

SALVATION ARMY'S KETTLE CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

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One day into last year's kettle campaign, the Salvation Army had no choice but to pull all of its kettles.

With the Omicron variant of COVID-19 sending case numbers skyrocketing, it was in the best interest of their volunteers to keep them out of public spaces.

It was a blow to the campaign that assists as many as 125 families in Georgetown, helping to ensure there are presents on Christmas morning. The campaign, which has a goal of \$80,000 this year, also helps with the Salvation Army's food bank, which serves approximately 50 families throughout the year.

But Maj. Miriam Stevens of the Salvation Army Georgetown said the com-

munity still responded. Even without the familiar kettles in the mall and other locations around town, it still managed to raise two-thirds of its goal.

"We know families might be strapped financially because things might not be right back to normal," Stevens said. "We are hopeful things return to near normal."

One thing that will be back to normal — the bright red kettles will be out.

Salvation Army Acton has also launched its Christmas campaign. In addition to helping families at Christmas, Maj. Sterling Snelgrove said the funds are used throughout the year to provide emergency assistance, counselling, clothing and to send kids to summer camp.

It has set a goal of \$25,000 for this year.

Salvation Army Acton will have kettles at No Frills, Sobeys, the LCBO and Giant Tiger. Three of the four locations will provide a tap option for debit and credit cards.

With both campaigns, the money collected stays in the town to help its residents.

Both campaigns still need volunteers to do shifts at a kettle. In Acton, call 519-853-1140. In Georgetown call 905-877-1374, ext. 103 or email christmaskettlegeorgetown@gmail.com.

Salvation Army Georgetown will once again be collecting toys with a drop-off location by Santa at the Georgetown Market Place. Gifts or gift cards for teenagers are always in short supply.

Any families needing assistance can call 905-877-1374, ext. 101.



Metroland file photo

The Salvation Army in Georgetown and Acton have kicked off their Christmas kettle campaigns.

"Being limited in what we could do last year, we're looking forward to meeting people and wishing them a Merry Christmas," Snelgrove said.

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