



DAVID HARVEY

Answering The Call Daily

By Lorraine Payette

Some wander through life never knowing where we belong, always hoping that the next day or job or town will plant us on the path to destiny. David Harvey, Executive Director of The Salvation Army (SA) Gananoque Care and Share is not one of them.

“I have been involved with The SA all of my life,” he says. “My parents were members of The SA church. I became involved through the ministry of the church and have remained involved in the church all my adult life.”

Harvey is the face and voice of the SA for Gananoque and area. In their employ for the past ten years, he couldn't see himself doing anything else. His religion is his lifestyle.

“The SA has slogans that are used nation wide,” he says. “Giving Hope Today; ‘Heart to God, Hand to Man;’ or ‘Saving Souls, Growing Saints and Serving Suffering Humanity.’”

Harvey embodies these slogans. He doesn't sit in his office waiting for a call. He's out every day, everywhere, answering the Call, doing all that he can.

Whether working in the Manna Café, at the Care and Share, or raising awareness in the community, he is always making two hands do the work of ten. You might find him addressing a service club, then thirty minutes later painting walls and ceilings where needed.

“We have made a number of upgrades to our facility, especially in our kitchen and Manna Café,” he says. “Due to the generosity of the Town of Gananoque through a Community Grant we were able to upgrade all of our kitchen appliances and freezers, replace counter tops and flooring. These upgrades bring an atmosphere of comfort and peace to those who use our services. All who drop in for a cup of coffee or tea, or to have a meal, feel that they are treated with respect and dignity from the individual doing the serving right through to the place where they sit to eat. The future is as wide and varied as is our ability to meet the needs of the people who come to us.”

With challenges to meet year round – people to feed, clothe and house – Harvey and his volunteers work tirelessly to give a hand up to those who need it most.

“Twelve months of the year we try and meet the needs of those who need us, but Christmas time is much more demanding, with families trying to prepare for the Christmas season, and finding that their money doesn't seem to go quite as far as normal,” says Harvey. “We run a ‘Coats for Kids Program’ where families can apply for a snow suit or winter coat for their child. They will receive a new snow suit or coat, along with mittens and caps. We



SA Toy and Food Drive – 2011

also have our 'Adopt a Family Program' where families, businesses or individuals within the community can adopt a family and provide for them a complete turkey Christmas dinner as well as Christmas toys and, of course, we run our annual Christmas Kettle Campaign. This is the only fundraiser that we do all year, and the money received helps us run our food bank, our Manna Café, and to provide help with utility payments during the year as well as helping meet all the other needs that individuals face year round."

The public is the lifeblood of these programs. Generous donations to the Kettle Campaign are not the only way to support the SA. Extra support comes in many ways, from the donation of new winter clothing – including snow suits, winter coats, gloves/ mittens, or boots – or by adopting a family through their Adopt a Family Campaign.

"'Adopt a Family' is a completely anonymous program," says Harvey. "This protects everyone involved. It protects the dignity of the recipient, who may feel uncomfortable at being in need, and it protects the donor who may wish to remain anonymous."

The program makes it possible for the struggling to get along a bit better with support throughout the year. Even with food banks, Care and Share, and community kitchens, there is still a high level of need.

"We were not created to chase the wind," says Harvey. "We are created to join God on a mission. Some people think of God as hanging around beyond the edges of the universe somewhere, listening to really good worship music. The Bible sees it much differently. It teaches that God is at work 24/7, all over the world, filling his followers with grace, mercy and power to reclaim, redeem and fix this broken planet. It is as if God has work gloves on, and he calls us to roll up our sleeves and join him with our talents, our money, our time and our passion. He wants his mission to become ours. 'If you're into chasing the wind', he tells us, 'you can keep right on doing that. Or you can hook up with me (God), and together we'll transform this hurting planet.' What would it feel like to lay your head on your pillow at night and say, 'You know what I did today? I teamed up with God to change the world! We accomplish that by becoming engaged,

and involved. We change our community one person at a time.

"On behalf of the volunteers and staff of The Gananoque Care and Share, we want to thank the community and the surrounding area for its ongoing support financially, materially and emotionally. Without it we could not accomplish what we do for people in need and for the kingdom of God.

"'Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me (Matthew 25:40 - The Message).'" LH

The Thrift Store 120 Garden St. Gananoque- is open Monday - Friday from 10 am to 4 pm, the Food Bank is open Monday - Thursday 11 am to 3 pm and Friday 11 am to 2 pm. and The Manna café is open currently Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. This year's Kettle Kick-off is scheduled for November 14 at 7pm to be held at St Andrews Presbyterian Church Gananoque.