

# THE SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

## From the desk of Pastor Tonna

*For many years my family have taken part as Salvation Army Bell Ringers, what--- memories we have made together. Our daughter Mindy may think differently when we stood in front of Kroger's thirty-seven years ago in zero temperature and a howling wind whipping around us. When Rural King was built, we were blessed to stand in the entry way shielded away from the elements of the winter weather, thankful for Rural Kings kindness. This rewarding time volunteering gave us the opportunity to ring the little red bell for two hours, wearing the signature red apron, standing by the red milk can kettle, and greeting all who dropped a coin in the can, feeling proud when our time had ended, to hand off the bell to the next group of ringers. What a joy to volunteer for an organization that helps so many. Below is a wonderful story about the history of The Salvation Army bell ringers, enjoy!*

People are good, kind, and generous.

What a pleasure of volunteering as Salvation Army bell ringers this holiday season.

We stood in front of a local grocery store while wearing our red Salvation Army aprons and rang our bells for the two-hour shift. We encountered hundreds of people, all of whom reinforced my notion that most people are decent and charitable. And of the hundreds of Merry Christmases we exclaimed, not one person had a negative rebuttal.

William Booth founded the Christian charitable organization, The Salvation Army in 1865 in London as a way of "taking the gospel of Jesus Christ directly to the people."



The Salvation Army's red kettle campaign began later, in 1891, by Captain Joseph McFee, a Salvation Army officer who was looking for a way to cover the cost of his community's Christmas meal.

McFee, who was also a sailor in Liverpool, used the idea of a "Simpson's Pot," an iron pot where charitable donations were placed by those passing by. McFee also placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing, in the San Francisco Bay area.

By 1895 the kettle was used by 30 locations along the west coast and by 1897 the campaign had expanded to the east coast. In 1897, the kettle efforts in locations nationwide resulted in 150,000 Christmas dinners for the hungry.

McFee's tradition continues today in countless communities across the United States. The Salvation Army uses the donations received for caring for unhoused and hungry families, and helps serve 30 million people through innumerable other services all year long.

The list of those other services is long and includes religious services; assisting survivors of natural and man-made disasters to recover and rebuild their lives; social service programs which provide food, shelter, clothing, and financial assistance; casework and counseling with programs for health care and residential assistance and abuse counseling; youth services with programs for music, athletics, arts, and crafts; camping and family counseling, senior centers; Christmas programs which help families and individuals financially with toys, meals and other assistance; human and sexual trafficking advocacy; veterans services which provide a range of support, gifts, counseling, and housing assistance; and finally, prison services which include Bible correspondence courses, gifts/material aid, prerelease job training programs, employment opportunities in cooperation with parole personnel, and spiritual guidance for both prisoners and their families.

*Hope this story has given you some insight into the history of the Salvation Army Bell Ringers and now when you walk by a ringer think of all the good work that is being done for the community.*

*Help is welcomed, with Salvation Army of Effingham County, IL., Email address- <https://www.lovetheham.org/agency/detail/TSAEffingham> ((217)347-7514. AMEN!  
Pastor Tonna Percival*



Luke 2:7 "She gave birth to her first born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them".

MAY YOU BE BLESSED THIS SEASON WITH HOPE, PEACE, JOY,  
AND LOVE AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.

*FROM: Pastor Tonna, Fred, Kris & Mindy McClelland, Chad & Rylee Percival and Ivy*