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RAY AND JOAN KROC CORPS COMMUNITY CENTER IN CHICAGO

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Around the Kroc News

July 2008

NEWS

The Salvation Army Announces \$5 Million Lead Gift

Civic leaders **Judy Keller** and **Paul E. Rigby** volunteer to lead capital campaign for Kroc Center



About the Kroc Center

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. It will provide thousands of people of all ages with new opportunities and become an anchor for the community and a beacon of hope. The array of sports, educational, arts and supportive programs has never been offered in Chicago.

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The Salvation Army has received a major lead gift of \$5 million for the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center capital campaign. The anonymous donor is a long-time supporter of The Salvation Army.

“A contribution of this magnitude brings us closer to our goal and also sets the bar for other potential gifts,” says Lt. Colonel David E. Grindle, Chicago Metropolitan Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army. “We are very grateful for the substantial donation and for what it means to our effort. The campaign to build the Kroc Center is gaining momentum and we are gearing up for a groundbreaking next year.”

The Salvation Army is also pleased to announce the co-chairpersons of the capital campaign for the Kroc Center, Judy Keller and Paul E. Rigby.

Judy Keller, known for her work with many respected Chicago institutions, has been a member of The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary for 30 years. As a civic leader and generous proponent of arts and cultural organizations, she brings decades of experience to the campaign.

Co-Chairman Paul E. Rigby, Managing Director of the Corporate Banking Retailing Industry Coverage Team at J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc., will partner with Keller to lead the campaign. Rigby, a banking industry leader for more than 20 years, has been a member of the Chicago Advisory Board of The Salvation Army for six years and recently served as its chairman.

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FEATURES

Kroc Center Summer Programs are a Family Affair



Ten-year-old Mariah and 8-year-old Sa-Vone can't wait for the Kroc Center to open in West Pullman. Their anticipation is so great that Pamela Gougis occasionally drives her two grandchildren to the 33 acres of vacant land at 119th Street so they can see the site of the future Kroc Center. For the Gougis family, The Salvation Army is a vital resource for education, culture and support that provides hope and inspiration.

"Children especially deserve the best of everything because they're only young for such a short time," Says Gougis. "The Army is a security blanket for every child in our community. I didn't think there were people still around who would open their hearts to families like mine. The love and guidance The Salvation Army provides is amazing."

Six members of the Gougis family are involved in Salvation Army programs. Since becoming a member of The Salvation Army in June, Pamela has received training in Emergency Disaster Services and participates in the Sunbeam Camp with her grandchildren. Her son Ryan, 14, recently became a Soldier in The Salvation Army and sings in a choir sponsored by The Kroc Center. He also attends music camp at The Salvation Army's regional Wonderland Camp facility on Camp Lake in Wisconsin. Ryan's twin sister Raven, helped to plant a garden and learned about environmental issues in the Kroc Center "Green" Day Camp. Together the twins also participate in the summer mission team, "Band of Survivors" an innovative program that involves study and community outreach. Eighteen-year-old Revon attends teen outreach meetings five miles away at the Mt. Greenwood Corps Community Center.

"There's truly a need for the Kroc center in our community," says Gougis. "Most of the time children get caught up with the wrong people because they have nothing else to do. The Kroc Center in West Pullman will be a safe haven that you can come to where people genuinely care about you. The Center will bring our community together."

A single mother who works hard to support her family, Gougis maintains a positive attitude.

"I am not here for what I can get from The Salvation Army. I'm here for what I can give back."

The Gougis family's story is just a snapshot of the impact The Kroc Center will have on the West Pullman community; there will be something for every member of the family. The Kroc Center will not only provide an enormous resource for a neighborhood in need, but it will encourage involvement from individuals and families. The Salvation Army is already the single largest provider of human services in Chicago. The Kroc Center will continue to build on that tradition.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Kroc Center Project Unveiling

At a press conference last November, Chicago Metropolitan Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel Grindel announced the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center project.



[\(more\)](#)

Summer Kroc Center Programs

This summer The Salvation Army is working with several West Pullman organizations, including Higgins Elementary School and Johnny Coleman Academy, to develop fun and engaging programs for children.



The Salvation Army in Chicago and the Nation

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.

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

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