



DOING
THE MOST
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CROSS LINK AWARD Application

Organization Name: The Salvation Army of Alamance County

Corps Officer: Lts. Derrick & Odessa Smith

Executive / Chartered Community Center Director: Sherri Henderson

Organization Address: 812 North Anthony Street

City: Burlington

State: NC

Zip: 27217

Name of Individual Completing the Application: Lt. Odessa Smith

Application Date: January 20th, 2017

Lt. Odessa Smith
Corps Officer Signature

Sherri Henderson
Executive/Community Center Dir. Signature

Lt. Odessa Smith
Corps Officer Name

Sherri Henderson
Executive/Community Center Dir.

Noah Sanders
Advisory Board Signature

Charles Canaday
Advisory Council Signature

Noah Sanders
Advisory Board Name

Charles Canaday
Advisory Council Name

Please carefully read each question below and answer as thoroughly as possible in narrative format. If you need additional space please use additional paper.

1. Team-effort:

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

The Corps Officers and Club ED have been working to grow the existing relationship between the Corps and the Club. We continue to have weekly Department Head Meetings so that each department knows exactly what is going on in the Club and can brainstorm ways we can all work together with the same mission in mind. The Corps Officers also meet with the Club staff separately to gage progress and the need for change for the existing programs and events.

Some other ways the CO's and ED have worked together to develop unity at other levels is by including all of the Club staff in opportunities such as lunchtime Bible studies, encouraged interaction with the staff between the social service and Club daily activities. We have really tried to emphasize the fact that we are one body of people working together instead of different groups of employees working for different departments of TSA.

2. Increased interaction between The Salvation Army Corps and The Boys & Girls Club / Community Center.

A. Which activities are offered to help increase interaction between The Salvation Army Corps & The Boys and Girls Club / Chartered Community?

The most successful activity we have found to bridge the gap between the Club and the Corps has been our Singing Company and Character Building programs on Tuesday nights, where our Corps and Club children are able to come together weekly to interact and build relationships. During Singing Company, there are on average 65 children from the Club that interact with Corps leaders weekly to learn Bible-based songs. For Character Building we offer Moonbeams, Sunbeams, Explorers, Rangers and Girl Guards, where we have a large number of children from the Club join the children from the Corps and participate.

Also, on Monday afternoons we have a time of spiritual enrichment for the Club children called Monday's Cool. This is a time where the Club kids can gather in the Chapel to be spiritually fed and learn about the Bible. The children come in two different groups, Kindergarten-3rd grade and then 4-12th grade. They really look forward to this time with the Club Unit Director Robby Burnette, where he incorporates a mixture of teaching, music and videos to hold the kid's interest and help them learn more about the gospel. We make sure they understand that we are a Church first and they are encouraged to join us weekly on Sundays for worship.

To encourage community interaction, Lt. Smith hosts open gym on most Saturdays where people in the community (Club, Corps, neighborhood, etc.) are invited to participate in prayer and basketball. This has allowed men of all ages that may not normally interact to join together and get to know each other better.

During Summer Camp at the Club, the Corps hosted Vacation Bible School which was an awesome opportunity to increase interaction between the Club kids and Corps kids. This was a nice time to see the junior staff at the Club getting to know the teens from the Corps as they assisted the teachers and different areas of VBS. Each day we averaged about 130 children combined. The final graduation for VBS was on the Sunday following that week, and there were several children that attended the Corps that Sunday for the graduation.

Once a year, the Salvation Army Corps and Boys & Girls Club come together in October to have a Fall Festival. This event is for the Alamance County community as well as the families of the Corps & Club. We have a variety of food, games and activities, and we turn our gym into a haunted walkway for families to walk through. This is a free event for all that encourages family participation and community togetherness. This past year there were about 400 people who attended the event.

B. State how often the specific program is offered and how many individuals attend on a regular basis.

- Tuesday night Character building programs and Singing Company are offered every week during the traditional school year. Character Building averages around 45-50 children each week, and Singing Company averages about 75 children total each week.
- Monday's Cool is offered weekly on Monday afternoons and it averages around 120-140 children per week.
- Open gym is offered about twice a month on Saturday mornings, and averages from 8-15 guys each week.
- VBS is offered once a year during the summer, just before school starts. This year we averaged about 130 children per day. Total attendance for the week was 636.
- Our Fall Festival is held annually, and this year we had about 400 people attend.

C. Through providing these activities, how has this increased interaction between The Salvation Army Corps & The Boys and Girls Club / Chartered Community Center?

Each of these programs have encouraged more interaction between the Corps and Club because we all work together to plan, teach, and implement the things taught in each program. The relationships the children cultivate during these programs are able to grow because the programs are ongoing and participation is regular. Club staff and Corps Officers meet fairly regular on how best to serve the youth in both the Club and Corps. In these meetings, discussions include the different cultural and spiritual backgrounds. Both the staff and officers know and realize that the community we serve has to be engaged in the activities. We work together to evaluate the progress and brainstorm ways to grab the attention of the children.

- 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 Boys Girls Club / Chartered Community Center?**
 - B. Who evaluates the progress of these goals and how are they measured and reported?**

One of the biggest ways the two work together is overall fundraising for the Army as a whole. The Advisory Board played a vital role in the money that was raised from the Club's main fundraiser of the year, the Steak & Burger dinner, and many of them came to the dinner to support the Council and the children as well.

Also, the ED of the Club is present at each Advisory Board meeting to give updates, happenings, and take any questions or comments from the Board each month. This past year we also began having a member of the Council attend the Board meetings to serve as a liaison between the two so that no opportunities go unnoticed. We are continuing to encourage growth in the partnership of the two groups.

- 4. Involve Corps Youth in Boys & Girls Club / Chartered Community Center Programs**
- A. *What Boys & Girls Club / Chartered Community Center Programs are offered to Corps Youth and how many individuals from the Corps participate?***
 - B. *What projects have been developed to bring Corps Youth and Boys & Girls Club / Chartered Community Center Members together and what were the results?***
 - 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?***
 - D. *What has been your greatest challenge in getting Corps Youth to participate in Boys & Girls Club / Chartered Community Center programs?***

A-C. Athletic programs such as basketball and cheerleading are offered to Corps Youth and we have had 2 participate in the past year. Also, during Summer Camp at the Club there were opportunities for teens to serve as Junior Staff and assist the main Camp Counselors. One of the teens from the Corps worked the summer as a Junior Staff member at the Club this past summer. Also, yearly events such as the Fall Festival, basketball tournaments, Steak & Burger dinner, and VBS have been the biggest way we have been able to integrate the Club and Corps children.

D. Many of the Corps youth ride the school bus home from school or participate in extracurricular activities, so this prevents them from being able to participate in Club activities. Another challenge is the difference in spiritual/cultural upbringing. Some of the Club members may not go to Church, where all of the Corps Youth attend The Salvation Army.

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?

The biggest opportunity to spiritually feed the children at the Club is during Monday's Cool. This is our version of Sunday School, and there is always a lesson from the Bible taught and prayer during these sessions. The sessions are led by the Unit Director Robby Burnette, and the staff of the Club are present during this time, so they are also encouraged to learn and participate with the kids. There are often times when Robby will take the teens aside to do a more focused lesson on a hot topic he has noticed them take interest in. The Club Staff feels comfortable in asking the Corps Officers for guidance when planning these Bible lessons.

During one of the first Monday's Cool this year, Robby had asked Lt. Derrick Smith to come in and do the devotions for that day. 97 out of 139 Club members gave themselves to Christ that day.

On another session of Monday's Cool, the older youth saw a clip from the Passion of the Christ. The majority of the teens were emotionally touched by the clip and shared with Lt. Smith how this helped them better understand the goodness of the Lord and made them want to make a change in their lives.

The Corps officers are a part of the Big Buddy Little Mentoring Club Program where an adult is paired with a Club member to spend some one-on-one time with them.

B. Describe how the staff of the Boys & Girls Club / Chartered Community Center Programs is being Spiritually Fed through Salvation Army Program? (I.e. Staff Bible Study, Prayer Groups, etc.)

Every meeting that we have is opened and closed in prayer. The Corps Officers have offered several sessions of Bible Studies during the lunch hour for all staff where we have the opportunity to come together and learn the Gospel. Also, the CO's are very attentive to the needs of the Club staff and are proactive in inviting them to talk if they sense a need in their mood or conversations. The staff knows that the CO's doors are always open and feel comfortable coming to them to discuss issues of any matter.

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 Boys & Girls Club / Chartered Community Center Programs?***
- B. *What is the Boys & Girls Club Executive Director / Chartered Community Center Director doing to provide Corps Members the opportunity to share Christ with Club / Community Center Members?***
- C. *What has been the greatest accomplishment to happen this year to "Build the Kingdom by Building the Corps?"***

The Corps Officers work together to Build the Kingdom by Building the Corps in the Club in Burlington in many different ways. Most school days Lt. Smith visits the Club to challenge the kids in basketball, or just to spend time talking to them to find out how their day of school was. Mrs. Lt. Smith is intentional in spending time with the staff to really listen to them and encourage them spiritually. Both the Club staff and children know exactly who the Lieutenants are, and they don't miss an opportunity to give us hugs and tell us stories every time we see them.

The greatest accomplishment this past year has been the spiritual victories in our weekly Sunday's Cool sessions. If our efforts to teach the children about Christ succeeds in bringing just one to Him that did not know Him before, we claim Victory. Having so many children longing to know more about God and going home telling their parents about what they learn is another accomplishment in itself.

VBS was also very successful this year, specifically for the interaction between the Club and Corps teens. The teens from the Club do not have their own facility to hang out after school, but getting to know the Corps teens helped them feel more involved in the Corps and VBS this year.