

Joey Goes to Camp

Joey is a typical 10 year old. His dream has always been to go away to summer camp. His mom says they can't afford it because she lost her job six months ago and has not been able to find full-time work since. He hasn't heard from his dad in five years.

One day, when Joey got sick in school, he went to Mrs. Smith, the school nurse. While waiting for his mom, he told the nurse about his wish to go to camp. The nurse, who was also on The Salvation Army Service Unit Committee, told Joey's mom that she might be able to get a scholarship for Joey and his younger brother, Jimmy, to go to The Salvation Army's summer camp at Long Point on Seneca Lake.

Thanks to the attentive nurse and kind benefactors, Joey's dream came true.

The two-hour ride to Long Point felt like an eternity. As they approached the entrance, the trees on either side of the road gave way to an open field and a complex of modern buildings including a gym, cabins, and laundry. Beyond the field, Joey could see the swimming pool, a recreation/meeting center, an inviting playground, and several other buildings, including the cafeteria. A



lake breeze and seagulls hinted that the lake was just beyond his view. Surely, this was heaven, he thought.

After registering, Joey's camp counselor took him, Jimmy and several other boys to their cabin. It was behind the gym, within view of the nurse's office. Joey filled his locker with his belongings, then made his bed.

His stomach grumbled. He knew it was supertime. The chatter of almost 200 kids filled the dining hall. Joey was awed. So many playmates! Supper was baked chicken, carrots, mashed potatoes and ice cream for dessert. Joey ate everything but the carrots.

The next few days were a blur of activities and new experiences. There was swimming in the pool, basketball and racing in paddleboats on the lake. They experimented with crafts and became thespians in skits with character-building themes. They played games, slept under the stars, explored the beach and the woods near the campsite. Joey loved the

campfires with scary stories; Jimmy loved the silly songs. And there were always camp counselors ready to talk and listen. By bedtime, Joey was so exhausted that he would fall asleep as soon as he closed his eyes.

On Thursday Joey was awakened by rain tapping on the window above his bed. After washing, he and the other kids in his dorm, suited up in rain gear and splashed in every puddle from the dorm to the cafeteria. Crafts, gym activities and practice for the talent show kept the kids busy. Joey took time to write his mom a quick note.

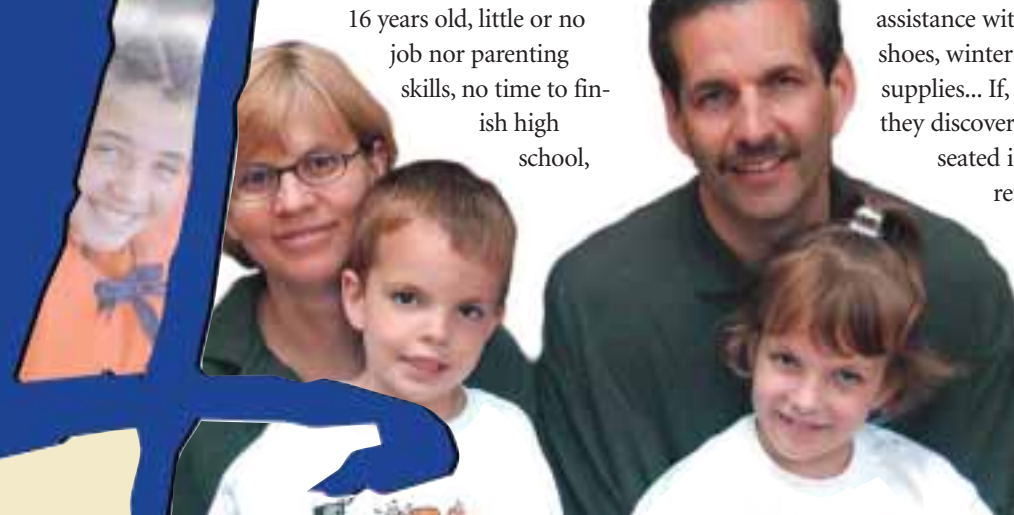
Dear Mommy,

It's fun here. I learned how to make a campfire. I swim every day and I even went in a boat. I'm singing in our play.

Most of the kids are fun, but there is one boy who is a real bully. My camp counselor said that he just needs prayers, so I'm praying for him everyday. I hope God listens soon!

Can I come back next year? Please? One more thing, when you see Mrs. Smith, please thank her a lot.

I love you and miss you,
Joey



Salvation Army corps officers and their families are often role-models for family dynamics.

The Salvation Army – It's about families

Thousands of struggling families step through the threshold of hope at Salvation Army facilities across 48 Upstate New York counties, praying that their financial difficulties, emotional or spiritual voids or emergency situations can somehow be corrected or improved.

Sometimes self-imposed limitations through substance abuse, lack of self-discipline or self-esteem cause havoc to family life; other times, job loss, financial hardship, domestic violence, or a family conflict tear apart the fiber of families. The crisis may be chronic, due to serious problems; or, it may be temporary, due to unexpected events.

FAMILIES FACE COMPLEX ISSUES

They are families of all ages, of all faiths or no faith.

- The young single mother - 16 years old, little or no job nor parenting skills, no time to finish high school,

no permanent place to call home, no one to help her care for her child.

• A parent facing a personal addiction, dragging the family into a tailspin. It may be drugs, alcohol, gambling, sexual obsessions, violence.

• An emergency situation - dad lost his job, a fire destroying home and belongings, the death or injury of the primary bread winner. Any of these situations cause not only emotional pain, but great financial hardship.

Profound need has caused The Salvation Army to initiate programs, which change lives and deliver families to the threshold of hope.

SERVICES IN 199 SMALLER COMMUNITIES

Smaller communities in our 199 service unit areas receive family services through our volunteer committees.

Committee members respond first to the basic needs of families – food vouchers, prescriptions, assistance with utilities, shoes, winter coats, school supplies... If, in the process, they discover more deep-seated issues, they may

refer families to other service agencies for additional counseling or assistance.

HELP IN 6 AREA SERVICES AND 57 CITIES

In Upstate New York's 6 area services in Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo,



Jamestown, Rochester and Syracuse and 57 other cities, The Salvation Army provides extended services at its facilities.

The first line of defense for our hurting families is usually family counseling. All of our facilities provide some level of family counseling.

All our facilities offer emergency help, especially food and guidance with initiating meetings with social services.

Depending on the community's needs, Salvation Army services to families may also include programs dealing with domestic violence, live-in facilities, day care and senior care, after-school care, budgeting or job preparation classes, transportation to social services or a medical appointment. In short, each corps or area service determines its own programs based on the needs of the community. If our facility cannot handle a specific situation, our staff is trained to refer to other local agencies.

THE GOAL IS HEALING

Some families pick up the pieces of their lives and successfully move on. Some also find a spiritual home with The Salvation Army. They attend regular Sunday services with their children. They have found a place to grow, to learn and to pray together.

This space is available for sponsorship of INSPIRATIONS.

If you are interested, please call the Director of Development, Harland Beckwith at 315-434-1370.

INSPIRATIONS IN FAITH



He ain't heavy... He's my brother

The gospels clearly define our mission on Earth - to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. But how do we love? Again, the gospel, is explicit in listing the corporal works of mercy:

"...Come ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you ... for I was hungry and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger,

and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

An amazing truth will unravel itself as we act as servants of the Lord on Earth. Our joy will be multiplied. No matter how hard we work, no matter how difficult the journey of love of neighbor may appear at the onset, we will soon discover that, as the song once said, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother."

— Inspired by the words of Christ in Matthew 25:34-40

INSPIRATION AND FACTS

How do area services, corps, and service units differ?

The Salvation Army's Empire State Division offers assistance at the point of need in all of our 48 Upstate New York counties. Our six Area Services in Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Jamestown, Rochester and Syracuse provide a wide array of programs for families, children and seniors. These services are far reaching, both in content and in geography. In 57 other cities, Salvation Army centers called Corps or Community Centers, provide services in and around their communities. In some cities, programs are so extensive that they are almost Area Services; in smaller cities, programs are focused on the most critical community needs.

In 199 smaller communities and their outlying areas, The Salvation Army has no physical structure, but does have Service Unit Extensions with volunteer committees, assisted by a handful of field representatives. Through their network of friends and co-workers, volunteers learn of a family in need and determine how best to help. They are our eyes, ears and hands.

Are Salvation Army officers married ministers?

Although all officers are not married, those that are married are a ministerial team.

The Salvation Army was founded by William Booth. His wife, Catherine, was always at his side, supporting and counseling. Using our founders as models, married Salvation Army officers each have their own areas of responsibility, but they both work as ministers of the Lord. Whenever they are transferred to a new assignment, they go together and, of course, they bring their children. They work hard to model good family living for the people they serve.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL

As we begin to thaw out from Winter's grip, thoughts turn to Spring and new hope. We continue to pray that our country and our world will be guided to peaceful solutions at home and abroad.

In the meantime, we have work to do at home. Please take a few minutes to enjoy *INSPIRATIONS*. Perhaps, upon reading the stories, you'll want to reach out to struggling families and our disadvantaged children in your own special way. There may be families or children in your own communities who need assistance. We could always use a few more arms to embrace the children of God. You may decide that you want to volunteer or make a donation. Call us and we'll connect you with the closest Salvation Army facility or service unit area committee.

As always, may God bless you and keep you safe.



Lt. Col. Néstor Nüesch
Divisional Commander
Empire State Division

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Become a Guardian Angel - Experience the Joy

*Inside or out,
With the young or
young-at-heart,
In the office or at home,
or the place where clients roam,
There's a place for you to care...
A place where angels dare,
And a time for you to share.*

How would you like The Salvation Army to improve life in your community? Would you like to send children to camp, or perhaps reach out to our elderly? Are there struggling families in your community who need attention? If you can imagine a way to serve, The Salvation Army probably needs you. Serving will empower you to make a difference.

Volunteer today in your community. Call your local Salvation Army or 1-800- 836-7630 or go to www.redkettles.org and make things happen.





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To inform, inspire and thank our benefactors, volunteers and friends

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*Serving 48 Upstate New York counties through 6 Area Services
in larger cities, 57 Community Centers in other cities and
199 Service Units in smaller communities*

Thank you to all the companies, clubs and organizations who helped so much during our yearly Red Kettle campaign. And a very special thank-you to the thousands of bell ringer volunteers across the state who stood in the cold so that others could be warm.



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 meet human needs in His name without discrimination.