

Salvation Army urgently needs more kettle volunteers

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Do you have a couple of hours to spare this holiday season?

The local Salvation Army is urgently seeking volunteers for its Christmas kettle program, and is at risk of not having all the locations open at any given time.

"We're desperately short of volunteers," said Angela Hunt of Khi Community, Salvation Army.

Volunteers are needed to man the kettles for two-hour shifts in both the day-time and nighttime until the end of the kettle campaign Christmas Eve.

About 70 shifts remain to be filled this week alone at the seven locations around town.

Most of the locations are inside, and there's no soliciting — volunteers simply smile and say thank you to donors, as well as hand candy canes to children.

"It's a real easy way to volunteer," Hunt said.

Signing up can be done on-line at www.khicommunity.com.

Kettles are located at Milton Mall, Metro, Wal-Mart, Loblaw Superstore, La Rose (Saturday mornings), and the two LCBOs.

Kettle donations are also down, Hunt said, with about \$32,800 collected so far.

Last year at this time, that figure was \$36,641.

However, the overall campaign is slightly ahead of last year, with just over \$55,000 collected so far at press time, compared with \$50,000 at this time in 2008.

Funds collected during the organization's Christmas campaign make up the Salvation Army, Khi Community's entire operating budget for the following year. The organization serves 110 Milton families on a regular basis, particularly through its food bank.

Last Saturday's community food drive was a great success, Hunt said, with many volunteers turning out to lend a hand.

About the same amount of food as last

year was collected.

Residents can continue to donate non-perishable food items, toiletries and baby supplies, as well as new, unwrapped toys at year-round drop-off locations around town.

Saturday and Sunday, the Loblaw Superstore will hold its Holiday Turkey Drive from noon to 6 p.m. each day.

Turkeys can be purchased and will be stored at Loblaw Superstore until they're ready to be distributed in holiday hampers.

For more information, to volunteer or to donate, call (905) 875-1022 or stop by the office at 100 Nipissing Rd., unit 3.

Stephanie Hounsell can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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