



DOING THE  
MOST GOOD™

## ◆ YOUR DONATIONS BY THE NUMBERS



**FROM MAY 1 TO JULY 31, 2011,  
YOUR DONATIONS:**

- Allowed Central Park to be open **59** days with **651** visitors.
- Helped **50** individuals receive shelter for a total of **2,071** nights of shelter.
- Provided homeless prevention services to **31** households.
- Moved **19** homeless families into permanent housing.
- Provided casework services to **619** households, representing **1,319** individuals.
- Provided **9,583** meals and snacks, **1,184** items of clothing or furniture, **50** children with back-to-school assistance; made **4** utility payments; and sent **30** children to Camp CONNRI for a total of **141** nights of camping and outdoor activities.

## ◆ UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV. 9 ..... The Salvation Army's 3rd Annual Kettle Kick-Off Breakfast and Awards

**GET TICKETS AND RESERVE AD SPACE NOW!**

**For more info call Cathy at (203) 592-0771**

**WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE  
FOLLOWING GRANTS AND SPECIAL DONATIONS:**

- **Greater Waterbury Board of Realtors** for a donation of **\$122** for tornado relief in Springfield, Mass.
- **City of Waterbury's** allocation of **\$25,591.84** for homeless prevention services and **\$9,073** for shelter support.
- **Thomaston Savings Bank** for a **\$1,000** donation for homeless prevention services.
- A contribution of **\$50** from 7-year-old **Kiernan McGaffey-Schipel**, who ran a lemonade stand to benefit children in the family shelter.
- Back-to-school shopping sprees for **30** children from **Target**; and those who assisted the young shoppers, which included advisory board members and volunteers from **United Way, Webster Bank, McDermid** and **Girl Scout Troop #64178** of Southbury.

*Thank you!*

We can't do it without you!



# OpenDoor

SEPTEMBER 2011 • Serving Greater Waterbury since 1892 • VOLUME 1 NO. 2



## Youths make most of summer with Camp CONNRI sojourn

By LAURA A. MARSALA

**W**hat do you dream of doing on those long summer days when time stretches out before you and school seems a long way off?

For 11-year-old Thanks, it's swimming in a lake. For 12-year-old Oscar, it's sleeping in a cabin. Thirteen-year-old Martina and 12-year-old Taylor like to pick a different activity every day. How about kayaking, rock climbing, nature walks, team sports, music and drama classes? All of that and more are possible for these and other youngsters at Camp CONNRI, located in Ashford, CT, where days are filled with group activities and the chance to make new friends.

This summer, 30 lucky Waterbury children were able to spend some time enjoying the green woods and crystal waters of the camp, which is accredited by the American Camping Association, the state of Connecticut and The Salvation Army.

Situated on 272 acres of rolling hills, overlooking a pristine 50-acre lake, the camp offers visitors from ages 7 to 14 a wide variety of activities including swimming, hiking, fishing, boating, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, nature studies, arts and crafts and much more. The Christian environment and its programs are intended to nourish the physical growth, mental maturity and spiritual enthusiasm in campers.

Campers spend anywhere from four to eight days, depending on the session, sharing a cabin with some of the other 100-plus campers and eating together in the dining hall. Thanks, Oscar, Martina and Taylor were all able to attend this summer, thanks to scholarships provided by The Salvation Army of Greater Waterbury and the Greater Waterbury Campership Fund. All of them were repeat visitors to the camp, and each

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From left to right, Thanks, Jacob, Taylor, Xavier, Martina, Kayla and Oscar are some of the youngsters who enjoyed spending time this summer at the Salvation Army's Camp CONNRI. For some of the children, it was the third and fourth opportunity to attend.

Contributed photo

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



*Deborah Sullivan,*  
Board president

**I** was extremely glad to make it through "Hurricane Irene" last month. I was prepared for the worst, or so I thought. The media build-up to Irene had everyone frantically trying to make sure they had enough water, food and gasoline. Many people became stressed. And when it was over, my family and I were among the lucky ones. Lucky for us there was no power outage, no loss of drinking water, no property damage, no loss of employment and most importantly, we were all safe.

Unfortunately, other families experienced despair and devastation for the loss of their homes, businesses, personal possessions, and in some places the loss of a loved one. The preparation for Irene took a few days and most power outages were restored within a week's time.

Now imagine being someone who has lost a job, home, business and personal possessions as a result of the financial crisis our national and state

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## 30 area youngsters enjoy summer outdoor camping experience

◆ CON'T. FROM PAGE 1

of them looks forward to the next time with anticipation.

Their days were jam-packed with both outdoor and indoor activities, social opportunities and just plain fun. According to the Waterbury campers, on a typical day, visitors awaken for flag raising, and then hurry off to breakfast. Cabin cleanup is followed by devotions and lunch, and then the real fun begins. Among the many choices offered are kayaking, paddle boating, ropes, rock climbing, orienteering, kickball with the counselors, dramas, music, timbrels (small tambourines), cheerleading and something called gaga ball.

You might wonder what that is. "It's like dodge ball," Martina and Taylor explained. "You start in a big circle, with maybe 30 kids. Sometimes it's boys vs. girls. It's really crazy!" they exclaim, giggling.

Organized activities continue



Contributed photo

The picturesque surroundings of Camp CONNRI in Ashford, CT.

throughout the day and into the evening. Following dinner and evening prayers, campers enjoy campfires, dancing, sing-alongs, games and themed nights, such as Princess Night, Pirate Night, Superhero Night or Dutch Auction. On the first night of camp, s'mores are shared as a special "welcome" treat.

Camp sessions are divided by themes as well and include Music and Fine Arts Camp, Teen Camp/Music Conservatory, Corps Camp and Service Unit Camp. Some campers earn the privilege of attending national camps for outstanding achievements in various venues, such as music or drama. Recently, Monica Collette from Waterbury was selected to attend the Star Lake Music Camp in Bloomingdale, NJ, for her accomplishment in timbrels.

This year, donations allowed the Salvation Army of Greater Waterbury to send 30 children to Camp CONNRI for a total of 141 nights. The experience offers children the opportunity to enjoy nature at its best, socialize and learn. Most importantly, it

allows them to be children in a supportive and relaxed setting.

What makes Camp CONNRI so special for the Waterbury campers? "It's fun," said Thanks, who just completed his third visit to the facility. "I just enjoy it," Oscar said simply, who has been to the camp twice. Taylor and Martina, three- and four-time visitors respectively, were a little more expressive. "You'll have a great time and you'll want to go back," explained Martina, to which Taylor added, "You will be welcomed and no matter what, you'll fit in."



Contributed photo

Staff members point to the sign that greets visitors to Camp CONNRI in Ashford, CT.

### A message from the chair ...

◆ CON'T. FROM PAGE 1

governments are facing daily.

Sometimes there is no preparation time. Thereafter, every day is stressful for you as you agonize over how your family will eat, be sheltered, have clothing and receive schooling.

Thankfully, you have The Salvation Army there to help you as you try to work your way through the system on a daily basis. I am thankful to God that The Salvation Army is there for anyone in need. Thank you for your con-

tinued support of the programs that The Salvation Army offers. Enjoy the fall weather that is coming!

### SAVE THE DATE!

**3d Annual  
Kettle Kick-Off Breakfast  
WED., NOV. 9, 2011**

Ponte Club, Villa Rosa Restaurant  
**For tickets or advertising  
call Cathy Dalton (203) 592-0771**

## ◆ OPENDOOR BRIEFS Community News

### 30 AREA CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM TARGET'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING SPREE

WATERBURY — On Tues., July 26, 30 young shoppers pushed carts up and down the aisles of the Chase Avenue Target, searching for school supply bargains and learning how to get the most bang for their buck. With an \$85 gift card in hand, and a volunteer to guide their decisions, each participating child shopped for new uniforms and clothing items, shoes, socks and, yes, even underwear, to help them start their new school year. The children also received new backpacks full of the school supplies they will need for academic success.

The Greater Waterbury Salvation Army was selected this year to participate in Target's national shopping spree program, in which Target provides the gift cards and The Salvation Army provides the shoppers. The Salvation Army also purchased the backpacks and school supplies.

Volunteers from Salvation Army members, staff and advisory board, Girls Scouts and leaders from Troop 64178, United Way, Webster Bank, the Waterbury Teachers Federal Credit Union and McDermid were on hand to assist. This year, the partnership between The Salvation Army and Target provided back-to-school assistance to more than 12,000 children across the country.



Submitted photo

Advisory board member Patti Moreno helps Lily select items recently at the back-to-school shopping spree sponsored by Target.

### ◆ WE SALUTE ... JOY HALL, Family Shelter Director

By LAURA A. MARSALA

WATERBURY – Wherever Joy Hall looks she sees potential. When clients come to her at The Salvation Army's family shelter on Central Avenue, Joy looks past their present circumstances and sees possibilities for their future. She wants to tell them, "By the way, you have great potential. Didn't anyone tell you?"

Next June will mark Joy's tenth year as director of the shelter. Prior to joining the organization's staff, she spent 18 years with the Lisa Corporation sheltering Department of Children and Family adolescents, two years in a transitional program, worked for the Department of Mental Retardation for three years and studied nursing.

Joy's approach to assisting those who enter the shelter is to prevent the cycle from repeating by empowering them. "We attend to the basic needs first, we work on the immediate, and then we plant seeds for the future," she explained. "I ask them, 'Tell me who you are and how you got here.' We go over their issues and then I ask them, 'Didn't anyone ever tell you what potential you have?' After the

basic needs are met, it is my hope that it (the potential) comes out. They could do so much with their lives."

As director, Joy's responsibilities include pursuing much-needed HUD grants (as part of the Waterbury Continuum of Care) to help procure housing for clients. She also keeps statistics for the shelter and files the huge amounts of paperwork required by state and federal laws, and she develops individual action plans, matching services to clients.

Although she has 11 employees, working under her, she is quick to point out that the entire staff of 17 works as a team. Each member brings various insights to the table, and the staff brainstorms to resolve challenges together.

One service of which Joy is particularly proud is the new GED program,



Photo by Laura Marsala  
**FAMILY SHELTER DIRECTOR  
JOY HALL**

made possible through a Melville Grant, which has enabled the shelter to offer instruction for up to 10 students in a 13-week program. And she is proud of the atmosphere of compassion she feels is unique to the shelter. "Clients tell me, 'You made me feel like family,'" Joy explained. "A lot of them have never had that before. People who have moved on will still call, still keep in touch with us. It's all about people."

Joy admits that sometimes a case will strike close to her heart. To keep things in perspective and to deal with the stress, she writes as a way to work through her emotions and get past the painful thoughts and feelings that social work can sometimes bring. In OpenDoor issues to come, Joy will share some of those writing and insights into the shelter's work.

She sums up the success of The Salvation Army facility in a simple way: "We are a family shelter and the clients work hard to provide homes for their children. There is love and kindness from both the staff and the clients. That's what makes it work."