

Thomasville Times

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Salvation Army holds fundraiser for local clubs

By Zach Kepley
Staff Writer

- In an effort to raise funds for underprivileged children and to make people aware of the organization, the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club of Davidson County held their first barbecue chicken dinner at Liberty Baptist Church in Thomasville Saturday afternoon.

It was the first fundraiser in quite some time for the club, yet more than 250 tickets were sold for the event, according to the executive director Scott Bannister.

“It was not as big because we have not had a fundraiser in a year and a half, so people aren’t aware of our program,” Bannister said.

Several businesses made donations and gave time towards the event. Pepsi donated beverages and Safari Steakhouse offered tea and other products.

The Barbecue Shack donated cobbler for dessert, and local banks including Wachovia, Bank of America, Bank of North Carolina, and BB&T sold tickets for the event.

The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Clubs started back in 1996 and consolidated in 2003—joining the Lexington and Thomasville chapter into one agency for Davidson County. Serving underprivileged children who come from bad circumstances or single parent homes is the primary purpose for the organization.

After school programs are available for helping children with homework, along with day camps that run from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There are also several areas of development that children can become a part of including; education and career, character and leadership, health and life skills, sports fitness and recreation, spiritual development, and digital arts.

Bannister is excited about the growth of the many council members that have stepped forward to serve. It all started with three or four council members, but has grown to around 16 active members.

“We are happy with the growth and have gotten tremendous help from our council members,” Bannister said.

There are currently 50 children enrolled at the Thomasville location, and 35 in Lexington.

Bannister would like to see some more people get involved in Lexington, and hopes with the new buses being purchased, the number will grow.

Help is still needed at both locations as up to 21 council members are allowed. Students from Thomasville High School have been helping out and can get paid for their services through a program at the school.

“We are always in need of council members and help, especially from males,” Bannister said.

A golf tournament is planned for the future around June, along with a silent auction, to raise even more funds for community work, and continue to get the word out of what the organization does. It will more than likely be held in Lexington so they can alternate the fundraisers to keep visual in both cities. The program receives grants, but still needs the communities support to fund programs for the children.

“If we keep doing fundraisers, people are going to think of us,” Bannister said. “They will be able to come out and help us — we are building a relationship back and then hopefully we can get recognized.”

To learn more or to become an active member, contact Bannister by email at scott.bannister@uss.salvationarmy.org, or visit the office at 10 Pine Street, Thomasville.

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