

The Motivator

Exchange Club of Lake Tansi

Club #2359 Div XII TN-KY

Joni Witherite, Editor



December 2021

Our Mission: *Exchange, inspiring communities to become better places to live.*

Our Vision: *A strong America, safe communities, and unified people.*

Our Motto: *Unity for Service*

Thanksgiving is behind us which means its time for Salvation Army bell ringing. Do you know why the Salvation Army raises funds in this manner?

In 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was bothered by how many poor individuals in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season, he decided he wanted to provide a free Christmas dinner to those in need. He only had one major hurdle to overcome -- funding the project.

He remembered his days as a sailor in Liverpool, England. He remembered how at Stage Landing, where the boats came in, there was a large, iron kettle called "Simpson's Pot" into which passers-by tossed a coin or two to help the poor.

The next day Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing at the foot of Market Street. Beside the pot, he placed a sign that read, "Keep the Pot Boiling." He soon had the money to see that the needy people were properly fed at Christmas.

Six years later, the kettle idea spread from the west coast to the Boston area.

That year, the combined effort nationwide resulted in 150,000 Christmas dinners for the needy. In 1901, kettle contributions in New York City provided funds for the first mammoth sit-down dinner in Madison Square Garden, a custom that continued for many years. Today in the U.S., The Salvation Army assists more than four-and-a-half million people during the Thanksgiving and Christmas time periods.

Captain McFee's kettle idea launched a tradition that has spread not only throughout the United States, but all across the world. Kettles are now used in such distant lands as Korea, Japan, Chile and many European countries. Everywhere, public contributions to Salvation Army kettles enable the organization to continue its year-round efforts at helping those who would otherwise be forgotten. ¹

Covid-19 has created an even larger need in many communities. Food insecurity is a serious problem for millions of Americans. Alcoholism and drug addiction are on the rise in many communities as well. The Salvation Army uses Red Kettle proceeds to fund programs to feed and shelter those in need and fund addiction treatment programs.

Local Salvation Army units raise money to support their local services. Money raised in your community stays in your community. There is no national fund raising in the Salvation Army.

Last I heard there was still a one hour slot left for our day on December 2nd. Contact Judi Hartman if you're interested in bell ringing. She'll squeeze you in somewhere.

I have 10 more blankets and 39 books accumulated to drop off at Brown Elementary. If you still have books or blankets to donate, bring them to the next meeting. Dr. Speich was thrilled to get the first batch we dropped off in October. I'll drop the next batch before the school closed for Christmas break on December 17th. We will continue to collect books and blankets through November and December, so keep that in mind if you're out and about. The school plans to distribute them to the students in January. Used books are fine as long as they're in good shape.

<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/red-kettle-history/>¹

The first round of AED training is complete. Another class will be scheduled in December as soon as Cumberland County EMS can get us on their schedule. The first training was primarily recreation department, security and golf course employees with a few restaurant employees. The next training will be for restaurant employees and anyone from the rec department who couldn't make the first class. Tim is hoping there will be room for anyone else who would like the training to participate as well. Tim and Randy Welsh hung first three units today. The rest will go up as time permits and training is completed. Gary Dillon gave them the go ahead to hang the cabinets since the maintenance department is backed up right now. The units are designed for anyone to be able to pick one up and use it in an emergency. The training is to give POA and restaurant employees a higher comfort level should the need arise to use one. In total, 6 units have been purchased. Thanks to generous donations from the Exchange Club, Exchange members, community members and Tansi businesses, all but \$161 of the cost of these life saving units has been covered. Tim has no response yet from the grant requests submitted to VEC and Middle Tennessee Natural Gas, but should hear something after they meet in December, so the total cost may yet be covered. The POA has already agreed to cover any remaining cost and maintenance going forward. Any excess funds collected will be used to buy an additional unit with the remainder set aside for replacement of pads and any other future maintenance of the units. All donors will be recognized at a later date. We know you didn't donate for the recognition, but feel you should be acknowledged in some way.



The Christmas greenery sale was a success. It generated 53 online orders and Ginger sold some of the extra items that she ordered to fill the cases and delivered most of the

pre-orders at our Holiday Happening. I believe she's out of wreaths, but still has a few other pieces for sale. Thanks for handling this fundraiser, Ginger!

Speaking of success and the Holiday Happening. Judi sold a ton of nuts. The bake sale sold out completely. The hot dog lunch sold well and as mentioned above Ginger delivered most of the pre-ordered greenery and some of the extra pieces, too.

Saturday, December 11th has been set as the day for the Stephens Center Christmas Party. We are going to do breakfast with Santa at 10AM at the Thunderbird. We'll be serving pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice and coffee. Sign-up sheets have been circulated at the last two meetings and I have pretty much all of the jobs filled. Feel free to come over and help even if you didn't sign up. We can always find something for you to do! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance as well as the Grinch.

A small contingency of Exchangeites marched in the Veterans Day Parade on November 6th. Come out and join us next year. We plan to get a trailer we can decorate and place chairs on so we can ride instead of walking, but it really wasn't a difficult walk. Members who didn't walk manned a table in front of the courthouse with membership and activities information available, similar to what we do at the Tansi festivals.



At our November 5th meeting one of our newest members, Christy Watterson , was inducted into the club. She's been a member since August, but was unable to attend meetings in September and October. Welcome to Exchange Christy!



Plans for our Field of Honor are coming together nicely. Jean Smith has volunteered to chair this event with Mary Vesper as co-chair. Jean has sub-committee chairs in place for every committee except the program. Jean and Tim met with the recreation director for the City of Crossville last week and it looks like the field at Garrison Park is a go. There will be more visibility there than here in Tansi. The committee's first planning meeting is next week. This is an event like no other and truly breathtaking to see in person. It will take everyone's help to pull this off, but we can do it!



The Field of Honor/Healing Field at the National Convention in Memphis.

Last but not least, we will once again be providing groceries for families in need at Brown Elementary. We provided groceries last year in memory of Jerry Davenport, because Jerry was all about helping children and there is an ongoing need for some of the families at Brown. This assures that kids will have food over the winter break when they are not being fed at school. For some of these children, school breakfast and lunch are their only meals for the day and when school is not in session these meals disappear. We didn't budget for this project for this year, but thanks to generous donations from Sheila Davenport and Mike Ferry, we can feed "Jerrys Kids" again this year.

Don't forget we're only holding one meeting in December, on the 3rd, and one in January, on the 21st.



December Exchange membership anniversaries:

Ken Deadmon – 35 years



December Birthdays:

12/3 – Randy Welsh

12/4 – Lynne Harty

12/5 – Dan Smith

12/26 – Joni Witherite



December Anniversaries:

If you have a birthday or anniversary that I have missed or reported incorrectly, please let me know.