



**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**Monday, June 15, 2009**

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## **West Pullman Youth Plant Community Garden During Green Day Camp**

**WHAT:** This summer, 40 elementary school students from Higgins Community Academy enrolled in The Salvation Army's Green Day Camp will plant the first seeds of their community vegetable and flower garden Monday, June 22. During the two week-long summer day camp, youth will build raised beds; prepare the soil; and plant vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Students will continue to tend the garden throughout the summer, nurturing their crops while learning about science and agriculture. At the end of the growing season, the campers will sell their produce at their second annual farmer's market this fall.

During the week, campers will also participate in field trips to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Lincoln Park Zoo, and Sand Ridge Nature Center to learn more about the environment and nature. In addition to watching the campers plant the community garden, a **Green Day Camp Culmination event will be held Friday, June 26**. The event includes a student-led tour of the completed garden, a showcase of 'green' inspired artwork and a performance by The Salvation Army Drum line.

- **See** campers build seed beds, till soil and expand their community garden.
- **Watch** youth plant a variety of flowers, herbs and vegetables.
- **Meet** the students of The Salvation Army's Green Day Camp

The Salvation Army works hand-in-hand with Higgins Community Academy to provide local youth with alternative after-school programming, including the popular Green Day Camp. The summer Green Day Camp was so successful that Higgins Community Academy created the Green Club as a way for students to continue studying science and agriculture during the school year.

**WHEN:** **Community Vegetable and Flower Garden Planting**  
**Monday, June 22 or Tuesday, June 23; 10:00 – 12:30**

**Culmination Event**  
**Friday, June 26; 1:30**

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

**WHO:** Youth grades 4 through 7, parents and community members  
Majors David and Darlene Harvey, Kroc Center Administrators, The Salvation Army  
Dr. Mable Alfred, Principal, Higgins Community Academy  
Mr. Dean Niedenthal, *After-School Programs Coordinator, Higgins Community Academy*  
Mr. Monte Sier, *Green Club Director/Teacher, Higgins Community Academy*

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## **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](http://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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