

Suburban Life

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Giving hope

No strings attached to Salvation Army's outpouring of help

By Lorraine McClellan
staff writer

WHEN THE SALVATION Army sets out to establish a new corps, a research team decides on a particular spot predicated on facts that establish that there is a need for the services it offers and that it will not be offering duplicate services.

When the team chooses a building for its new corps, team members look to its architecture. It must be a building that is approachable, one that is not intimidating to those knocking on the door with hope of receiving support.

"We fit in perfectly here," said Captain John Crampton. "What is a Salvation Army doing in Farmington Hills? It's a common question. We hear it often, but here's the report. We served 1,055 individuals in 1985. We are surrounded with little pockets of poverty."

The "we" Crampton speaks of is a three member staff who can expect to touch about 300 families each year from the corps on the corner of Shilawasee and Inkster Road.

Crampton, his wife Captain Margaret Crampton, and Fran Bellino who is receptionist and fills the shoes of a social worker, work daily in the disbursement of food, clothing, counseling and hope.

"Support and hope are the big ones," Crampton said. "We carry a stereotype I'm afraid. When people hit the door of the Salvation Army they think they've hit the bottom. So we start from there. Nobody comes in here and leaves without seeing me. I could give him a bag of groceries and send him out the door, but how much good would that do? I want to find out who he is, what led to his coming here. I make myself available as long as it's necessary to work with him to make his life better."

CRAMPTON emphasizes that there is no strings attached to the giving or the taking. No one is turned away for any reason. No one receiving help is forced to become a member of a corps, convert to Christianity, or be committed to any kind of paycheck.

"A lot of our referrals come from

the schools," Crampton said. "A principal might call telling me one of his students has been eating candy bars for lunch and the family is living in a motel. When I call sometimes the parents will hang up on me. Most of the time they can't thank me enough. When an over zealous one insists on paying back, I tell him to drop a dollar in the kettle next Christmas season."

The 1986 report that listed the number of individuals served here also listed income at \$124,000 and expenses at \$139,000 making a deficit of \$15,000. Income from the Christmas season's kettles was \$32,000, making "this area certainly one of the most generous I've ever known," Crampton said. All of the money turned in from the local kettle drives remains here to be used in the local community.

Crampton listed Farmington Elks, Farmington Public Schools personnel, Bonaventure Roller Skating Rink, and area churches wanting to help but not able to give the full-time services, as heavy financial supporters.

In addition, the three-member

staff is backed up by a 12-member advisory board chaired by Clayton Graham, who give time to assist the local Salvation Army in relating the needs of the community and raising funds to meet the budget.

THE SALVATION Army is very likely to bring to mind used clothing and furniture stores, bell ringers, brass bands, tamborines and soup kitchens.

"Another stereotype," Crampton says. "We are also a church. We hold worship services Sunday morning and evening, a Wednesday evening prayer service and have a Youth Group that meets Thursday evenings."

Crampton says the stereotype most likely stems from the time William Booth founded the Salvation Army, in 1865, when he set out to salvage more than just used clothing.

"He started his mission in Britain because the alcoholics and the prostitutes were not welcomed into the traditional church — any church — in the 1860s. He felt so strongly about the neglect of the street people and their need for repentance he left his

own church," Crampton said.

"The religion of the Salvation Army is probably closest to Methodist, Booth's original church."

The Salvation Army carries out its diversified programs of religious and social welfare services organized and operated on a military pattern.

The clergy are all graduates of the Salvation Army Officers Training School and rise in rank with military titles. The officers are based in a corps, rather than a church and they live in quarters rather than a parsonage. They work together with a corps council, whose members are the equivalent of an elder.

They work with the motto "Heart to God, Hand to Man" giving spiritual guidance and relief in disasters and emergencies. They work in recreation centers, senior centers and rehabilitation centers, in correctional institutions, in hospitals and emergency shelters, in maternity homes and hospitals.

LOCALLY, Crampton said "Much of the work we do here is for the person who falls between the cracks, the

man who doesn't qualify for any social services program but is just not making it sufficiently to pay the rent every month. Or the retired couple whose money runs out before the month is out."

On the other hand, "We very often act as a referral agency," he said. "A man who thought he had no place to turn told me about his was experienced and I was able to put him in touch with a veterans' group. That he could get help there had just not occurred to him."

Crampton does not hand out money.

"This is not a Salvation Army regulation. It's mine," he said. "If a man can't pay the electric bill or is going to get evicted we deal directly with the utility company or the landlord. If he needs clothing we give him a shirt to use to shop in the Red Shield Stores."

"We're not a government agency. We get burned once in a while and we know it. But we never ask for any qualifications. We never ask for an income level or a bank statement. No one is ever turned away."



Captain John Crampton received more than 1,000 area residents last year who came to the Salvation Army on the corner of Inkster and Shilawasee seeking hope and support.

RANDY BORGSTAFF photographer

Samaritan center

Pastoral counseling for those from any church or no church



RANDY BORGSTAFF photographer

Wesley Brun talks about Samaritan Center's operations since it opened six months ago in Knox House. The counseling center is the most ambitious and wide-spread ecumenical effort ever attempted in this area.

By Lorraine McClellan
staff writer

SAMARITAN COUNSELING Center of Southeast Oakland County is clicking right along.

The planning committee projected the number of clients that would be served, the kinds of help those clients would be looking for, the amount of money coming in and the money going out. The expectations for the six-month-old center have been fulfilled.

Wesley Brun opened the doors of the pastoral counseling center last August in Knox House, adjacent to First Presbyterian Church of Farmington on Farmington Road and 11 Mile. Its operations comprise the largest, the most wide spread and most ambitious ecumenical effort in this area.

The effort comes from 11 surrounding cooperating churches and a 17-member board of directors.

"The latch string is out to everyone. You don't have to belong to a particular church, or any church at all, to come here," Brun said. Brun is the one-man staff, acting as both executive director and counselor for the fledgling center.

"Case loads are just about at capacity now so we might even be a little bit ahead of the projected schedule," he said. "We're only a few weeks away from hiring some part-time counselors. And we've already been approached by a church in Birmingham to begin a satellite office."

"That wasn't supposed to happen until the end of our first year."

THE SAMARITAN center is independently incorporated although affiliated with Samaritan Institute of Denver, Colo., which acts as parent to 100 such centers that have been started nationwide in the past 12 years.

Purpose of the centers is to provide long-term counseling for parishioners whose pastors either don't have the time or the professional background.

Kenneth Glide, who was instrumental in the center's planning committee, described its purpose as "an extension of the ministry to people who face stress."

But whether it is long- or short-term counseling that is sought, 57 percent of the population turn first to their priest, their pastor or rabbi.

"They just feel more comfortable turning to their church," Brun said.

"People are still resisting therapy — still reluctant to admit they need help. There's less stigma telling your friends you are going to see your pastor than there is in saying you are going to see a therapist."

The pastoral counseling offered by Samaritan Center "brings the best of psychological insights coupled with Christian faith to find ways through problems and back to well being."

"We are far more likely to be serious about religious beliefs, wrestle with one's moral values, how to deal with them to make life more meaningful."

"We don't stop when we've fixed something that is wrong. We continue to work until we've made a life better, enhanced it, given it a sense of purpose, a direction. We are sensitive to all religious concerns and is-

ues. That I happen to be a Methodist is absolutely irrelevant," he said.

AVERAGE COST to a client who comes to Samaritan Center is less than half the cost of a psychotherapist. Clients pay on a sliding scale according to their income. Some costs are offset by clients who can afford to pay the full rate. Other costs are offset by donations or pledges from the cooperating churches.

"We're operating in the black now — again as projected — on a break-even basis. We're holding our own and keep accepting clients that can't afford us, but that's what we're all about."

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Kenneth Glide Award created

Southeast Oakland County Samaritan Center's board of directors surprised their first president, Kenneth R. Glide, by creating the Kenneth R. Glide Award and naming him its first recipient.

The award was created to recognize the contributions Glide made in the planning that was necessary to establish the pastoral counseling center. Glide accepted the award, along with the title "President Emeritus," from Dr. Joseph L. Baker, pas-

tor of Covenant Baptist Church of West Bloomfield, who is now president of the center's board.

The award will be given in the future honoring those who have labored in a significant way on behalf of the center, based in Knox House, owned by First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road.

Samaritan Center is sponsored by area churches to provide counseling for individuals and families.



Kenneth Glide