



**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
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## **West Pullman Kids Team Up with Local Farm to Host First Neighborhood Farmer's Market**

*The Salvation Army and Higgins Community Academy sponsor program providing local youth with positive alternative after-school programming*

**Students from grades 4 through 7 at Higgins Community Academy partnered with Broertjes Farms of Lowell, Indiana to host their first farmer's market on Friday, October 17 as part of the Green Club**, an after-school program sponsored by The Salvation Army and Higgins Community Academy. The Green Club kicked off the school year with the farmer's market selling fresh produce to fellow students and neighboring families and leading guided tours of their community garden.

"It's amazing how much these kids have learned and accomplished," said Green Club Director and Higgins Community Academy teacher Monte Sier. "They built the community garden from the ground up and the Farmer's Market was the perfect way for them to share the fruits of their labor with the West Pullman community. The Green Club will allow them to build on their work during the summer and expand their study of the environment during this school year."

The Green Club evolved from the summer Green Day Camp sponsored by The Salvation Army and Higgins Community Academy, during which students planted vegetables, herbs and flowers in a community garden while learning about the environment, agriculture and basic science.

For more than two years, The Salvation Army has worked hand-in-hand with local organizations, churches and schools to develop educational and recreational summer programs and after-school activities providing positive alternatives for the youth and families in West Pullman, the future location of The Salvation Army's Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center.

### **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, a community center of unprecedented scope and size. When completed, the Kroc Center 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](http://www.kroccenterchicago.org).

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**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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