



NEWS BRIEF

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Side Youth in The Salvation Army Kroc Corps Singing Company Sing at Inauguration of Governor Pat Quinn

January 6, 2011 (Chicago) – **The Salvation Army Kroc Corps Singing Company**, which is comprised of 25 boys and girls ages 7 to 14 from the West Pullman and Roseland communities of Chicago, was personally selected by Governor Pat Quinn to perform at his **Inaugural Celebration** on Monday, January 10 in Springfield. The group performed three songs immediately prior to the Inaugural Ceremony at the Prairie Capitol Convention Center.

The Singing Company made a lasting impression on Governor Quinn at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in October. Caitlyn Bell, 7, a member of the Singing Company, performed a rousing chorale solo at the event, and introduced the Governor. At the event, Governor Quinn vowed to invite Caitlyn and the Kroc Corp Singing Company to perform at his Inaugural Ceremony. The Singing Company received a formal invitation in mid-December.

“We are honored and delighted that the Governor has recognized the talent of the children of our Singing Company and invited us to perform at such a special event,” said Salvation Army Major Darlene Harvey, Kroc Center Administer. “This is an incredible opportunity for the children to be a part of history in the making. We’re grateful to the Governor for so graciously inviting them to perform.”

Since the groundbreaking of the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in October 2010, construction has moved along steadily. The foundation is complete and the walls are quickly going up. During the next year of construction, The Kroc Center will create more than 200 construction jobs, including jobs for local residents. The Kroc Center is projected to be completed in 2012.

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.

For more than three years, The Salvation Army Kroc Center Corps has collaborated with schools and community organizations to serve families in West Pullman and the surrounding communities. They have developed a broad array of positive programs for youth, including educational, arts and sports activities. For more information about current programs already underway, as well as future education, sports, art and supportive programs of the future Kroc Center, visit www.kroccenterchicago.org and follow us on Facebook.

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ADD 1 – KROC CORPS SINGING COMPANY

The Salvation Army is the largest direct provider of social services to people in need in Greater Chicago. The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division serves people in need in Greater Chicago, northern Illinois and northwestern Indiana. Among the assistance provided are youth programs; early childhood development services; feeding programs for homeless adults, children and seniors; emergency lodging for families and individuals in crisis; disaster relief; senior housing; spiritual counseling and substance abuse rehabilitation programs. For more information about The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division or to donate or volunteer, please visit www.salarmychicago.org or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-825-2769).

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