



MEDIA ADVISORY
Communications
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South Side Youth Have Rare Opportunity to Learn Golf at Salvation Army Sports Day Camp

The Salvation Army partners with 'Hook a Kid on Golf' youth program

WHAT: This summer, kids from Higgins Community Academy enrolled in The Salvation Army's Sports Day Camp will learn the basics of golf as part of the nationwide *Hook a Kid on Golf* program.

The Salvation Army Day Camp will include the "*Hook a Kid on Golf*" comprehensive youth golf program, designed to teach kids golf skills the rules of the game and the history of golf. *Hook a Kid on Golf* is generously funded by Jerry Rich of Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, Illinois and the USGA. Mark Rasar, CPS teacher and former golf coach at Lincoln Park High School's city championship team, will join two other coaches to help teach the basics of golf to the more than 30 kids. Campers will practice indoors and will travel to play on Chicago area golf courses. At the end of the week, they will be given their own pair of golf clubs.

The Salvation Army has partnered with the Illinois Kids Golf Foundation to bring the renowned Hook a Kid on Golf, SNAG and First Tee school programs to Higgins Community Academy. In addition to teaching kids the fundamentals of golf, these programs provide access to golf learning facilities and experiences that help kids to develop life enhancing values such as honesty, integrity and sportsmanship. The future Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center complex will include an outdoor golf training center with driving ranges and putting greens.

WHEN: *Hook a Kid on Golf*
Wednesday, June 30, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 1, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: **Higgins Community Academy**
11710 S. Morgan St.
Chicago, Illinois

WHO: Kids in grades 4 through 7, parents and community members
Majors David and Darlene Harvey, *Kroc Center Administrators, The Salvation Army*
Mark Rasar, Golf Coach and instructor
Dr. Mable Alfred, *Principal, Higgins Community Academy*
Mr. Dean Niedenthal, *After-School Programs Coordinator, Higgins Community Academy*

(more)

Background

In November 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. When completed, the Kroc Center will be a community center of unprecedented scope and size, and will offer an array of education, sports, arts and support programs for people of all ages never before available in a single Chicago facility. In November of 2008, The Salvation Army opened the new Kroc Center Project Office at 11357 S. Halsted, a base of operations serving the administrative needs of the many ongoing programs in the West Pullman area. By engaging community leaders and local families, The Salvation Army is creating a solid foundation for all of the new services and opportunities the Kroc Center will bring. 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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