

Community

May 1 marks start of Red Shield Appeal

More than 70 soldiers will take to the street in Stouffville on May 1 to kick off the annual Salvation Army Red Shield appeal.

The 1995 goal for Red Shield for South York Region has been set at \$164,000. Craig Lewis, coordinator for the local Salvation Army, said the 75 Army volunteers will go "door to door" to collect donations for the appeal.

"Local residents play an important role in the residential blitz," stressed Lewis.

To further emphasize the need for public participation, Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor Wayne Emmerson and campaign chairman Frank Scarpitti will join members of the Salvation Army in a flag raising ceremony at the municipal building on Civic Ave. on April 27 at 9 a.m.

This year's campaign leader is Tim Rochacewich. "Tim's experience and personality are a definite asset to the campaign," said Lewis. The Salvation Army provides social services to the Stouffville communi-

ty through its Markham and area facilities. Services include offering English as a second language for newcomers to Canada.

An emergency food distribution centre which is available to anyone experiencing financial difficulty is also available through the Salvation Army, said Lewis.

Clothing vouchers for Thrift store items are also offered, Lewis added. The Salvation Army is front and centre in looking out for people in need at Christmastime. Thanks to the caring of the Salvation Army, needy families can celebrate the holiday season with food, including a turkey. Meanwhile children enjoy the new clothes and, of course, the toys given at Christmas, added Lewis.

Anyone experiencing pain due to the loss of a loved one can receive help through the Salvation Army. The Living is for Today program is needed in the community, said Lewis. Also offered is a crisis intervention consultation program. It's available to anyone needing emotional support, explained Lewis.

The local Salvation Army runs after-school programs at Balantrae Public School and Orchard Park Public School.

"I believe that people will dig deep to ensure that the services continue to exist in the face of government cutbacks," said Lewis.

For more information on the Red Shield appeal or on the services provided by the Salvation Army call 416-489-0094.

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