



Thomasville Times

Thomasville, NC

114th year

Ministry gives couple a chance to help others

By Lisa Wall
Editor

- Thomasville resident Allan Hausner and his wife Lorraine have a mission in life — the mission of helping others. As Captains with the Salvation Army, the couple have found the right outlet to complete their mission.

Originally the Hausners began in 1975 as volunteers with the Christian-based assistance organization, while still working their regular jobs — Allan as a supervisor with Steinway Piano Company, and Lorraine as a customer relations representative with American Express. In 1991, they made the decision to commit their lives to the mission. They completed the requirements of the program and became ordained ministers, then captains with the organization.

For more than a decade the Hausners worked in the New York City area, serving four years in Beacon, N.Y., five years in Brooklyn and five years in Manhattan. While working in Brooklyn, the Hausners worked with homeless individuals, as well as those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction.

Through his work with addicts, Allan would further his education by becoming a certified addictions counselor, to add to his degrees in English and psychology.

His education would later prove vital, as the terrorists attacks of 9-11 would leave Allan with the responsibility of working with victims and their families.

On the morning of the attacks, Hausner was one of the first responders to the scene. Upon arrival, he set up a staging area to offer assistance to the many firefighters and police officers working to save victims.

“I arrived before many firefighters and started giving water to those working there,” he said.

The scene he recalled was like something from a movie.

Members of the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club After School Program take time to pose for a photo.

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Photo/Lisa Wall

“It was like a fog of shredded paper and debris in the air,” he said. “You couldn’t see anything. Firemen just seemed to disappear into a cloud.

“The heat was so intense, the firemen could only stand about 15 minutes at a time. They would go in and when they came back they looked like a ghost.”

In the days after, Hausner was assigned to work at the morgue as a chaplain offering prayers and support to victim’s families. Through DNA testing, the more than 28,000 body parts found were identified, and the next of kin were notified.

Hausner then had the heart-wrenching job of helping relatives find closure in their loss.

Last year, Hausner and his wife were transferred to work in the Southern Territory division of organization — a move that brought the couple to the Salvation Army of Davidson County. Although at first, Hausner was unsure what working in this area would be like, he quickly fell in love with Thomasville and the county as a whole.

“I like this city and this area,” Hausner said. “I feel the togetherness and the bond that exists between people here. I’ve only been here 14 months and I feel like I’ve been here all my life.”

To manage the needs within the county, Allan works at the Thomasville site located at 10 Pine St., and his wife works at the Lexington office, located at 314 W. Ninth Ave.

Because the organization has locations in both cities, Hausner said people often think that the two work independently of each other, when both locations are part of the Davidson County branch.

“We are one Army, we just have different locations to help accommodate county residents,” Hausner said. “People in Lexington can come to the worship center in Thomasville, and people in Thomasville can come to eat meals in Lexington.”

Both locations in Davidson County offer assistance services to those in need, including food, clothing, medical prescriptions and financial assistance. The Salvation Army also works closely with other local agencies, such as Davidson Medical Ministries and the United Way to help those in need. The United Way provides about 65 percent of monies used to assist people with utility and rent payments and medical supplies.

Both locations offer after school programs, and a variety of programs within the Boys & Girls Club. These programs are offered from 2 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and require pre-registration.

The organization also operates thrift stores in Lexington and in Denton. The Thomasville thrift store — formerly located on West Main Street — recently closed its doors, however Hausner said that the organization will reopen at another location in town that will provide better visibility.

Soon, the Salvation Army will begin its annual holiday fund raising efforts — efforts which will help pay for the Christmas Assistance program.

Through this program, the organization will help provide Christmas presents for underprivileged families in the community. Families in need of assistance during the holidays can complete applications from 1 to 4 p.m. on Oct. 31 through Nov. 4 at the location on Pine Street.

For those seeking assistance, the Pine Street location is currently open Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon, and then 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. The Lexington office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday with the same hours. In mid-November, both offices will be open five days a week, with the hours of operation to be announced. The on-site feeding program at the Lexington office is available Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

For more information on Salvation Army programs, call 472-7800, 249-0336, or 596-1852.

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