



DOING
THE MOST
GOODSM

CROSS LINK AWARD Application

Organization Name: Raleigh Corps & Community Center

Corps Officers: Majors Pete & Cathy Costas and Lt. Alyssa Haygood

Chartered Community Center Program Director: Sarah Ruiz-Smith

Organization Address: 902 Wake Forest Road

City: Raleigh State: North Carolina Zip: 27604

Name of Individual Completing the Application: Lieutenant Alyssa Haygood

Application Date: October 29, 2014

Corps Officer Signature

Majors Pete & Cathy Costas

Lieutenant Alyssa Haygood
Corps Officer Name

Community Center Program Dir. Signature

Sarah Ruiz
Community Center Program Dir.

Advisory Board Signature

Franklin Roberts
Advisory Board Name

Community Center Committee Signature

Billy Blackburn
Community Center Committee

Raleigh Corps & Community Center Crosslink Application 2014

1. Team-effort: What steps have been put in place to ensure good communication and a united effort between Corps Officer and Community Center Director? What are some creative ways that the Corps Officer and Community Center Director have worked together to development unity at other levels?

- In order for better communication and teamwork, the Associate Corps Officer works directly with the Community Center Program Director. The Associate Corps Officer's office is on-site at the community center and she is always available to assist and provide guidance when needed. The Associate Corps Officer is in the Community Center on a daily basis to check up on the staff and offer assistance when and if any issues arise.
- We have bi-weekly staff meetings over at our Area Command with the Corps Officer Team, Administrative Staff, Family Stores Manager, Service Center Director, and Community Center Staff. This helps everyone know what is going on in each department and also helps us to work in unity as One Army. Also, we conduct monthly staff meetings here at the Corps/Community Center so that we are all involved and know what is going on in each program such as Corps programs and events, Community Center programs and also our Athletic programs.
- One thing that was done over the summer to boost team morale and for the Associate Corps Officer to get to know the Community Center better was an appreciation breakfast. This encouraged both the leadership team and the Summer Day Camp staff.
- The Associate Corps Officer is always aware of what is also going on in the Athletic programs by checking on the games and different athletic events that take place at the Community Center. She also works closely with our Athletic director to ensure that things are running smoothly.
- The Community Center staff knows that the Associate Corps Officer's door is always open and she is available for not only problems that arise but also for prayer and Spiritual needs.
- Also, our Community Center Director and Athletic Director attend all Advisory Board meetings to help make them aware of all that is going on within Wake County and to help develop unity across the board between our Corps, Center of Hope, Family Stores, and Community Center.

2. Increased interaction between The Salvation Army Corps and The Community Center. Which activities are offered to help Increase interaction between The Salvation Army Corps & The Boys and Girls Club / Chartered Community? State how often the specific program is offered and how many individuals attend on a regular basis. Through providing these activities, how has this increased interaction between The Salvation Army Corps & The Boys and Girls Club / Chartered Community Center?

- The Corps conducts a weekly “FUNday School” program for all of the children who attend the Community Center’s After School Program. The attendance for this averages about 45 children.
- In August we had our third annual “MOST Amazing Race” fundraiser for the Community Center. Not only did our Community Center staff help, some of our soldiers came and volunteered as well.
- On July 15th we held a fundraiser called “10,000 Scoops” downtown at Moore Square. The event was attended and volunteered by Center of Hope staff, Community Center staff, and Corps members and Soldiers. We even had all of our Summer Day Camp children come by in support for the event and enjoy a free scoop of ice-cream.
- Last October the Corps and Community Center worked together to put together a Fall Festival. This Festival had food, games and fun for both the families of the Corp and the Community Center. The event was planned by the Corps staff and Community Center staff. Both Corps and Community Center children, through good behavior and attendance, earn tickets to spend at the fall festival.
- Corps children are becoming more involved in the Athletic programs offered at the Community Center, as well as the Summer Day Camp every summer. It is good for them to have these experiences, too.
- Our SAAC Ranger program at the Corps is taught by two of our Community Center staff. The staff members love what they do and enjoy teaching the boys how to become young men in our society today. Also, the boys respond well to these two with respect and have enjoyed being under their leadership.
- The Men’s Club in Raleigh has made a commitment to caring for the Corps/Community Center vans and buses. Each calendar quarter they clean and vacuum the vans so that both programs have clean vehicles. Providing these activities lets the Corps people have interaction with the Community Center. They feel that they are at least in some way responsible for the continued success of the Community Center. The Corps people also see it as part of their ministry. These activities also provide a way for both groups to come together and fellowship together.
- The Annual **Community Center Sunday** is always a blessing for Corps and Community Center members who combine for Youth Chorus presentations, skits, dances, and other musical items. This past March, the morning message was delivered by the Community Center Program Director who richly blessed the ecumenical congregation of Salvationists and other visitors attending on this special day.

3. Advisory Board and Advisory Council must work in harmony.

A. How do the Advisory Board and Advisory Council set program goals that increase interaction between The Salvation Army Corps and The Chartered Community Center?

- a. The Community Center Committee is comprised of Advisory Board members and community volunteers that meet regularly to discuss the

development of the community center. This past year this committee planned and implemented our 3rd Annual "Most Amazing Race." This year we raised almost \$28,000 for our Community Center and we could not have done that without the help of the Army staff or the Community Center Committee.

- b. Community Center Goals are established with the Staff and the Corps Officers and shared with and approved by the Community Center Committee

B. Who evaluates the progress of these goals and how are they measured and reported?

- a. The committee evaluates monthly reports which are also shared with the Advisory Board.

4. Involve Corps Youth in Chartered Community Center Programs

A. What Community Center Programs are offered to Corps Youth and how many individuals from the Corps participate?

- a. The Community Center has a solid Athletics Program that offers Basketball, Soccer, T-Ball, Coach Pitch Baseball, and Flag Football. Corps children are encouraged to participate and take advantage of this opportunity for physical growth and development. A father of a Corps child has also helped coach one of the soccer teams.

B. What projects have been developed to bring Corps Youth and Boys & Girls Club / Chartered Community Center Members together and what were the results?

- a. Projects that are specifically geared towards the youth of both the Corps and Community Center have been the Fall Festival where both groups and their families are encouraged to attend and also our yearly Vacation Bible School. This was usually difficult for the Community Center kids because of not being able to go home to eat dinner and then get back to the Corps for Bible School. However, beginning last year, the Corps fixes dinner for the Community Center children so they would be able to stay and attend Vacation Bible School with the Corps children. We also feed the children of Community Center Staff who were staying to volunteer.

C. How do you get Corps Youth involved in planning activities that they would be interested in participating in at the Boys & Girls Club / Chartered Community Center?

- a. Currently the youth of the Corps do not help plan Community Center events. Our Community Center participation age stops at 12.

D. What has been your greatest challenge in getting Corps Youth to participate in Boys & Girls Club / Chartered Community Center programs?

- a. Our greatest challenge in getting the Corps youth to participate is transportation. Almost all of our children have to be picked up for each activity that is offered in the corps. So they can't get here for the activities offered in the Community Center. All of our Corps kids are out of the area even for the schools the Community Center picks up at. Many of our Corps

kids come from homes that have only 1 working parent or parents that just don't want to be bothered with transporting their children some place extra.

5. Devotions, Bible Classes, Prayer Cells, and other spiritual activities

A. What kind of Spiritual Programs are offered in your Boys & Girls Club / Chartered Community Center Programs, how often are they offered, and who leads these activities?

- a. Each day staff leads Bible devotions in our After School and Summer Day Camp.
- b. Our Athletic Director also leads devotions before all games in our athletic leagues.
- c. Child Evangelism Fellowship comes in once a week to lead a devotion for the kids in our After School Program.
- d. The Associate Corps Officer and YPSM do a weekly "FUNday School" class in the Community Center we average about 45 children.
- e. The Area Commander always begins each biweekly staff meeting with Scripture reading and a devotional message. The Community Center Program Director and Athletic Director routinely attend these meetings.
- f. Also, weekly, the Community Center staff take the Children into the chapel for a small prayer meeting. This is also a time where they teach the children how to behave in the chapel.

B. Describe how the staff of the Community Center are being Spiritually Fed through Salvation Army Program? (I.e. Staff Bible Study, Prayer Groups, etc.)

- a. The Staff of the Community Center have a weekly Prayer Group for all the children who attend the After School Care program as well as for the Summer Day Camp during the summer.
- b. The Associate Corps Officer conducts monthly staff meetings with all of the Community Center employees and shares a devotional message at the beginning of each meeting.

6. "Build the Kingdom by Building the Corps."

A. What is the Corps Officer doing to Build the Kingdom by Building the Corps in the Community Center Programs?

- a. The Corps Officer conducts devotions for the kids anytime it is needed. Our YPSM has taught many classes such as Spanish, Sacred Dance, and even a Christianity presentation. Also, our CCM Director has taught many cooking classes with the children both over Summer Day Camp and the After School Care program. The kids and their families in the Community Center have been invited to Vacation Bible School, our Monday night Youth Activities, and any other Special Events going on in the Corps.

B. What is the Community Center Director doing to provide Corps Members the opportunity to share Christ with Community Center Members?

- a. The Community Center Director always asks for corps volunteers whenever there is a large event or project she needs help with. The Corps people love to help out.

- C. What has been the greatest accomplishment to happen this year to “Build the Kingdom by Building the Corps?”
- a. Our greatest accomplishment this year and last year was our combined VBS. Before, it was very difficult for Community Center children to stay because they were already here all day. To enable the kids to stay through until VBS time, we decided to provide dinner. For about 45 minutes we have the Community Center kids downstairs where we feed and then fellowship with them. They are then integrated right in with the Corps kids once VBS starts. Many of the Community Center parents would even come in during the closing exercises, before picking up their children. The Community Center and Corps kids don’t see themselves as separate but as one big group. As a result of this program, Community Center kids recognize the leaders of our Corps all year and the leaders of VBS recognize these kids when we see them in the facilities throughout the year. CrossLinking the Corps and Community Center has helped in the Spiritual development of the children who attended VBS, and is being shown in the youth who attend our weekly “FUNday School” class. They remember the Bible Stories from that week and even share them with the other kids in the Community Center.

Pictures of Highlights in 2013-2014

Vacation Bible School 2014



“10,000 Scoops” Fundraiser



3rd Annual "MOST Amazing Race"



Christmas Parade 2013

