



The Legacy Of A Lifetime

Annette Toedte is celebrating her 100th birthday in September with family and friends. A long-time resident of Kansas City, she moved a few years ago to be near her family in Illinois. But our Gift Planning Office has kept in touch with her and she continues her financial support to our region.

Despite all the changes that Annette has observed during the last 100 years, what hasn't changed is her desire to help others. As a financial supporter to us for many years, she has blessed many people with help and hope. A few years ago, Annette told us that she has also planned a final gift — to carry on after her wonderful lifetime — through her will.

Annette is pictured above with her Light Brigade tote bag — our simple way of saying thank you for remembering us as part of her legacy.

How about you? What's your legacy? Do we fit into your last plans?

We have many resources available to help you dream about your legacy and put it into action. An estate plan is the cornerstone of your last wishes. Let us know how we can help you make that plan a reality.

Please fill out and mail back our form (see other side) and let us know how we can help — or if we are already part of your plans. It will be the beginning of a friendship to honor and celebrate your legacy of hope.



Decades Later, She Still Recalls The Kindness She Was Shown As A Little Girl

Living in a tough part of Kansas City, MO in the 1940s made Dolores grow up more quickly than she should have. Her family lived in a small apartment and shared a bathroom with three other families. There was violence in the streets where she lived, and Dolores remembers going to sleep each night, frightened of what the next day would bring.

Dolores admits she had a difficult childhood. But one memory still makes her smile all these years later — the time she spent at the local Salvation Army.

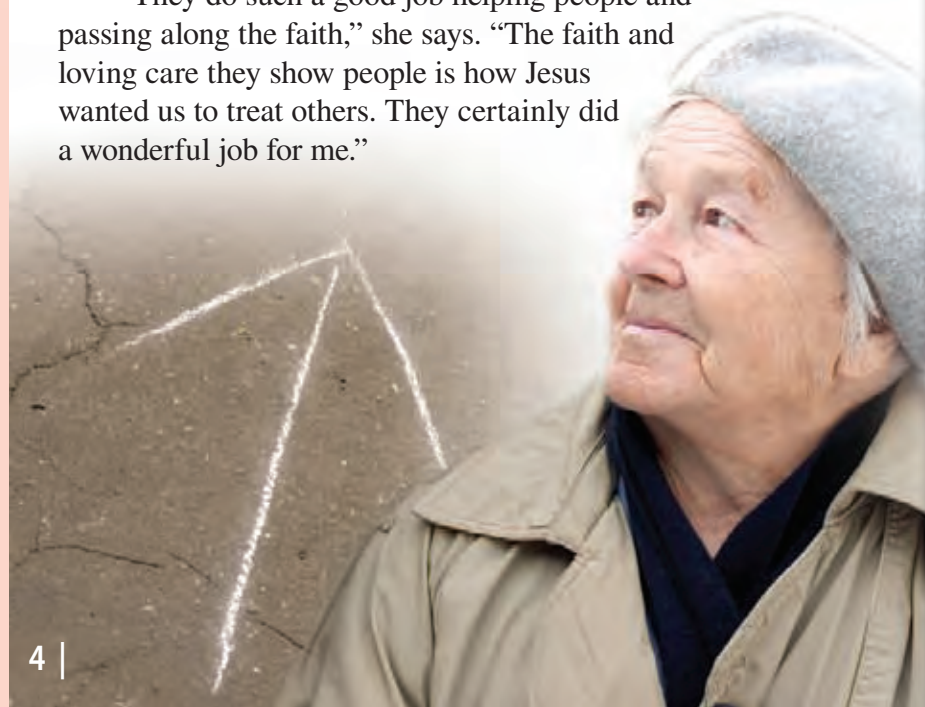
“There was a Salvation Army a block way,” she recalls. “And they had special activities for kids. It was a safe place.”

To this day, Dolores can still summon up the sights and sounds of playing a chalk game with her friends there. One group of children would draw arrows with chalk on the sidewalk. The other group would follow the arrows until they found the first group. It kept the kids busy — and safe.

“The Salvation Army was just a safe place to go when I had nowhere else,” says Dolores. “And they always had snacks. I can't tell you what that meant to know I would have something to eat.”

Dolores will never forget the kindness she was shown. And now, as she is able, she makes donations monthly to The Salvation Army. She feels it is the least she can do to support an organization that helped a lonely little girl all those years ago.

“They do such a good job helping people and passing along the faith,” she says. “The faith and loving care they show people is how Jesus wanted us to treat others. They certainly did a wonderful job for me.”



What's Your Motivation?

Dear Friend,

As a valued supporter, you are an enormously compassionate person. But compassion isn't measured in dollars alone. It's measured in deeds. In a kind word. In a hug.

In fact, you may be thinking right now about your own motivation to regularly support The Salvation Army. Were you touched by The Salvation Army at one point? Were we there for you, for a friend, or for a relative in need?

The truth is, The Salvation Army has been here for over a century, meeting people at their point of need. And now, with our current economy, the need has never been greater.

Take Laurie Johnson — a hard-working mom who might not have been able to afford quality child care without The Salvation Army's Early Learning Center — a program your donations help support. You can read her story — and others — in this newsletter.

You can imagine what it takes for The Salvation Army to serve families like Laurie's and the countless others across our area who need us every single day. But it's what we are called to do. And we do it humbly, with you by our side.

So please take a few moments to remember why you give to help others. Then, please mail a generous donation. Your compassion is what allows us to be there for those in great need.

May God bless you,

Jeffery Smith

Major Jeffery Smith
Divisional Commander



SA-KWM-09201A

Their Young Faces Say It All ... Your Support Makes Smiling Easy During Hard Times

The Salvation Army's Westport Early Learning Center in Kansas City, Missouri is buzzing with noise.

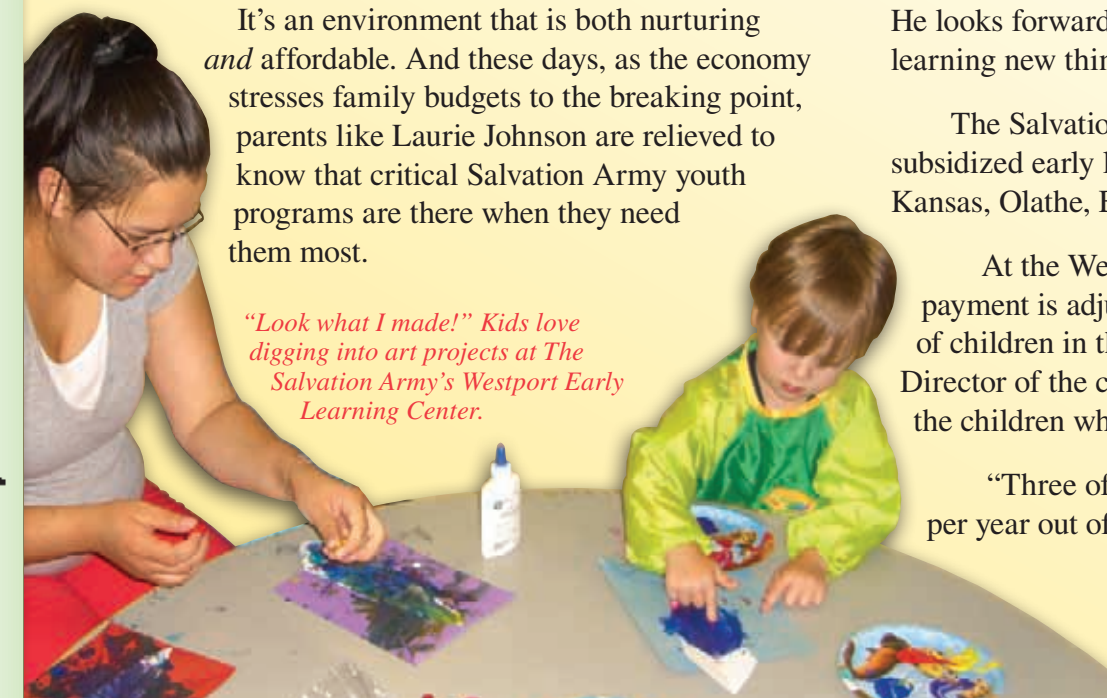
Giggles, specifically. And squeals of delight.

“Look what I made!” one smiling child chimes out from a table filled with art supplies.

Here at the Early Learning Center, children aren't just being cared for while their parents work — they're being supported with developmentally-appropriate learning activities in a Christian environment.

It's an environment that is both nurturing and affordable. And these days, as the economy stresses family budgets to the breaking point, parents like Laurie Johnson are relieved to know that critical Salvation Army youth programs are there when they need them most.

“Look what I made!” Kids love digging into art projects at The Salvation Army's Westport Early Learning Center.



Your kind donations help support families in our area who struggle and enable us to provide affordable child care.

“I have a full-time job, but it's still pretty tough making ends meet. So I am really thankful for the Westport Early Learning Center,” explains Laurie, whose 4-year-old son has attended the program for two years. “I am paying much less than I would anywhere else. And the best thing is that my son loves it there. He looks forward to going every morning and is learning new things every day!”

The Salvation Army operates state-licensed and subsidized early learning centers in Kansas City, Kansas, Olathe, Emporia and Topeka.

At the Westport Early Learning Center, payment is adjusted for income and for the number of children in the family who attend the center. The Director of the center, Kristen Cline, says about half the children who attend are state-assisted.

“Three of our families currently only pay \$1 per year out of pocket,” she says.

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Their Young Faces Say It All ...

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The center, which accepts children ages 2-6, employs six full-time teachers and is licensed for 44 children. It is also almost always near or at capacity.

“We provide a full day of learning and fun,” says Kristen. “The kids have small-group computer time, and rotate in and out of art, writing, dramatic play, math, science and fine motor areas. They go outside twice a day to play and also have nap time.”

The children also get a cooked breakfast, a hot lunch, and a snack every day — something they otherwise might not receive at home.

“A lot of our kids here don’t have real meals when they go home,” explains Kristen. “We’ve noticed that by giving them better quality meals, they learn better and they are happier.”

By the happy sounds filling the room, it’s apparent the kids couldn’t agree more!

Helping and supporting families who struggle in our area is only possible through your kind and generous donations. Thank you so much for supporting The Salvation Army.



Garden City Youth Program Helps Kids Blossom

These days, Garden City, Kansas — the largest town in Finney County — is looking a lot like other melting pots across the country. According to a recent report from the U.S. Census Bureau, Finney County is now home to a growing population of Hispanic families.

The meatpacking plants — the major industry in Garden City — is a main reason why. Lured by the prospect of steady work, people travel from afar for stable jobs.

But one thing that hasn’t changed — even while demographics have — is The Salvation Army’s role in helping *all* young people, says Robert DeLeon, the Hispanic Ministries Director for The Salvation Army in Garden City.

The Hispanic Ministries program focuses on reaching children and their families with services that help connect them to the community, offer support, and provide activities and worship services.

“Even though the kids are mostly bilingual, everything is conducted in English,” explains DeLeon. The youth programs focus on getting kids to make better choices, stay in school, and become productive citizens.

“We serve children of the working poor. They have jobs and earn a living but it’s not enough to

make ends meet,” says DeLeon. “These are large families with lots of mouths to feed and not enough dollars to make it work.”

Like the Hispanic population in Garden City, the Hispanic Ministries program has grown tremendously. It started in 1996 with four kids in their Friday Night Teen program. Today, they see upwards of 100 kids.

“One of my goals is to have youth seek Christ more and to be productive students in society. To see the families come and worship with us has been a true blessing,” DeLeon says.

The Hispanic Ministries program works the way other Salvation Army programs do — by helping those who struggle, all backed by your support.

Thanks to you, programs like Hispanic Ministries and many others continue to offer critical, life-changing services to members of our community. That’s the good your donations do every single day. God bless you.

A High-School Dropout. No Job. And Yet ... She’s One Step Closer to her Dreams!

Janis Merrell never thought she’d make her dreams come true. Pregnant as a teenager, she dropped out of school to care for her daughter. With no education, she figured she’d always have to struggle.

That was almost 20 years ago. Since then, Janis says she has toughed it out one way and one way only — with the help of The Salvation Army.

“I was ready to give up at one point. Now I hope to move forward,” Janis says about the help The Salvation Army and your support has provided.

In addition to getting food, help with her bills, and support to make it through the times when her off-and-on jobs fell through, Janis is now also one step closer to getting her G.E.D.

And it’s all thanks to your support of The Salvation Army!

Janis attends an Adult Education and Literacy Program at The Salvation Army Corps in Independence, MO. The Salvation Army provides the facility and classrooms for the program — and has been generously doing so for over 15 years, according to Kathy Stack, an instructor in the program.

The program operates four days a week, six hours a day for students ages 16 and over who have dropped out of school.

“We work one-on-one with students to help them achieve whatever their goals are. Some people come in to improve their skills. Some are trying to get a different job. Some are trying to get into college,” Kathy explains.

Classes have grown every year, and 85% of students are referred to the program by word of

mouth. But many students find out about it simply by seeing the program in action when they visit The Salvation Army to get assistance with food or utilities. In fact, that’s how Janis first discovered the program.

“The teachers are wonderful and they are always there to help somebody,” says Janis, whose own reading level has improved enough that she is now often helping other students.

One key part of the program is The Salvation Army church nursery in the building. It offers a safe place for children to stay while their parents attend class.

“I’ve probably had 15 moms who would not have graduated had The Salvation Army not have thought about a place for the children to stay,” says Kathy.

Janis attends an Adult Education and Literacy Program run out of a local Salvation Army Corps. Your donations help her and others like her who need extra support.



Janis, who hopes to graduate from the program soon and make her dream of working in the arts field a reality, says she owes so much to The Salvation Army — and to you.

“If it wasn’t for the teachers and the program, I wouldn’t be where I’m at now. I was ready to give up at one point. Now I hope to move forward!” she says.

Simple Ways to Remember The Salvation Army in Your Plans

- Name us in your will or trust
- Name us a beneficiary on an account
- Name us to receive an insurance policy
- Name us to receive savings bonds

CUT ALONG DASHED LINE AT LEFT, AND FOLD ON DOTTED LINES BELOW

Ed Roberts
Director of Gift Planning
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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

PLACE STAMP HERE

THE SALVATION ARMY

3637 Broadway | Kansas City, MO 64111

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Send me a guide to my estate planning I would like to visit
- I have already remembered you in my plans

Or contact Ed Roberts, Director of Gift Planning
at 800-336-4547, ext. 365
or by email: ed_roberts@usc.salvationarmy.org