



MEDIA ADVISORY
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Kids in West Pullman Host Inauguration Assembly To Honor President-Elect Barack Obama

Special guest Cook County Commissioner Deborah Simms will attend the celebration at Higgins Community Academy

WHAT: To celebrate the inauguration of President-Elect Barack Obama, students at Higgins Community Academy will hold a school-wide assembly in honor of this momentous occasion on Tuesday, January 20. The festivities will include special guest Cook County Commissioner Deborah Simms, rousing musical performances by The Salvation Army Brass Band, Drum Line and Gospel Choir and several moving speeches by Higgins Community Academy students on what this historic event represents to them, including a reading from President-Elect Obama's book, *The Audacity of Hope*. The assembly is sure to create a powerful display of the hope President-Elect Barack Obama has instilled on the West Pullman community and Chicago as a whole.

- See students musical ensemble performances, including the Higgins Community Academy Drum Line
- Hear teachers and students read selections of President-Elect Obama's narratives, including a reading from *The Audacity of Hope* and his election night speech
- Watch as students and families celebrate this historic presidential inauguration day

The children, families, teachers and administrators of Higgins Community Academy have created a thriving educational community. Thanks in part to The Salvation Army, children at Higgins participate in a variety of innovative programs year round including the Green Club, music instruction, athletic activities, summer camps and much more.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 20, 2008
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

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

WHO: Youth grades K through 7 and parents
Deborah Simms, Cook County Commissioner
Majors David and Darlene Harvey, *Kroc Center Administrators, The Salvation Army*
Dr. Mable Alfred, Principal, Higgins Community Academy
Michael Gettings, Assistant Principal, Higgins Community Academy

(more)

Background

Last November 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 200,000-square-foot 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. 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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