



DOING THE MOST GOOD™
RAY AND JOAN KROC CORPS COMMUNITY CENTER IN CHICAGO

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Around the Kroc News

February 2010

West Pullman Elementary Students Honored at Salvation Army Sunbeams Court of Awards Ceremony

Awards celebrate the achievements of more than 50 Higgins Community Academy students participating in Salvation Army character-building programs



Stephanie Poole and Ayanna Williams, both 10, led the Sun Beam processional at the start of the Court of Awards Ceremony.

The Salvation Army honored more than 50 girls at the third annual Court of Awards Ceremony on February 4 at Higgins Community Academy. Salvation Army Sunbeams and Girl Guards received the Design to Shine and Artist emblems for improving their self-esteem. Several girls were also recognized for receiving emblems this summer at The Salvation Army's divisional Sunbeam camp.

The Salvation Army Sunbeams is a fun-filled, character building program that helps elementary school children develop socially, mentally and spiritually. The Court of Awards Ceremony was conducted by Kroc Center Administrator Major Darlene Harvey. Major Karen Johnson, Divisional Guard and Sunbeam Director, was also in attendance to help the girls celebrate their remarkable achievements.

To see more photos from the event, visit us online at the Kroc Center web site or on [Facebook](#).

Give
hope

A Campaign to
Transform Lives

About the Kroc Center

The Kroc Center will be a state-of-the-art community and social services 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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Watch the Kroc Center Video Online

Get a first-hand look at The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Crops Community Center by heading to the Kroc Center web site to watch our new video "Give Hope: A Campaign to Transform Lives." See the Kroc Center renderings, watch kids and families at fun events in West Pullman and hear from community members about the impact the Kroc Center will have on their lives.

[Watch](#) the video online now, and see how The Salvation Army is already making a difference on the Far South Side.



Kroc Center Women's Group Holds Family Fun Night in West Pullman



More than 80 children and their families played board games, basketball and Wii Sports at Family Fun Night, held on Friday, January 22, at Higgins Community Academy. Led by The Salvation Army Kroc Center Women's Ministry Group, Girlfriends Unlimited, the evening provided West Pullman families a safe place to have fun together during the cold winter months.

"Because of the violence that happens outside the school environment, a lot of the kids don't get an opportunity to do things outside their home," said Kroc Center Women's Ministries Secretary Sherry Johnson, who leads Girlfriends Unlimited. "The Family Fun Night gave kids an outlet where they could go from activity to activity and not have to worry about the violence. The night was a great way to expose newcomers to the things that The Salvation Army is doing in the community. We saw a lot of the neighborhood kids that we don't normally see on other Salvation Army program nights."

The Women's Ministry Group also raised disaster relief funds through concession sales to aid countries where the Army is active in providing emergency assistance.

Girlfriends Unlimited is a monthly women's group held in the West Pullman neighborhood of Chicago. Women involved in Girlfriends participate in a variety of activities including Bible study, movies outings and shopping.

From Choir to Sunbeams, South Side Resident Tracie Lee and Her Children Have Made The Salvation Army a Family Affair



Tracie Lee and her children at The Salvation Army Jr. Soldier enrollment in December.

Life in West Pullman has come with its fair share of hardships for Tracie Lee and her family. A working mother raising six children, Tracie was faced with the same obstacles that many single mothers in the South Side struggle with each day. West Pullman lacks crucial after-school programs and activities, and Tracie found it difficult to provide her children with the positive guidance outside of the classroom they so desperately needed to succeed. When The Salvation Army Kroc Corp arrived in West Pullman, Tracie's prayers were answered.

For the past two years, Tracie's daughters have participated in the Sunbeam and Girl Guard programs. "My children were out of control and completely without purpose. They had no goals to aspire to," said Tracie. "Since my daughters have joined the Sunbeams, and now the Girl Guards, I've seen a remarkable improvement in their behavior and attitude. They have a purpose now."

In addition to the Sunbeams and Girl Guards, Tracie's children sing in The Salvation Army choir at the Kroc Center Corps and the whole family attends Bible study and church every week. Tracie's family has also participated in the Target Back-to-School Shopping Spree and the Off the Field /Sam's Club "Dream Drive." The children also participated in this summer's Green and Sports day camps. Tracie is eagerly looking forward to the completion of the Kroc Center so her family can participate in even more Salvation Army programs.

A dedicated and hard working mother, Tracie is thankful to The Salvation Army for giving her children opportunities to succeed. "The Salvation Army has taught all of my children to be respectful, honest and much more positive," said Tracie. "My kids found themselves, and I got to see what they really could do. They inspired me to go back to church and discover things I never knew about myself, and now I'm considering becoming a sodier."

In December, Tracie's five eldest children became Jr. Soldiers and official members of The Salvation Army church.

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.