

## The “Furst” Family in Flowers – 103 Years Old and Growing Strong

It all started when Joe Furst came over from Germany and worked for a rose grower in Columbus. Joe moved to Dayton and started a wholesale greenhouse business, taking his plants to Main Street in a horse and buggy! The rest is, as they say, history. Five generations later, Furst the Florist is a mainstay of Troy Street, and is well-regarded as one of the finest floral businesses in the Miami Valley.

Family-owned and operated, Furst’s 70 employees serve both retail and wholesale customers. From flower deliveries and fundraisers to weddings and other florists, Furst is committed to “offering only the finest floral arrangements and gifts, backed by service that is friendly and prompt.”

It truly is a family affair. The president of Furst the Florist is Bill Furst. Bill’s son Steve and his wife Jeanna oversee the retail side, while son Tom and his wife Gwen run the wholesale division. Daughter Sheila Gerdes manages the accounting function, and it doesn’t stop there ... just about everywhere you turn, you will run into a Furst relative.

The reason behind their success? Here’s what Bill Furst, President, has to say: “Everyone here – our management and our employees – is dedicated to providing quality products and great service. We’ve all worked very hard over the years, and are dedicated



to the happiness of our customers and the growth of our company. There’s very little turnover, so our customers receive help from experienced, loyal employees who know the ins and outs of the floral business.”

The Furst Family is thrilled with the prospect of the Kroc Center. Jeanna Furst says, “It’s fantastic! It will be good for business, and great for the neighborhood. We’ve had the opportunity to work with The Salvation Army on their Family Picnic Nights, as well as the Kroc Center’s groundbreaking ceremony. They perform a great service for our community, and it is a privilege to work with them.”

*Furst the Florist is located at 1306 Troy St. They are open from 8–5:30 Monday through Friday and 8–5 on Saturday. They can be reached at 223.1213 or visit [fursttheflorist.com](http://fursttheflorist.com)*



The Salvation Army  
138 S. Wilkinson St.  
Dayton OH 45402

### DOING THE MOST GOOD

“... For service is our watchword, and there is no reward equal to that of doing the most good to the most people in the most need.” –Evangeline Booth

## It’s All In The Family

Families are the heart of any neighborhood. That’s why The Salvation Army and Kiser School have teamed up to host several “Family Nights” for students and their parents. Up to 400 people have participated in these fun evenings, filled with games, arts and crafts, story times, prizes and snacks. Best of all, families get to meet each other and learn more about the school. Family portraits and board games have been popular “parting gifts” – keep your eyes open for the next Family Night!



## Third Annual Family Picnic Night

Claridge Park was the site of the 3rd Annual Family Picnic Night on July 24, hosted by The Salvation Army. Over 800 neighbors joined in the free fun, games, prizes, music, food and refreshments. We are grateful to the members of our business community who lent their support, and a big thank you goes out to Jim Pine of Heart’s Hot Dogs who cooked up 1,600 hot dogs and hamburgers for the hungry crowd. This event gets bigger every year, and is just one example of how The Salvation Army works to bring neighbors together.



# The Kroc Center Report



Volume 3, Issue 7, Fall 2008

## Kiser School – Read All About It!

How old were you when your first book was published? What kind of attention have your opinions on conflict, the UD flyers, HIV and ballroom dancing received? We thought you’d be interested in hearing about two dynamic student clubs at Kiser School that take photography and journalism to entirely new levels.

**Photo Club** at Kiser School asks the question, “What happens when you give ten students disposable cameras and tell them to show you the good, the bad and the ugly in their neighborhood?” What happens is a beautiful new book of photos and stories, giving readers a glimpse of these students’ everyday lives. The club, with a grant from The Salvation Army and the Neighborhood Schools Center, offers students an opportunity to learn about photography and how to capture their world on film. Editor Doug Smith, a Kiser

volunteer and senior at the University of Dayton, says about the book: “They showed me what it was like to live in their shoes and I want to show the world.”

**Panther Pride** is a student newsletter written, produced and published by Kiser 6th, 7th and 8th graders for their fellow students. Fifteen students produced five issues the inaugural year, and we can’t wait to see what they come up with next! The purpose of the club is to give students an opportunity to develop and improve their reporting and writing skills, while getting a chance to engage in social commentary. Teachers report much improvement in their writing ability and selection of topics. As important, students are more confident in their ideas, and their ability to communicate those ideas with fellow students.



## Building Relationships One Student At A Time

To help develop leaders (and starting by knowing them and their needs), Kiser School is well-positioned, literally. Less than half a mile from the Dayton public school will rise in the next couple of years one of the first Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers of The Salvation Army. The first employee hired for that center is Amber Rose (UD, Class of ’05), who is working on the Neighborhood School Centers project, designed by UD’s Fitz Center for Leadership in Community in collaboration with the Dayton Public Schools.

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## A Message From The Majors



Barbara and Tom Duperree

What a fabulous summer it has been! We anticipated its arrival and now, almost in a blink, it seems it is gone!

line, rather than giving it everything he had until the end.

There's another great race mentioned in the Bible. The writer in Hebrews 12:1 tells us "... **let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.**" (New International Version). Another translation says, "... **start running - and never quit!**" (The Message).

What's the race? Well, the "race" is a metaphor for our journey through life with God. It's about our relationship with Him. This race has nothing to do with who crosses the finish line first. And the best part is that lightning-fast speed doesn't win this particular race; perseverance does! Clear, steady, day by day devotion to God and obedience to His Word are the best techniques for winning this race, coupled with an attitude that says "**Never Quit!**" Everybody has the opportunity to finish the race and win the prize; the prize of eternal life with God in Heaven.

God has set a course for each one of us. And every person's course begins similarly by entering into a personal relationship with God, through His Son, Jesus Christ. But the journey - the adventure of the race - is different for everybody!

Near the end of his life, the apostle Paul wrote to his young protégé, Timothy, "**I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**"

The following report chronicles the journey - the race - the good work of God among us as we endeavor to serve others in His name. We're fascinated every day to witness His goodness and grace. As you read on, our prayer for you today is that you will run the race set before you, that you will persevere, and that you will be able to say, like St. Paul, "...**I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.**"

God Bless You!

We saw more than 800 people in attendance at our 3rd Annual Family Picnic Night at Claridge Park. We were privileged to offer Day Camp and Vacation Bible School programs to the community. And yes ... construction has begun on The Salvation Army's new Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center!

Like the rest of the nation, we were captivated by the games of the 29th Olympiad held in Beijing, China. Only in recent weeks have we been able to get our sleep schedule back on track! As we watched our American athletes compete or stand on the platform to receive a gold medal, a great pride swelled within our hearts, both for that person and for our nation.

But one athlete, Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, seemed to mesmerize the world with his record-smashing speed on the track. Setting three new world records, he was clocked at an average of 23 miles per hour. That is fast! Yet as fast as he is, we wonder if he couldn't be even faster. When Usain realized that he was the front runner, he seemed to slow down and coast as he crossed the finish

## It's Your Community Center

The late Joan B. Kroc, heiress to the McDonald's restaurant fortune, bequeathed more than \$1.5 billion to the national Salvation Army. Her will stipulated that the money would be used to build and sustain state-of-the-art community centers all across the country. Dayton, Ohio was one of the cities selected to house a new Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, and will receive \$66 million from the estate. The Center will be located on 175 acres at the intersection of Webster and Keowee Streets and is scheduled to open Summer, 2010.

The Salvation Army looks forward to providing a full range of worship, education, sports, recreation and social services. Together, we can have a positive impact - on our children and on our community.



Architectural Design: John Poe Architects  
Construction: Danis Building Construction Company

## Jennifer Easterling: National Volunteer of the Year

Jennifer Easterling was awarded national "Volunteer of the Year" by the American Sewing Guild whose headquarters is in Houston, Texas. The award was presented to her at the national convention this summer along with a check to be donated to the charity of her choice.



Jennifer Easterling

During the last two summers, Jennifer coordinated a local guild project that provided 135 beautiful hand-sewn bags chock full of items for children attending the Salvation Army's overnight camp in Oregonia, Ohio. The bags were a big hit both years and returning campers were thrilled to see they were available again this summer.

Even though she won this immense honor, she's not slowing down! Jennifer has a volunteer's heart; she gives selflessly and receives great joy from it. Congratulations, Jennifer, and thank you for all you do for The Salvation Army.

## Building Relationships

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The project pairs individual schools with agencies such as The Salvation Army.

"The project and Rose's work rest on building relationships. That's a skill the Berry Scholar learned as an undergraduate working at the Fitz Center and after graduation coordinating the Stander Symposium, the showcase of UD students' research and creativity.

"Current UD students helping out at Kiser are also getting a taste of the reality of service learning. One, an engineering major, is advising a newly formed newspaper club. Another connected so well with a troubled child she was rewarded by hearing from the young person, 'You've been like a mother to me.'

'Seeing UD students have such an effect,' Rose said, 'is powerful to me.'

"Rose envisions a day where such relationships will lead to a community so strong that, unlike today where children on one street are bused to 12 different schools, Kiser will be so vibrant that it becomes the public school where everybody in the neighborhood goes."

*Excerpted with permission from Thomas Columbus, University of Dayton Quarterly, Summer 2008*

## Back By Popular Demand ... Day Camp!

This past summer, The Salvation Army hosted three weeks of day camp for children living in the neighborhood around the soon-to-be-built Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. Run by Captains Jason and Leslie Knaggs, the camp - attended by 58 children - was a way to connect with Kiser students and families living in the McCook Field/Old North Dayton areas.



Every day, a bus picked up day campers from Kiser School and took them to the Army's downtown Dayton headquarters. There, they were given breakfast, and got to experience all sorts of games, arts and crafts and, of course, snacks!



During each week of camp, the children went to Splash Moraine and, for a special field trip, they traveled to the Newport Aquarium, Kings Island or The Beach. We can tell ... you had a ball!



Rob Easterling

## Get To Know Our Advisory Board

Although Rob Easterling has been a member of the Dayton Salvation Army Advisory Board for "a short four years," he has been an integral part of program growth, both existing and new, as well as playing a prominent role in the development and

construction of the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center.

Rob is currently the Vice Chairman of the Advisory Board (he will assume the Chairmanship in 2009) and sits on the Special Appeals, Adult Rehabilitation Center and Kroc Center Construction Committees. After a lengthy career with the Iams Corporation, he retired as Senior Vice President of International. He really hasn't stopped working - he has just redirected his efforts and The Salvation Army is better for it!

Outside of his philanthropic work, Rob enjoys his family (wife, daughter, son and five grandchildren) as well as an occasional round of golf. We are truly blessed to have a person with his character and wisdom on our Advisory Board.

### How did you become involved with The Salvation Army?

"My wife, Jennifer, and I have been longtime supporters of The Salvation Army in the financial sense. We have always felt the need to give back and after researching several charitable organizations, we chose to support The Salvation Army for several reasons. We appreciate that an overwhelming percentage of donated dollars (86%! ) goes toward programs rather than administration and the fact that the Army is a faith-based organization. Jeff Ireland, Advisory Board member, mentioned that there was a Board position open and asked if I would be interested in serving. I was somewhat aware of the programs that the Army offered, but my eyes were really opened when I took the tour and met with Business Administrator Reggie Winters and Major Tom Duperree."

### Now that you've served on the Advisory Board, what aspect of The Salvation Army continues to impress you?

"It is the people that have chosen to serve others. Majors Tom and Barbara Duperree are probably the most dedicated people I have ever encountered in my lifetime. They (and their peers throughout the world) are the ones that stand shoulder to shoulder to provide spiritual and physical assistance to those less fortunate. They are humble, noble people who are 100% involved in improving the lives of others. In addition, I look at the continuity of our Advisory Board - it adds a great deal of stability to the Dayton Salvation Army. This Board is filled with lots of smart, dedicated individuals who believe in the work of the Army. If you ask any long time Board Member why they continue to serve, they will likely tell you that the biggest reason is because The Salvation Army makes a difference in people's lives!"

### What is your involvement in the Kroc Center?

As a member of the Advisory Board and of the Kroc Center Construction Committee, I lend my business acumen and experience in dealing with the challenges facing us in building the Kroc Center. I was heavily involved in the building of several plants while with Iams, and I try my best to apply that experience to this project so we can maximize our impact on the community."

### What impact do you feel the Kroc Center will have on the Greater Dayton community?

"First of all, the sheer size of this facility will enable The Salvation Army to serve considerably more people. For instance, the new chapel will accommodate 400 people, four times more than the current one. The Technology Café, the joint educational effort with the University of Dayton, the health and well being component are additional and timely services that will be available through the Kroc Center campus. Finally, the Community Center is centrally located, allowing ease of access for the entire area."

**We are very interested in your comments and suggestions about this newsletter and about the Kroc Center. Please contact Major Tom Duperree at 222.1435 or tduperree@use.salvationarmy.org.**