



NEWS BRIEF

The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division • 5040 N. Pulaski Road • Chicago, IL 60630

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Salvation Army Launches Live Construction Webcam of Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center

CHICAGO – Supporters of the **Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center** from throughout Metropolitan Chicago, and enthusiastic neighbors of the project on the South Side of Chicago, can now **watch the construction of the Kroc Center live** on a 24-hour online webcam at <http://kroccenterchicago.org/camera/index.htm>.

“We want everyone to be able to join in the excitement of watching the Kroc Center go up brick-by-brick,” said Lt. Col. **Ralph Bukiewicz**, Metropolitan Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army. “Kids, parents, and teachers who are already participating in Salvation Army Kroc Center programs in schools, parks and neighborhoods near the construction site can now get a birds-eye view of the 32-acre construction site and a sneak peek of the state-of-the-art facility that will soon be a major destination for them and future generations.”

The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center represents the largest single investment ever made by a social service organization in Chicago. A facility of unprecedented scope and size, the Kroc Center will offer the largest array of educational, sports, arts and supportive programs ever available here under one roof. Both the programs, and the building, have been designed to enrich the mind, body and spirit—to provide hope—to transform lives.

Since the groundbreaking in October 2010, before an enthusiastic crowd of about 500 people, including Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, construction has moved along quickly. The foundation is complete and walls are going up. The Kroc Center will create more than 200 construction jobs, including jobs for local neighborhood residents. The entire Kroc Center is projected to be completed in 2012. More than 250,000 people live within a three-mile radius of the site, and **2,500 people are expected to use the Kroc Center daily**.

Proposed programs include educational classes, sports, arts, support programs and opportunities for worship. Recreational features will include an indoor sports complex, an outdoor stadium, basketball and tennis courts, an aquatic center and a water park, a golf training center, baseball diamonds, batting cages, a running track, state-of-the-art fitness center and more.

The Kroc Center has the potential to make a tremendous impact on the far South Side, with a particular focus on the serious issues of community violence and job loss. Helping to build a safer community will also be a priority for the Kroc Center.

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ADD 1 – Kroc Center Construction Camera

The capital campaign for the Kroc Center continues, with more than \$33 million of the \$50 million goal raised so far, in addition to the \$109.8 million from the Joan Kroc estate that was awarded to the project by the Salvation Army's Central Territorial Headquarters. The capital campaign will establish an endowment large enough to ensure **operational start-up costs, funding for programming, program scholarships and materials, such as sports equipment and musical instruments**. The Kroc Center will represent a total investment of **\$159.8 million**.

For more information about the Kroc Center and to link to the construction camera, visit www.kroccenterchicago.org.

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About The Chicago Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center

In November 2007, The Salvation Army Chicago Metropolitan Division announced that it was approved to receive a portion of the estate of Joan Kroc, wife of McDonald's founder, Ray Kroc. The \$109.8 million award from the estate is being supplemented by a \$50 million fundraising campaign to build and endow the state-of-the-art ministry, community and social service facility in the West Pullman neighborhood on the city's far South Side. With anticipated completion in the summer of 2012, the Kroc Center represents a \$159.8 million investment, and will be a center of unprecedented scope and size, offering an array of education, sports, arts and support programs for people of all ages never before available in a single Chicago facility.

State-of-the-art recreational facilities will include fully equipped gymnasiums, an aquatic center, a water park, running tracks, tennis courts, golf training area, baseball and softball diamonds and fitness center.

The Family Life and Education Center will offer an array of classes and educational workshops for people of all ages, including job training, GED preparation, computer literacy, financial planning, parenting and nutrition. As a result of a diversity of programs, people of all ages will be drawn to the facility, making the Kroc Center a unique destination for the entire family. The Family Life and Education Center will also offer after-school programs for children.

The Kroc Center's Academy of the Arts will include a performing arts center; an outdoor amphitheater; a media center with recording video production studios; as well as studios for instrument, vocal and art instruction. For more information about the Kroc Center, visit www.kroccenterchicago.org.

About The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is the largest social service organization in the world and the single largest direct provider of social services in Chicago and the state of Illinois. The Army operates 200 points of entry in neighborhoods across the greater Chicago area, providing disaster relief, shelter, meals, rehabilitation programs, child care and Head Start, senior services and more. On any given night, about 900 people are sleeping under a Salvation Army roof. The Salvation Army is there every day - 24-hours-a-day in Chicago and throughout the country providing disaster relief to people in crisis.