

Giving hope today, tomorrow and always!

# Transformations



The Salvation Army Community & Family Services, Kemptville

January 2009

Giving Hope Today

## THANKS TO THE MANY UNSUNG HEROES!

By Stephanie Gilmer

I never cease to be amazed by the generosity brought forth by Christmas! I am always thrilled by the number of people who want to help with our Christmas work—we couldn't do it without them. Some donated groceries, clothing, toys or money, many never even giving their names so we could thank them! Some sorted and packed Christmas hampers for the 89 families that needed our assistance. Others ensured that each child had new toys and new clothing on Christmas morning. All in all, we enlisted the help of approximately 175 volunteers who logged over 800 hours! Truly there are many people who are unsung heroes - may God richly bless each of them!

Words alone

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## SALLY ANN CHRISTMAS KETTLE EXCEEDS GOAL

By Melanie McElhinney

When I looked at the blank schedule for our 2008 Christmas Kettle Campaign in November, knowing we had a goal of raising \$30 000, I was worried, to say the least. I'd been the Administrative Assistant to Stephanie Gilmer and the Christmas Coordinator for all of five weeks, and I wondered if I'd bitten off much more than I could chew. Actually, I was quite sure of it. How does someone who doesn't

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## A WONDERFUL ADVENTURE!

By Dr. Patrick Babin

A Volunteer among Many

Although we were close to exhaustion on December 22, 2008, becoming involved with the Salvation Army food and gift drop-off at the Kemptville Mall was an extremely rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Our hard work was bolstered by many ardent volunteers whose benevolence was reflected in the



Patrick Babin, Christmas Hamper Coordinator, with some of the youth from the Unashamed Youth Group from Cornerstone Wesleyan Church in North Gower. They were a fantastic help!



(L-R) Susie Macintosh, Ellen Fawcett, Pat Hopkins and Pat Babin at the Christmas Centre sorting donated groceries.

God is love.

donations from the schools, businesses, service clubs, private citizens, and the OPP. Others assisted with sorting

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**LOCAL SERVICES & PROGRAMS:**  Income Tax Prep for low income earners  Summer Camp  Friendship Lunch Ministry  Food Bank  Thrift Store  Job readiness  Assistance for victims of fire or abuse  Snow Suit Fund  Pastoral Care  Christmas Care Program  CSO & Volunteer Program  Skills of Success

**THE MISSION** of The Salvation Army in Kemptville is "To be a transforming influence in our community and to help people recognize and develop their potential by sharing the love of Jesus Christ through the compassionate provision of holistic support in cooperation with others."

**OUR VISION** in Kemptville is to help those we serve to discover and overcome barriers that may hinder independence. Through building relationships and understanding needs, we are able to offer services that alleviate stress and assist people to become more self-reliant.

**OUR OBJECTIVE** is to improve the quality of life of the poor and marginalized people living in our community by providing a safe and non-judgmental environment where people: can access services or referrals; learn new skills based on identified needs; connect with others and enjoy a sense of belonging; and cultivate friendships.



## WHERE ARE WE GOING?

In May 2008, in consultation with a group of community members and the Kemptville Salvation Army's Advisory Council, we engaged in a time of strategic planning; looking at where we are and planning for where we need to be. It was very exciting to examine our ministry and determine the direction we felt God was leading us.

A major objective that quickly surfaced was the need for a new location that would enable us to keep pace with the growth of the community as well as making it possible to offer more in terms of meeting needs. It would also



The Salvation Army Community & Family Services has been operating from this location since December 2002. Originally built in the 1950s, it once housed The Salvation Army Church and a residence for the officers.

mean a more pleasant environment for our staff and customers alike.

Our current location on the corners of Oxford and Rideau Streets has served us well. It was built back in the 1950s as the church and residence for Salvation Army officers. Today it houses our Thrift Store, Food Bank and offices.

The building poses a number of challenges such as numerous stairways both inside and out; there is a lack of space for not only storage but also for programs like the Skills of Success Life Skills Program currently being offered in partnership with T. R. Leger School.

We have been seriously investigating various options around town, looking at available properties and buildings. It's an exciting time but also a huge undertaking. As The Salvation Army deepens their commitment to serving this community, we will be looking to the community for support.

Is God calling you to help? Are you a trades person? Do you have a professional skill, talent or finances that you would like to invest in this project that will help us to reach our goal? It will take a generous, visionary team to make this happen.

If you are interested in discussing ways that you can help, please give me a call. I look forward to speaking with you. ♥

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(fun!) and the packing of hampers (slightly more arduous!). A total of 89 families were accommodated.

Two of the volunteers, through their sheer degree of participation, deserve special recognition. They are Ellen Fawcett, "vice-president" of daily operations, and Sue MacIntosh, "vice-president" of transportation. Both of these good Samaritans were invaluable.

I would be remiss not to mention our Secret Santa who dropped in regularly, along with his elves, to deliver toys and more toys, to bolster morale and to provide most welcomed treats. What a wonderful humanitarian in Harry Pratt!!

In retrospect, a fulfilling adventure! And Melanie, it was a real treat working with you. ♥

## A THANK YOU NOTE

Stephanie,

I wanted to say thank you for the help you provided to my family this



Christmas Season.

Without your help there would have been little to eat and nothing under the tree. My family is not only grateful for what the Salvation Army does for us at Christmas, but what they do for us all year long. We appreciate the personal touch that the staff and volunteers give. We THANK YOU all. Warm Wishes.

~ Amy



Denise Dobson and Rhonda Aiken presented Stephanie Gilmer of The Salvation Army with two generous donations; one came from Proxim CarePharma and the other came from the staff members!

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can never convey how much we appreciate your support. Please be assured that your generosity makes a significant difference in the lives of those we serve. 1 John 4:21 says, "And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." Truly you have demonstrated love through your caring and generosity. ♥

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know a soul in Kemptville recruit enough help to fill 328 three-hour shifts! All Stephanie would say whenever I would express my stress was, "They'll come."

Sure enough, by parade day the shifts were filling up, slowly but surely, with the names of many people who didn't know me from Adam. I soon realized that who I was didn't matter. The Kemptville Salvation Army had a force of its own – an army, I suppose – who believe enough in what we are doing here to put many hours of their own time on the line. We had volunteers from every walk of life – young and old, rich and poor. Even Mayor Bill Gooch put in a few hours on a Saturday! Every worker had a reason, a purpose, for giving what they could to the cause, and because of these volunteers we can continue "Giving Hope Today".

It calls to mind a couple of men who were on their way somewhere with

places to go and people to see. They encountered a crippled man who was begging on the street, and when they were asked for money this is what they said: "I don't have a penny to my name, but what I do have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!". The crippled man immediately jumped to his feet and walked, danced, and praised the Lord (Acts 3:1-6). When we give what we have, God does miracles. That's what He's done for us this Christmas Season with the Kettle Campaign. We had hoped to raise \$30 000.00, and our grand total was \$34,839.84! That's over 16% more than we had hoped! To our many volunteers, who gave their time, and to the people of Kemptville, who gave of their finances, I enthusiastically say THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

The success of the 2008 Christmas Kettle Campaign, I realize now, has very little to do with who I am or who I know. It is a direct result of the efforts of over 150 enthusiastic volunteers who believed we could raise the money, and believed the Kemptville Salvation Army is doing great things. What's more, we here at The Salvation Army believe God is doing great things, "exceedingly and abundantly more than we can ask or even imagine" (Eph. 3:20,21)! ♥



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**  
Constable Cathy Lindsay and Stephanie Gilmer stand with the donations received from the free OPP BBQ held on December 4, 2008. There was a fantastic turnout for the event and a grand total of \$1,530 was raised plus a truck load of food and toys!



North Grenville's Mayor Bill Gooch graciously gave time out of his busy schedule on a Saturday afternoon to ring the bells with our kettles.



Several of the elves flipping burgers and getting the food ready at the OPP's Christmas BBQ. It was a pretty balmy day for a BBQ as you can tell from their attire!



Volunteer Ellen Fawcett sorting some of the many food donations that The Salvation Army received during the Christmas Hamper Program. Any leftover food was brought back to the Food Bank at The Salvation Army to replenish the shelves as we enter the busiest season in the Food Bank. The Food Bank is open every Monday and Thursday afternoon from 12:30 till 3:30 PM. All those in need are welcome.

