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**THE SALVATION ARMY ANNOUNCES
THE RAY AND JOAN KROC CORPS COMMUNITY CENTER IN CHICAGO**

**Project Represents the Largest Single Investment by a Social Service Organization
In the History of the City of Chicago**

***Mayor Daley, Alderman Carrie Austin, Salvation Army Lieutenant Colonel David Grindle and
Special Guests Unveil Detailed Plans, Architectural Renderings and Virtual Video Tour of the
Future Kroc Center***

CHICAGO -- The Salvation Army announced Tuesday that it will make the largest single investment by a social service organization in Chicago's history, with the unveiling of plans for the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, an awe-inspiring facility to be constructed on the city's Far South Side.

Mayor Richard M. Daley and Alderman Carrie Austin were among those participating in the announcement, which was held on the vacant parcels of land totaling 33 acres on 119th Street in the city's West Pullman neighborhood, where the project will be constructed. Salvation Army Lieutenant Colonel David Grindle unveiled detailed plans, architectural renderings and a three-dimensional model of the future Kroc Center. World renowned architect Helmut Jahn, Principal of Murphy/Jahn, appeared on video to lead a virtual tour of the future Center. More than 100 members of the community attended the announcement. The Johnnie Colemon Academy Choir delivered a rousing performance at the event. Pastor Leonardo Gilbert of Sheldon Heights Church of Christ delivered the invocation.

"There has never been anything like it in Chicago," says Lt. Col. David Grindle, Chicago Metropolitan Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army. "It will redefine people's notions of what a community center can be. The array of sports, educational, arts and supportive programs has never been offered under one roof. Both the programs and the building have been designed to enrich the mind, body and spirit, to provide hope, to transform lives."

The 220,000-square-foot Kroc Center will be a state-of-the-art ministry, community and social service facility in one of Chicago's most underserved areas, a community center of unprecedented scope and size. The project will represent a total investment of \$159.8 million. It will provide thousands of people of all ages with new opportunities. It will become an anchor for the community and a beacon of hope.

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Grindle announced that the Chicago Metropolitan Division was approved for \$109.8 million to be used toward building and endowing a Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center by The Salvation Army's Central Territorial Headquarters for the 11 Midwest states located in Des Plaines, Ill. The funds are a portion of the gift Joan Kroc left to The Salvation Army in the USA to be used for the specific purpose of building and endowing Kroc Centers. The Salvation Army must raise another \$50 million over the next three years to complete the building and establish an endowment large enough to guarantee accessibility to the Kroc Center for every child and adult, today and for generations to come. This endowment will provide operational stability, funding for programming, program scholarships and materials, such as sports equipment and musical instruments. When completed, the project will represent a total investment of \$159.8 million in the community.

When completed, the Kroc Center will offer an array of activities and services for people of all ages that have never before been available in a single Chicago facility. Proposed programs and ministries include opportunities for worship, educational classes, sports, arts and support programs.

Recreational features will include a 5,000-seat indoor sports complex, an outdoor stadium, basketball and tennis courts, an aquatic center and a water park, a state of the art fitness center, a climbing wall, basketball courts and more. Outdoor recreational facilities will include a 2,000-seat sports stadium, a golf training center with driving range and putting greens, baseball diamonds, batting cages, tennis courts and an outdoor running track.

The Family Life and Education Center will offer an array of classes and educational workshops for people of all ages, including job training, GED preparation, computer literacy, financial planning, parenting, nutrition, culinary arts. As a result of diversity of programs, people of all ages will be drawn to the facility, making the Kroc Center a unique destination for the entire family.

The Kroc Center's Academy of the Arts will include a performing arts center; an outdoor amphitheater; a media center with recording video production studios; as well as studios for instrument, vocal and art instruction. The Family Life and Education Center will offer after-school programs for children

In 2004, The Salvation Army undertook an intense detailed three-year planning process in partnership with the City of Chicago to identify the site for the Kroc Center. The Far South Side was found to be in greatest need of the recreational, cultural and educational resources that the Kroc Center would provide, as well as jobs and employment training, health and wellness initiatives and after-school programs. More than 250,000 people live within a three-mile radius of the site. More than a third is under age 18. About 2,500 people are expected to use the Kroc Center daily. Like the Kroc Center in San Diego, California, the Chicago Kroc Center is expected to attract new business, create hundreds of jobs, increase economic stability and lower crime rates.

"Like a pebble in a pool of water, the Kroc Center will have a ripple effect throughout the city," said Grindle. "It will lift the community up economically and tap the talent and ability in the neighborhood."

Murphy/Jahn's innovative design for the Kroc Center is unlike anything seen before in this community. Jahn's concept calls for a transparent structure to be built largely of glass walls that will offer breathtaking views during the daytime and at night. It will be an environmentally-friendly green building with energy efficient heating and cooling systems, topped by a green roof with solar collectors and skylights.

Upon entering the Kroc Center, visitors will find themselves in an expansive three-story high sky-lit atrium reminiscent of a town square. Due to the abundant use of glass for interior walls, many of the events underway at the facility at any given time will be visible from that vantage point, enticing visitors to take part in the wide number of offerings.

The transparency of the building is not only from the outside in, but from the inside out,” says architect Helmut Jahn. “Because when you are outside, we want you to be drawn into the building, and when you are inside, we want you to be connected to what is around you.”

The landscaping calls for a dense row of tall poplar and sycamore trees that form a walking path, enabling visitors to engage in quiet and contemplative moments when not taking part in the activities offered at the center. Among the most notable outdoor elements is a “Cathedral of the Open Air,” an open-air amphitheater with a stage that becomes a shallow reflecting pool with a waterfall when not in use. The amphitheater will be the perfect setting for springtime music concerts and other outdoor performances.

In addition, a 200-foot high beacon will sit at the corner of the site which, when lit, will be visible throughout the surrounding community. It will serve as a visible reminder of the Salvation Army’s mission to serve as a “beacon of hope.”

This project began with the vision of the late Joan Kroc. She was devoted to helping people of all ages develop their talents and fulfill their dreams, and to help young people build character and confidence. Upon her death in 2003, Mrs. Kroc passed on to The Salvation Army the largest gift ever made to a private charity, designated to help establish state-of-the-art facilities in underserved communities where children and adults could be engaged in a wide range of programs and gain access to important services. With suburban Chicago serving as the headquarters for McDonald’s, the company founded by her husband Ray Kroc, Mrs. Kroc felt an affinity for this city and its people. Before her passing, she was personally involved in the early planning of this center.

The only existing Kroc Center, which opened in San Diego in early 2002, has been credited with sparking economic growth and job creation in the surrounding area. Officials here predict that the Kroc Center will have a similar impact in the West Pullman area.

Ground-breaking for the project is scheduled for late summer or early fall of 2008, with the completion of the building expected in 2010. Grindle said that the legacy of the Kroc Center will extend far beyond those dates.

“When it opens, this facility will serve people of all ages—from children to seniors,” he added. “And, everyone who supports it will have an unprecedented opportunity to transform lives and make a visible impact on a community, to make a real difference for generations to come.

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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.

Mission Statement: 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 love for God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in his name without discrimination.