Greetings! As the sights and sounds of the Christmas season increase around us during the coming weeks, I thought it would be a good time to reflect back on the history of the connection of The Salvation Army and Christmas. The Army mission has been two-fold: converting sinners and assisting the needy. Early outreaches by the Army included providing Christmas dinners for the needy and “down and outers”. Since it was difficult to find funds in the early days, the story goes that in 1891, in San Francisco, Captain Joseph McFee (a Liverpool lad), trying to come up with a way to raise money, grabbed a crab pot at a local wharf. He hung the crab pot (some stories say it was an iron pot, but I like the crab pot!) on a tripod at a busy intersection, and hung a sign above the pot “Fill the Pot for the Poor-Free Dinner on Christmas Day”. It is said that kettles soon provided Christmas dinners for thousands nationwide and grew the profile of the SA at a time where there were few government safety nets for the poor. The story also goes that Amelia, an Army cadet, bought a ten cents bell to ring to raise awareness of the kettle, and this resulted in the spread of the bell ringing.

Here in Charlotte, the first kettles were used in 1905, and the same kettles were used until 1945. In 2015, 25,000 bell ringers helped to raise $149.6 million nationwide! Ladies, lets ring those bells and support our community! (The Conversation.com, The Salvation Army)

We are happy to have our new Christmas Center, and along with it come many opportunities for us to continue to serve. This tradition goes back to December, 1927, when the Charlotte Fire Department, WBT and the Salvation Army organized a Community Christmas Cheer Program for children in need. WBT appealed for toys, the Fire Dept. collected the toys, and the SA handled distribution. Prior to 1935, distribution took place at a big Christmas Eve party. In 1935, a Salvation Army Christmas Store was opened.

One of my favorite memories of the Christmas season was hearing the Salvation Army bands play in the center of my hometown in England, Birmingham. I remember cold, and dark winter evenings, the smell of roasted chestnuts from street vendors, and the beautiful sounds of brass bands and Christmas carols. Thanks to the Salvation Army for what they have done and what they still do. Lets get out there and help them.

Nina Robertson
President, 2018-2020
November Meeting - Stocking/Backpack Stuffer Event

Join us to fill infant stockings and backpacks for preschool and school aged kids in need and enjoy some fellowship while you work!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 19th, from 10:00 AM to 1:00PM at the Christmas Center, 9315 N. Tryon Street (across from UNC Charlotte) Please make sure to RSVP so that we have the correct number of boxed lunches for the number of members/guests attending.

The Auxiliary Board meeting will take place just prior to the General Meeting at 9:00 a.m. All Auxiliary officers and committee chairs, please plan to attend.

PLEASE RSVP BY: Friday, November 15
TO: Dionna Andrews, dionna.andrews@uss.salvationarmy.org or 704-334-4731

NOTE: Betty will have Go Play Save books available to buy

Birthdays

Please join me in wishing the following members a wonderful birthday with many blessings!

Mildred Long      Nov. 1
Judy McKeever     Nov. 7
Susan Harmon      Nov. 8
Dorothy Jones     Nov. 20
Carolyn Dellinger Nov. 23
Connie Harris     Nov. 24
Betsy Hutton      Nov. 26

Carolyn Gibson
January meeting

Due to the National Advisory Board meeting that is being held in Charlotte next year and hosted in part by Area Command, the decision has been made to move our monthly Auxiliary meeting for January out to the last week of the month. Therefore, our meeting will be held on the last Tuesday of the month, January 28th next year. Please make a note of this, I appreciate your cooperation!

Thanks, Major Debbie Broome

Center of Hope

We had another successful chicken dinner at the Center of Hope in October. Thank you Krysten Hoversen & Diane Thomas for serving dinner this month and thank you to all who made brownies.

I still need volunteers for our lunch on November 22. Please call me 336-926-6800 if interested. We’re having soup & sandwiches. Please bring brownies (no nuts) to our November meeting.

Happy Fall! Jennifer Adkins

Scholarship Student

Enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Program at Harding University High School, Kiera Carlton was the epitome of academic excellence and leadership according to her teachers and counselors. Actively participating in campus clubs and community service projects, Kiera has always joined organizations that can provide her with opportunities to grow and develop as a student and as a person. As a freshman at Gardner-Webb University, Kiera is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in sociology with a second major in psychology. Though this school year has “brought her joy because of the friendships she has formed and the fact that she feels closer to God,” her freshman year has also presented her with challenges. Kiera says that the course load during her freshman year has been tough. “The assignments aren’t hard, but they are very time consuming. I was not accustomed to this in high school where most of my assignments would take less than an hour to complete.” In high school she volunteered at a local hospital which allowed her to “form a deep connection with young patients and develop a passion for serving children who had medical needs.” Kiera is determined to succeed in order to fulfill her educational goals and make her family proud. Her family is very supportive of her desire to serve her community through Habitat for Humanity and her commitment to volunteering at local food banks. She is appreciative of The Salvation Army Women’s Auxiliary, who she says “will help her achieve her goal of making the world a better place while being inspired by the smiles of those she can reach out to.”
Poplar Grove

We had another exciting dance birthday party for the residents of Poplar Grove on October 16. Kay Major, Rita Watts, and Betsy Hutton “busted out their moves” as they performed and taught line dances. Several of the residents joined in, displaying their own dancing skills after enjoying their birthday meal and cake. Of course our birthday honorees enjoyed receiving their birthday bags of goodies, and the lucky door prize winners received gift cards.

Many thanks to Jane Truesdel, Rita Watts, Charlotte Dunn, and Betsy Hutton for helping Kay and Dana with the food preparation and serving.

We continue to be in search of entertainment ideas, so please let us know if you have an idea we can pursue. Our next party should be on January 15.

Thank you for your gift donations and gift cards!
Kay Major and Dana Vaden

Adult Rehabilitation Center

The fall festival on October 25th at the ARC, was a success, lots of fun, there was music, games, lots of food and bounce house for the children.

Thanks to all who participated! Winnie

Boys and Girls Club

A big thanks to all for your cupcake contributions to the Boys and Girls Clubs. With the last minute commitments, we were able to get all that we needed, plus a few extras. The cupcakes were all decorated beautifully in Halloween colors and I know the kids loved them. The next parties will be for Valentine’s Day.

Thanks to all who participated! Cheryl

Volunteer Opportunity

Bell Ringing volunteers help bring the joy of the holiday season to millions across the world. For many people, seeing the red kettles and ringers are a true sign that the Christmas season has arrived. The Women’s Auxiliary has graciously agreed to volunteer to help again this year. Please contact Carolyn Gibson (ccg515@aol.com or 704- 27-3995) if you would like to help out on either December 5th or December 12th.