It takes a special type of person to give of one’s self to make life better for others. William Booth, the founder of The Salvation Army, was this kind of person, dedicating his life to help individuals who were homeless, hungry, poor, and destitute. He opened the first Salvation Army center in 1865 in an East London slum warehouse and changed the history of Christianity and social work in now over 130 countries.

Today, over 113 years later, The Salvation Army of Greater Winston-Salem encompassing Forsyth, Davie, Yadkin and Stokes County thanks you for your caring support in sharing the vision of William Booth. As a member of the William Booth Society, you have joined forces with us in being social and spiritual visionaries.

Thank you for being the army behind The Salvation Army.

Christmas is upon us and the year is coming to an end. To say that 2020 has been challenging may be the understatement of the century. We have all been effected in some way by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet despite it all, we are reminded that the Christmas season brings us the promise of hope and a reason to be grateful.

We here at The Salvation Army of Greater Winston-Salem are grateful to you because your support has given hope to the thousands of children, women, and men we have been privileged to serve in the past year. Throughout the ongoing crisis your gifts have allowed us to remain open and providing all of our services, albeit adapted to the needs and requirements of safety and health, to all of our neighbors in need. At the Center of Hope shelter, families have found a safe refuge and a second chance. At our food pantries, individuals facing hunger have received nourishment. At our Boys & Girls Club, students are participating in remote learning in a safe environment. At our Senior Center, members who are among the most vulnerable to the coronavirus, have been provided meals, engaging activities, and fellowship.

The miracle of the birth of Jesus gives us all hope for a better future. Please continue to the second page for an inspiring story. God bless you and have the Merriest of Christmases!

Majors Andrew and Hazel Wiley and the entire Staff

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Every kid needs a champion. Sylvia Adams, Executive Director at The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club, is that champion. In her 32nd year, Sylvia has influenced the lives of thousands of children and their parents by creating a positive environment where children can learn, play, and grow. When asked what her life’s work means to her, Sylvia responded; “My calling is to love each child right where they are and then do everything in my power to help them achieve their goals.” Goals like succeeding in school, gaining self-confidence, eating healthy, being kind to others, and securing a great future.

When the pandemic and executive orders closed schools, Sylvia created "Camp Hero" a day care for children of first responders. Then when the school year began with online classes only, Sylvia transitioned to a Remote Learning Center for over 70 students.

Monday through Friday Sylvia and Staff diligently ensure every child is logged onto their class paying close attention and completing their assignments. Healthy meals and snacks are served daily to fuel their minds.

A long-time club member and sophomore in high school did not adapt well to online school and received failing grades. This young man being raised by his Grandmother is a talented basketball player and suddenly there is no team to keep him motivated. He dropped out of school and the club. Sylvia has a close relationship with him and his grandmother and refused to give up on him. She had family share the importance of education with him and asked everyone she knew to pray. All her efforts paid off as he has returned to the club and Sylvia is working to get him reinstated in school.

Sylvia connects with all the children and families on a real, personal level. She believes every child deserves love, patience, opportunities to make the right decision and most of all they need a CHAMPION.

Giving is about making a difference. As a member of our William Booth Society, your generous investment empowers us to make a difference in individuals and families lives.

You are our Champion!

More inspiring stories of Champions coming in 2021!