

“There’s an Army Rising Up Tonight to Break Every Chain”

Welcome Remarks by Tim Kenner, Chairman,
The Salvation Army Advisory Board, Dayton, Ohio, during
The Salvation Army National Advisory Board Evening Program,
Sept. 18, 2014, Dayton, Ohio, USA

**[The Sacred Dance Team of The Salvation Army
Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center at Dayton
performs to the song “Break Every Chain” by Tasha Cobbs]**

*There is power in the name of Jesus.
To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain.*

*There is power in the name of Jesus.
To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain.*

*There’s an army rising up.
To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain.*

*There is power in the name of Jesus.
To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain.*

*There’s an army rising up.
To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain.*

I hear the chains falling.

*There is power in the name of Jesus.
To break every chain, break every chain, break every chain.*

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Tonight, Sept. 18, 2014, there is indeed an Army rising up – right here, right now, in Dayton, Ohio – to break every chain.

Every chain of poverty and hunger. Every chain of abuse and brokenness. Every chain of pain and despair.

Tonight, all of us – people connected in some way with The Salvation Army across this world, across this nation or across this town – have come together on this historic evening to celebrate – through word, song and dance – the many chains that have been broken, and the many lives that have been forever changed.

And if we dare to watch and listen closely to tonight's stories of transformation, we will hear the chains falling as the old ways of living pass away, and the new ways of living come to light.

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Good evening!

And welcome to the Kroc Center in Dayton, Ohio – the *only* Kroc Center in the United States on a campus-style setting: four beautiful buildings on 18 sprawling acres.

As a lifelong Daytonian, and a member of The Dayton Salvation Army Advisory Board for 25 years, it gives me great pride to host you and showcase our four-year-old Kroc Center: a cornerstone of our community, a blessing for our families and a focal point for educating our children – a critical need in Dayton, Ohio.

Are we making an impact?

Let me tell you:

Last year we served 130,000 meals. We provided 21,000 nights of shelter. And we helped 13,000 individuals with counseling and the basics of life: like rent, transportation and clothing.

Every day we help people like Shatinka Young, a mother who is studying for her nursing degree in our Tech Center and has three children in our afterschool programs.

Shatinka told us this: "The people here have my back, and they work to keep families together. The Kroc Center is such a *positive place*."

That's because so many positive things are happening here.

If you've toured our campus, you may have seen children playing the guitar, baking a snack or getting help with their homework.

You may have seen adults running on a treadmill, working on a resume or taking a class to earn their GED.

And those six girls who just left this stage? They were here at our Kroc Center – every day this week – to practice that Sacred Dance you enjoyed tonight.

Altogether, we run 200 programs *a week* here!

This is something you would not have seen a decade ago – or even five years ago.

In fact, if you had come to Dayton for a National Advisory Board Meeting 25 years ago, and stopped by our former Salvation Army facility downtown, you would have seen my son Benny and his friends practicing on the basketball court.

And you would have seen me on the sidelines, coaching them.

Because that's how I got involved with The Salvation Army: as the basketball coach for 12 third-grade boys.

My involvement with the Army has never ended.

Like many of you, I have served on more committees than I can count, poured over budgets and chaired Red Kettle campaigns.

And in the process I, too, have been transformed by The Salvation Army, just like all of you. And just like all of the individuals, children and families we have served at our Kroc Centers, at our service centers and at our rehabilitation centers across this country, and across this world.

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General André Cox, Commissioner Sylvia Cox, our national commissioners David and Barbara Jeffrey, our national board members, and every other colleague and guest:

We feel *so grateful* for your presence. And we are *so glad* that you are here.

Tonight is **OUR** night.

And tonight is **YOUR** night.

You get the chance to see firsthand what a thriving Kroc Center looks like in a community that raised **\$7 million from private donors** toward its construction and operations.

From Joan Kroc's estate, Dayton received \$69 million. We put about half toward construction and the other half toward operations, in the form of an endowment.

And – remarkably! – we continue to pay **100 percent of our operating costs with local dollars**, thanks to strong community and local corporate support.

In Dayton, that's something we're *very* proud of.

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Three decades ago, the phrase "It's Great in Dayton" became a tagline for our town.

Yes, it's still great in Dayton.

But I believe the Kroc Center has made Dayton even greater.

Greater – because now we can bring about greater change. Now we can do more good.

For when people are free from what enslaves them, they can be transformed.

And once they are transformed, they are forever free.

That's what The Salvation Army *does*.

And that's what we will continue to celebrate tonight as we watch a video testimony from Kim Tufts: once an abused foster child in Dayton whose only escape was the piano.

Let's listen and learn how Kim found the power and the courage – through the Army rising up – to break every chain. ◀