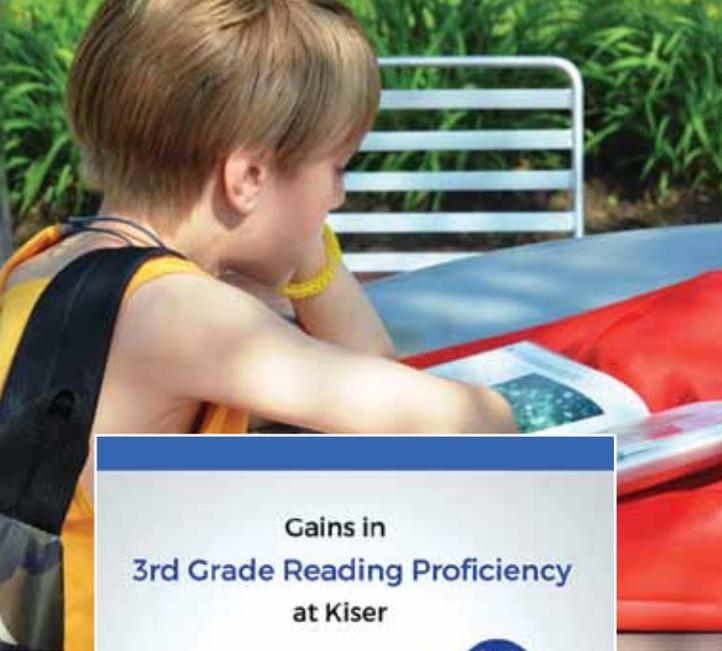
DAYTON BAG
& BURLAP

DAYTON
FREIGHT

Gem City
TIRE


I'm lovin' it

Grismer
Auto Wash & Detailing



3rd Grade Reading Scores Improving

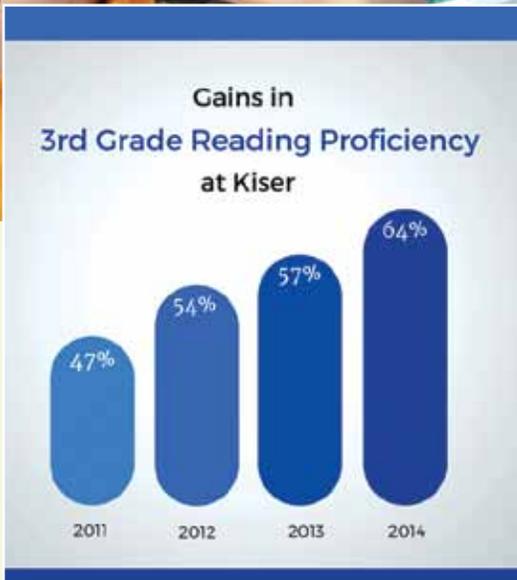
Educators often make the point that before third grade, children learn to read; after third grade, they read to learn.

Numerous studies have shown that any child who is not reading at grade level by the end of third grade will struggle to keep up across all academic subjects and is less likely to graduate from high school.

To improve reading proficiency at our partner schools, Kiser and Our Lady of the Rosary, The Dayton Salvation Army has, for the past three years, staffed an in-school literacy specialist who provides one-on-one reading interventions.

With the supplemental literacy support, and additional strategies employed by the schools, we are seeing positive results. The percentage of third graders who read proficiently has increased from 47 percent to 64 percent in three years.

"Michelle (Kroc Center literacy specialist) does an awesome job working with a number of our K-3 students in small groups to help increase their proficiency in reading," said Kiser Principal James Fowler. "This directly supports our Third Grade Guarantee -- having all students reading on grade level by grade 3."



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 Reggie Winters, Senior 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
CORPUS 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 _____