History of the Red Kettle

The kettle’s career as a fundraiser began in 1891. That’s when Captain Joseph McFee resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner to the poor of San Francisco. But how would he pay for the food?

Then, from his days as a sailor in Liverpool, England, the captain remembered a large pot displayed on the Stage Landing, called “Simpson’s Pot.” Passersby tossed charitable donations into the pot. The captain received permission from city authorities to place a crab pot and tripod at the Oakland ferry landing at the foot of San Francisco’s Market Place. The kettle--and McFee’s request to “Keep the Pot Boiling!”--drew a lot of attention from ferry passengers. So began a tradition that spread throughout the United States, then the world.

In 1898, The New York World hailed The Salvation Army kettles as “the newest and most novel device for collecting money.” In 1901, kettle contributions in New York City provided funds for the first mammoth sit-down dinner in Madison Square Garden, a custom that continued for many years. Today, families are often given grocery vouchers or food baskets so they can prepare dinners at home. The homeless are still invited to share holiday dinners and festivities at hundreds of Salvation Army centers.

Kettles now are used around the world. Public contributions to the kettles enable The Salvation Army to bring the spirit of Christmas to the aged and lonely, ill, poor and disadvantaged, inmates of jails and other institutions--people otherwise often forgotten.

At The Salvation Army – Fox Cities, we are able to provide year-round services such as a daily meal program, food pantry, transitional housing, and rent/utility assistance, because of the support we receive from the community. In addition, we are able to provide toys, food baskets, and gifts to families in need at Christmas.

Mission Statement

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

VOLUNTEER

Ring the Bell

DOING THE MOST GOOD™

The Salvation Army—Fox Cities

Bell Ringing Office
130 E. North St.
Appleton, WI 54912

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 1605
Appleton, WI 54912-1605

For more information or to schedule a bell ringing shift:
(920) 955-1225
www.safoxcities.org

06/2010
Who Can Ring the Bell?
Individuals, families, students, church groups, service clubs, social organizations, scout groups, friends, sororities, fraternities, grandparents, and grandchildren... the list is endless. Bell Ringing is open to anyone who wants to donate their time and have a rewarding volunteer experience. If under 16, children must have a parent or guardian present with them while ringing.

Where Can We Ring?
There are multiple bell ringing locations throughout the Fox Cities including Appleton, Kimberly, Little Chute, Menasha, and Neenah. Kettles may be located inside or outside, while other sites have heated booths.

When Can We Ring?
Bell ringing begins in early-November and continues through Christmas Eve and is open Monday to Saturday. There is no bell ringing on Sundays, Thanksgiving Day, or Christmas Day.

Two-hour shifts are available from 8 am—8 pm, but hours may vary by location. Volunteers may sign up for one shift or multiple shifts throughout the season.

How Do I Sign-Up to Ring?
- Go online at www.safoxcities.org or call our Bell Office at (920) 955-1225.
- Online: Fill in your email address so a reminder can be sent a few days before your shift. We DO NOT sell our mailing list or email list.
- Write down your day, time, and location on your calendar.

At the Kettle...
- Try to arrive at the kettle a few minutes early.
- The kettle, bells, and apron will be at the location when you arrive.
- RING THE BELL!
- Feel free to greet people with “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays”.
- Smile and be enthusiastic!
- Say “Thank You” to those who give.
- You are representing The Salvation Army. Please act in a respectable manner to all who pass by.
- Please DO NOT eat, drink, smoke, or talk on your cell phone while at the kettle.
- If you need to leave the kettle for a short break, you may do so. The kettle is locked to the stand. Leave the bell and apron at the kettle stand while on break.
- Please do not handle the money. Let the donors place it into the kettles.
- If the kettle becomes full, use the paint stick to push the money into the kettle.
- In case of any problems, look for the contact numbers on the side of the kettle.

For more information or to schedule a bell ringing shift: (920) 955-1225 www.safoxcities.org

What Do I Do At The End of My Shift?
When your shift is complete, hand off the apron and bells to the next volunteer. If no one comes to replace you, place the bells and apron in the bag attached to the stand. You are free to leave. (The kettle is locked and our drivers will be around to do regular pick-ups each day.)

Anything Else I Should Know?
- If you or your group has any interest in singing Christmas carols or playing musical instruments at the kettle instead of ringing bells, please call the Volunteer Coordinator at (920) 955-1230 so we can get approval from the store manager first.
- Bringing pets along to ring bells is prohibited. Service animals ONLY.
- Bell ringing IS NOT an option for court-ordered community service.

What does it mean to Adopt-A-Kettle?
Some groups will “adopt” a kettle for a whole day and staff it with volunteers for one or two hour shifts. Other groups will “adopt” all of the kettles on a specific day and for a specific block of time. There are multiple ways for groups to help with bell ringing. Call the Volunteer Coordinator at (920) 955-1230 for more information on group bell ringing.

Funds raised through bell ringing are used locally to help families, children, and seniors at Christmas and throughout the year.

Two hours of your time at Christmas can really help contribute to meeting the needs of your neighbors in the Fox Cities.