



MEDIA ADVISORY
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FREE Salvation Army Back-to-School Health Fair and Gospel Concert Helps Kids Prepare for August School Start

*Health Fair to Feature Free Back-to-School Physicals, Health Screenings and
Giveaway of Backpacks Filled with School Supplies*

*Day-long gospel concert to be headlined by popular Billboard gospel chart recording artist
Tony Tidwell Ministries*

WHAT: The Salvation Army is sponsoring a FREE Back-to-School Health Fair in West Pullman to help kids prepare for early start in August. At least two schools in the immediate area have switched to a year-round schedule. This free health fair will not only provide free back-to-school physicals, but also a variety of free health screenings for adults. Popular Billboard gospel chart recording artist Tony Tidwell Ministries will headline a rousing and inspirational day-long line-up of gospel performers, including Focus One, Jerry King and Eclectic Worship and The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center Choir. More than 700 families attended this event last year. Even more are expected this year for a fun-filled day in the park with expanded entertainment and activities.

Physicals and health screenings to be provided by the **Cook County Health Department** and the **Christian Community Health Center**.

- Back-to-school physicals
- Blood pressure, diabetes, HIV testing
- Carnival games and free prizes
- Backpack and school supply giveaway to over 350 kids
- Free Food
- Gospel Music Concert featuring Tony Tidwell and Righteous Living, Focus One, Jerry King and Eclectic Worship and The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center Choir

WHEN: **Saturday, July 25, 2009**
Screenings available Noon to 5 p.m.
Carnival games and entertainment Noon to 7 p.m.

WHERE: **Cooper Park**
117th and Ada St.
Chicago

(more)

Background

For more than two years, The Salvation Army has worked hand-in-hand with local organizations, churches and schools to develop educational and recreational summer programs and after-school activities providing positive alternatives for the youth and families in West Pullman, the future location of The Salvation Army's Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center.

In November of 2007, The Salvation Army Chicago Metropolitan Division announced the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center Project in the West Pullman neighborhood on the city's far south side. The Kroc Center will be a state-of-the-art community and social service facility in one of Chicago's most underserved areas, a community center of unprecedented scope and size. When completed, the Kroc Center will offer an array of education, sports, arts and support programs for people of all ages never before available in a single Chicago facility. For more information about The Kroc Center, visit www.kroccenterchicago.org.

About The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is the largest social service organization in the world and the single largest direct provider of social services in Chicago and the state of Illinois. The Army operates 200 points of entry in neighborhoods across the greater Chicago area, providing disaster relief, shelter, meals, rehabilitation programs, child care and head start, senior services and more. On any given night, about 900 people are sleeping under a Salvation Army roof. In 2010, The Army will celebrate 125 years of service in Chicago. The Salvation Army is there every day, 24-hours-a-day in Chicago and throughout the country providing disaster relief to people in crisis.

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