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THE MOST
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*with your contributions of time,
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www.TSACS.org

THE SPRING

THE SALVATION ARMY - Colorado Springs & El Paso County

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EL Paso County Red Kettles “Best in the West”

Red Kettles overflowed this holiday season thanks to the generosity of our local community. The 2005 annual campaign raised \$480,310 breaking 2004’s record of \$379,000. The goal set for 2005 was \$400,000.

With this second record breaking year, El Paso County raised more money than any other red kettle campaign in the 13 western United States. *[see ‘red kettles’ pg.5]*

El Pomar Reception Honors Salvation Army Efforts

The Salvation Army was El Pomar Foundation’s special guest at their annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony Dec. 14 at Penrose House.

El Pomar also presented TSA with a check for \$10,000 to benefit the 2005 Red Kettle Breakfast.

The event was attended by many Army advisory board and staff members as well as El Pomar staff and trustees. Bill Emery’s Jazz Quintet provided holiday music for the event.



El Pomar staff member Elliot Wright rings the bell at the tree lighting reception. Bob Robinson matched the kettle’s donations, making it a \$1,000 kettle!



Gail Sherman (center) gives the keys to a donated vehicle to a couple who evacuated from New Orleans

Colorado Springs Cares for Local Katrina Survivors

As last summer’s hurricanes swept through Louisiana and Texas, thousands of survivors were displaced all over the region. Colorado Springs took in more evacuees than any other city in Colorado, with over 2,000 coming in search of aid.

The Salvation Army joined with numerous other local agencies to open the Pikes Peak Hurricane Relief Center near downtown Colorado Springs. Each day, the Army fed hundreds of hurricane survivors and volunteers helping evacuees get back on their feet.

We continue to provide immediate assistance with gift cards, bus passes and vouchers for clothing and furniture. We will also continue to aid evacuees in El Paso County *[see ‘Katrina’ pg.5]*

Salvation Army Voted “Best Charity to Support”

The El Paso County Salvation Army has been named “Best Local Charity to Support” in The Colorado Springs Business Journal’s “Best of” Issue.

The annual “Best of” awards are voted on by CSBJ readers and the issue is widely used in the community when looking for reputable businesses and organizations to work with.

Thank you to the Business Journal and all who voted us “Best Charity to Support!”



It's Happening at the Red Shield Community Center!

The Red Shield Community Center (908 Yuma St.) has recently added a fitness center complete with universal gym, treadmill, exercise bike, elliptical machine and big screen TV. The Center plans to offer exercise classes in the near future. A community billiards league is also in the works.

Volunteers are needed to help in various activities. The Center is open to the public; for membership information, call 884-1039 or visit TSACS.org.



Noelle Gilger, Community Center Director, with students in music class

Children's Discovery Center Races to Meet the Need

The Children's Discovery Center at New Hope is always short of supplies. So last year, Jane Ellis, director of the CDC, came up with "Race to Meet the Need". North, East, West and Horace Mann Middle School students donated over \$300 of supplies throughout the holidays. In the end, it was West Middle School that won the competition, received a trophy from The Salvation Army, and were featured on KRDO News 13's Good Morning Colorado.

"West [Middle School] houses the largest at-risk population with the most families living at the poverty level," said Ellis. "I was so pleased to see that they won."

"Race to Meet the Need" helped many families living at the New Hope Center while getting young people involved in community service and teaching them about the plight of the homeless in Colorado Springs, many of whom are their age.

If you'd like to help, supplies can be dropped off at The New Hope Center. Supplies in demand include: shampoo, conditioner, lotion, hand soap, toothpaste, baby products, feminine products, deodorant, blow driers, gel, hair spray, blankets and pillows.

The New Hope Center & Children's Discovery Center	
709 S. Sierra Madre 578-9190	
Shelter for men, women and children	
Capacity: 210	
Staff: 13	
Open 24 hrs, 365 days a year	
www.TSACS.org	

Staff Member Receives "Service to Mankind" Award

Kevin Brocksieck, Director of Public Relations for El Paso County, was recently nominated for and awarded the annual "Service to Mankind Award" by the High Noon Sertoma Club.

Ron Graybill wrote Brocksieck's essay which recapped two decades of volunteer service and work in the non-profit sector, most of which has been with The Salvation Army. The essay has been submitted for Sertoma's national awards which will take place later this year in Irvine, CA. If you would like to read the essay, it is available at www.TSACS.org.

Kevin's father, Lt. Colonel Harry Brocksieck flew in for the ceremony from Chicago where he is Secretary for Personnel at Central THQ.

The Service to Mankind Award is awarded to a non-Sertoma who has exhibited extraordinary service to their community and worked to improve the lives of those around them. Kevin became involved with Sertoma through the annual Red Kettle Campaign, which he has managed for the last two years.



Kevin Brocksieck receives Sertoma's "Service to Mankind" Award. Pictured with his father, Lt. Col. Harry Brocksieck.



Dedicated volunteers make Christmas run!

For more Salvation Army news & info, or to receive *The Spring* by e-mail, click www.TSACS.org

Soup First

by Kevin Brocksieck & Alma Scott

When I arrived at the Soup Run I noticed an abandoned bedroll, backpack and other gear obviously belonging to one of the 150 waiting in line for dinner. I greeted familiar faces and newcomers as I walked toward the canteen and was soon refilling coffee cups and handing out dessert around the large downtown parking lot.

Eventually, I met Chris, the owner of the gear I'd spotted on my way in. This was Chris' first dinner at the Soup Run. Before finding us, he wasn't sure how he'd survive the coming Colorado winter. He'd come to Colorado Springs to be near his 13 year old son and longed to raise him in a good home, much like that of his own childhood. But as he glanced at his small bundle of belongings, I knew how far away he felt from these hopes.

As he finished his meal and moved on to dessert, I could tell our simple conversation was breathing life back into him. He felt he had someone in his corner who would help him thrive, not just survive.

If you took a daily walk by the corner of Spruce and Bijou, you'd plainly see that our immediate goal is to fill empty stomachs. But to many we are a hand up, offering a bridge from dependence to self-sufficiency.

As he continued, Chris talked of his military service and the downward spiral into addiction that followed; of V.A. hospitals filled to capacity and rehab centers with no room for one more. But he could see we cared for him physically and spiritually, and if nothing else, we'd be here in this parking lot every afternoon.

We've served thousands of souls throughout the years - some desperate for a way out, some mentally ill, unaware of other options, and some who have made the decision to stay on the street. It makes me wonder why, but no matter. We'll continue to meet them where they are. And tomorrow, Chris will try again at the V.A. Hospital, and be back for dinner at the Soup Run.



"Chris" wasn't sure how he'd make it through the winter without a daily meal from The Salvation Army Soup Run

Fountain Police Chaplain Remembers that "Jesus Wept"

by Captain Rio Ray [rio.ray@usw.sarmy.org]

As a Chaplain for the police department in Fountain I've come across a number of disturbing scenes: bodies mutilated by nature and man, crimes against children that enrage and disgust, families torn apart and destroyed by drugs and alcohol. But none were more disturbing than the sight of a dead baby.

As I walked up to the house the silence engulfed me, until slowly I heard the moans and cries of those inside. A police officer met me at the door and quickly briefed me: the child, not yet a year old, had died under strange conditions, no one would be able to pick up the body for at least two hours, the officers needed to leave, could I stay? I did.

I walked into the house and saw the family circled around the lifeless body of their son, grandson and nephew. What could I say to bring them any type of peace? What could I possibly do for them?

My own son is not much older than the body that lay on the floor. What would I want if I were in this horrible situation? I did the only thing that I could. I went to the father, a complete stranger, and I wrapped my arms around him, and began to cry with him. He clung to me and we mourned together. Two hours of tears, two hours of sobs.

The coroner came and the family said goodbye, we prayed and we cried again. It's strange to think that in the middle of that pain and hurt, in the midst of all those tears, Jesus was there, crying with us. I can't explain the feeling, I just know that in all of that misery, in the middle of that living nightmare, Christ was with us - not condemning, not scolding, not explaining but mourning with the family and myself. In the presence of God. Weeping with Him.

Captains Rio & Rachel Ray are the Corps Officers of the Fountain Valley Corps. Contact them at:
901 N. Santa Fe Ave. Fountain, CO 80817
719.382.1182



Salvation Army Soup Run

- Parking lot near Spruce & Bijou
- Serves afternoon meals to anyone who comes to eat.
- Mon. - Fri., including holidays
- Volunteer food service workers and drivers needed! Call 636-5266 or visit the volunteer page at www.TSACS.org

Salvation Army Says, "Thank you!" for a Great Season

The El Paso County volunteer department wants to say a BIG "Thank you!" to the many volunteers who made the 2005 Christmas Season a huge success!

"Volunteers are who really make Christmas happen," said Alma Scott, Volunteer Coordinator. "We got to know a lot of new faces last year as we served together during Katrina and then went right into the Christmas season. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to *Doing the Most Good* in El Paso County!"

Volunteers are needed for year-round projects. For more information, contact Alma at the above numbers.



Volunteers "wade" through hundreds of stockings filled with donations which were given to children along with Christmas gifts

Holiday Adopt-a-Family a Unique Way to Help

by Major Ronda Gilger [ronda.gilger@usw.sarmy.org]

The community of Colorado Springs truly went above and beyond the call of duty as they stepped forward to "Adopt-a-Family" this Christmas!

The Army worked with local schools to identify families most in need. Families were matched with businesses and individual donors alike.

On the days set aside for donors to bring in their gifts, we were overcome at the care which was taken to package, wrap, and label each gift for each child....and the goodness of our donors was more than I could have ever expected.

One instance of extraordinary love was a couple who shopped, purchased and wrapped gifts for 26 individual at-risk children, and a company who read one child's wish for a bed (He'd only ever slept on the floor in a sleeping bag) and responded by providing an entire bedroom set.

The Salvation Army's Women's Auxiliary provided the direction and volunteer manpower driving this all-important, growing program. Adopted families were filled with awe and amazement as they came to receive their gifts. As these families saw the outpouring of such generosity, I don't think I've seen so many tears of joy, nor extended gratefulness to that degree. Each family wrote a note to their anonymous donor which we delivered along with a letter expressing The Salvation Army's sincere thanks. It was a privilege to be a part of something so meaningful that met need in a very unique way.

If you would like to become an Adopt-a-family donor for the coming holiday season, e-mail Major Ronda Gilger or call 636-5167. You will be contacted in the fall.

New Volunteer Positions

Community Holiday Dinners

Committee: volunteer opportunities exist to be a part of this committee which plans and supports the annual holiday dinners. The committee will also help search for other members and a coordinator, if needed.

Community Holiday Dinners Co-

ordinator: will work closely with staff and committee to plan and implement holiday dinners in Nov. and Dec.



Volunteer Appreciation Committee: volunteer opportunities exist to be a part of volunteer appreciation planning to include an annual event. This is certainly geared to be a fun committee!

Make This Year Your Best Yet!

BE A SQUEAKY WHEEL: Share new ideas! Be willing to help implement changes.

STAY POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE: For every problem suggest a solution.

SEEK A NEW CHALLENGE: Take on a volunteer leadership role!

VOLUNTEER IN SOMETHING NEW: Join our Speakers' Bureau; speak to service groups, new employees or others about how rewarding being a volunteer can be!



Major Ronda's office became storage for many donated gifts

7 Questions!

7 questions into the brilliant minds of our staff

1. How long have you worked for The Army?

Eighteen years in Europe, Africa and now America. We've just learned we'll be moving back to the U.K. this summer.

2. What's your favorite thing about your job? Sunday worship, helping people in times of need.



Majors David & Janet Howarth

3. Big projects for the next year: We have a goal to increase our congregation to 150. Also, to keep our small groups thriving. We love to see people supporting each other this way.

4. Where are you from? DH: Basingstoke, England
JH: Harlow, Essex, England

5. Tell us about your family: We have been married for 17 years and have a 15-year-old daughter named Joanna and our son, Christopher, is 13.

6. Favorite book, TV show and/or movie: DH: What I'm reading at the moment - "Robinson Crusoe." I also read a lot of Bible commentaries. Don't watch TV much. Movie: "National Treasure."

JH: One of my favorite books is "The Five People you meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom. Movie: "Cry Freedom" starring Denzel Washington. It's about the life and death of Steve Biko, an anti-apartheid activist in South Africa during the 1970's.

7. If you could have dinner with anyone who ever lived (excluding deities) who would you pick? DH: One of Jesus' disciples.

JH: I greatly admire Archbishop Desmond Tutu, so I think it would have to be him - and he's still alive, so when's dinner?

8. What would your best friend say is your best quality? DH: Hospitality. JH: Good listener.

9. Tell us something we probably don't know about you: DH: I would never jump out of an airplane.

JH: I used to work for the Inland Revenue in the UK - have you completed your tax return?

Red Kettles [from pg.1]

"Once again the goodness and generosity of the people of El Paso County has come through," said Major Don Gilger, El Paso County Coordinator. "So many of our neighbors are in need of a hand up, and that number only grew as thousands of hurricane survivors came to Colorado after losing everything. Many people were helped at Christmas and many more will be helped during the coming winter months. The Salvation Army's pledge is to **do the most good** with your contributions in El Paso County. Thank you and God bless you all!"

All donations made to The Salvation Army, including Red Kettles, are used locally to support programs such as Christmas assistance to families, The Salvation Army New Hope Center (shelter), crisis and long term aid to families, companionship to the elderly and ill, nurturing underprivileged children, relief for disaster victims and workers, and assistance to the disabled and addicted.

"Colorado Springs is a very giving community, obviously one of the most so in the west," said Kevin Brocksieck, Kettle Campaign Manager. "They see the great need and give freely."

To make donations year round, call 884-1050 or visit www.TSACS.org.

Katrina [from pg.1]

for years to come through self-sufficiency programs, career planning and job search, computer training, budgeting and literacy workshops.

Gail Sherman joined the staff at our Yuma Street campus in the fall as Katrina Relief Coordinator. Gail is an evacuee from New Orleans who has dedicated herself to helping others who have been displaced to our area.

"It's such a thrill as we help those who are so far from home. Whether it's supplying clothes, diapers or food to a family or a donated car to someone starting over, I'm glad The Salvation Army is here to help."



Jesse was one of the many volunteers who served local hurricane survivors at the relief center.

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Shaw Clifton Elected as New International Leader

The Salvation Army announced in January that its new world leader and the 18th General of The Salvation Army will be Commissioner Shaw Clifton. Commissioner Clifton who, currently heads up the UK and Republic of Ireland, will succeed General John Larrison April 1.

“I think he is an excellent choice for General,” said Major David Howarth, Colorado Springs Corps Officer and fellow Briton. “He is extremely intelligent and a tremendous speaker.”

Salvation Army Generals are elected by The High Council made up of senior Salvation Army leaders from around the world. A new General is chosen when the current General is removed by The High Council, retires, or dies.

Clifton will be the ninth British General in The Salvation Army’s 116 year history. Two of William Booth’s children served as General, Bramwell and Evangeline (the first of two female Generals.) There are currently five living retired generals.



General-Elect Shaw Clifton is greeted by General John Larsson after the announcement

Who was General when you were born?

William Booth “The Founder”
(1860-1912) England
Bramwell Booth (1912-1929) England
Edward Higgins (1929-1934) England
Evangeline Booth (1934-1939) England
George Carpenter (1939-1946) Australia
Albert Orsborn (1946-1954) England
Wilfred Kitching (1954-1963) England
Frederick Coutts (1963-1969) Scotland
Erik Wickberg (1969-1974) Switzerland
Clarence Wiseman (1974-1977) Canada
Arnold Brown (1977-1981) Canada
Jarl Wahlstrom (1981-1986) Finland
Eva Burrows (1986-1993) Australia
Bramwell Tillsley (1993-1994) Canada
Paul Rader (1994-1999) United States
John Gowans (1999-2002) Scotland
John Larsson (2002-2006) Sweden
Shaw Clifton (2006) England

The Salvation Army pledges to “Do the Most Good” with your contributions of time, money and resources!

To make a financial donation or volunteer, call 719.636.3891
or visit www.TSACS.org.

For non-monetary donations, call 1.800.SA.TRUCK or visit www.SATRUCK.org