

HILLSDALE

DAILY NEWS

FALLING BEHIND

Salvation Army gives annual Christmas Campaign update

November 24, 2012

HILLSDALE COUNTY — The Salvation Army has currently raised 1-0 percent of its \$1-70,000 Red Kettle Campaign goal. At the current rate, it is unlikely that they will be able to meet their much needed goal. The reason the campaign is falling behind is that there are many unmanned kettle locations. Currently they are running at about 3-0 percent coverage at the Red Kettle. The Salvation Army desperately needs volunteer bell ringers. The funds raised through the Red Kettles are needed to sustain more than a dozen critical programs and services, including the free meal program, food pantry, rental and housing assistance, emergency shelter, emergency disaster relief, medical, clothing, educational classes and much more. Last year more than 70,000 such services were provided in Hillsdale County.

Contributions made during the annual Christmas Campaign will ensure critical needs of the unemployed, underemployed, homeless and others who often remain overlooked are met. All donations made to The Salvation Army stay in Hillsdale County and are put to work immediately to serve those in need. With more and more families coming to The Salvation Army for help, this holiday season is expected to be one of the busiest yet. Salvation Army officials stress that any donation will help, and donations of time are accepted as gratefully as donations of money. Reaching out to those in need by volunteering to ring bells or serving the people of Hillsdale County is a wonderful way to connect with the community, to give back and to share blessings and holiday joy.

How to help Volunteer bell ringers are desperately needed. Red Kettle Bell Ringers can be seen and heard at area businesses in Hillsdale County through Christmas Eve. Volunteers are still desperately needed to fill many bell ringing times and locations. Those interested can sign up for one or more hours, ring with family, friends or as a business or organization. The Salvation Army keeps track of how much each ringer or group raises, so they can challenge themselves or others to see how much they can raise. Signing up to Bell ring is easy, just call 517-437-4-240 or go online at www.sahillsdale.org.

Angel Tree, toy drive donations needed. Each year The Salvation Army serves hundreds of Hillsdale County families with Christmas toy and food assistance. All recipients of this program are deemed eligible by a case manager after a review of their situation, ensuring that those being assisted are those who truly need help. This year The Salvation Army and several other organizations have started a new tradition. A community collaborative called 'The Spirit of Community, Celebrating the Holidays Together' has been formed to pool resources, prevent duplication of services and meet a common goal of ensuring that no child is left without this Christmas. This collaborative includes The Salvation Army, Community Action Agency, Hillsdale County Community Foundation, Hillsdale County Intermediate School District and the Great Start Collaborative.

When individuals donate to the Salvation Army Angel tree program or drop a donation of toys or food in one of the dozens of donation barrels wrapped in Christmas paper and labeled 'Community Toy' or 'Food Drive,' they can be assured that their donation will stay in Hillsdale County and be used to brighten the holidays of someone who is truly in need. The Salvation Army will be holding a huge toy drive event on Saturday, Dec. 8, at WalMart from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Organizations or places of business that would like to be a drop off location or hold a toy or food drive can contact The Salvation Army at 517-437-4-240. The Salvation Army located at 160 E. Bacon Street in Hillsdale.



Volunteer bell ringers are still desperately needed.