



THE SALVATION ARMY
BAHAMAS DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

"DOING THE MOST GOOD"

SUMMER 2018

For God and The Bahamas

Paint, Brushes, Volunteers, Action! On Saturday March 3rd an enthusiastic group of volunteers from the Bahamas Harvest Church converged onto the School for the Blind grounds eager to roll up their sleeves, transforming the playground and pavilion area into a colorful kaleidoscope. The Bahamas Harvest Church partnered with the Salvation Army Erin H. Gilmour School for the Blind & Visually Impaired Children during its campaign For God and The Bahamas. The day was filled with laughter, joy and hard work as the avid volunteers transformed the recreational area for the children's enjoyment. In addition, the Music Department received new musical equipment

for the school's choir and band, a donation deeply appreciated.

The Bahamas Harvest Church's wonderful partnership assisted in contributing to the mission of the school to provide quality education in an interactive environment to enable students who are blind and visually impaired to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to become independent, productive and contributing members of society.

The Salvation Army Erin H. Gilmour School for the Blind & Visually Impaired Children celebrates 68 years. We at the school are very thankful to The Bahamas Harvest Church for showing God's demonstrated love through their resources, time and kindness.



MOP WORKSHOP FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The Mop Workshop for the Blind and Visually impaired came into being over 50 years ago in 1965. During this time, it was noted that once visually impaired students had completed their studies at the School for the

Blind, there was still a need for additional programs and resources to assist them. The goal was to teach the students a vocational skill which could lead to employment opportunities. Initially the workshop taught other skills, such as broom and cushion making; mops were introduced in the 1970's and became available for commercial sale in the 1980's. Today the operation continues to expand. Last year a new mop machine was

purchased, a manual design well suited for the blind and visually impaired. While sales were down 7.2% in 2017, the first quarter of 2018 is promising with growth of 8.2% over previous year. The workshop gives blind and visually impaired adults the ability to work with dignity and pride. There are currently eight employees, five of whom are totally blind or visually impaired. You can find Salvation Army mops at your favorite grocer.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

KIELY WATT

Visiting Volunteer to The Salvation Army Bahamas Division

Melanesie Coakley, Community Relations Associate, conducted an interview with Kiely Watt, a first time visitor to Nassau who chose to volunteer at Salvation Army while on holiday.



Melanesie: Where do you live and could you tell us what you do?

Kiely: I'm originally from Calgary, AB, Canada, but now my husband and I

live in San Francisco, California. I work with families that have children with special needs or disabilities. I love working with kids and their families. Every day is different.

Melanesie: What was the reason you choose to volunteer with the Salvation Army - Bahamas Division?

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RELIEF & RECOVERY CONTINUES FOR THE BAHAMAS SOUTHERN ISLANDERS

During September 2017 the southern islands experienced damage and destruction from Hurricane Irma. The Salvation Army was able to immediately respond by providing meals to the many residents evacuated to shelters in Nassau. Assessments were performed once the residents returned to the southern islands and more than 50 families have been identified needing beds

destroyed by Hurricane Irma replaced. The Salvation Army was able to meet the need and ship beds to the southern islands, bringing relief to many families.

The Salvation Army continues to receive assessments and will address the need for beds through the award. The Salvation Army has and still remains an integral part of relief and recovery efforts throughout the year as needed.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISIONAL COMMANDER – MAJOR CLARENCE INGRAM

I have good news for you this Summer. "Christmas Has an Army" was well supported by families, individuals and Corporate Bahamas making an army of difference during Christmas. The Salvation Army continues to be thankful for financial donations, volunteers and continued support of our mission. It is because of your support we are able to touch 40,000 families in our community and give hope throughout the year. We continue to face challenges but with your donation we can continue the mission as Need Has No Season.

My check payable to The Salvation Army is enclosed.

Yes! I'll help you reach out to local individuals and families in need of help and hope.

GIFT AMOUNT

\$25 \$50 \$100

Other _____

You may also give via credit/debit card by going online at www.salvationarmybahamas.org or by calling 242.393.2340 Your gift will be used to meet real Community needs.

THE SALVATION ARMY AND THE COCA-COLA COMPANY BRING RELIEF TO BAHAMIAN COMMUNITIES

In the wake of 2016's Hurricane Matthew and 2017's Hurricane Irma, many Bahamian residents were left in need of support and resources. Others were displaced from their homes, and forced to leave the islands that they were born and raised. The Caribbean Bottling Company, local bottler of Coca-Cola beverages, and the Salvation Army offered assistance in the immediate wake of both storms.

Spurred by the accounts from their partners in the



Bahamas, and recognizing the ongoing need of many Bahamians impacted by the devastating storms, The Coca-Cola Company generously donated \$300,000 to the Salvation Army, to be used for hurricane restoration efforts. In addition to the restoration of a community center on Ragged Island,

the donation will be used to provide vital repairs to the Salvation Army's women and children's shelter in Grants Town, New Providence. Quotations for both projects are currently being gathered, and work is scheduled to begin soon.

Volunteer Profile : Kiely Watt

FROM PREVIOUS PG

Kiely: I've always loved to travel, and I always thought service to others was an important part of my faith. The work that the Salvation Army does around the world is inspiring, so I chose to add volunteer work to my travel plans in the Baha-

mas. The experience was rewarding.

Melinese: Why do you consider it important to volunteer?

Kiely: There is a quote that sums up my thoughts on this: "Service is the rent we pay for living, and not something we do in

our spare time. It is the very purpose of life". - Marian Wright Edelman

Melinese: What did you do during your volunteer time with the Salvation Army?

Kiely: I put together food hampers, worked alongside some wonderful people in the kitchen as well as helped package bars

of soap in the afternoon with a clothing donation program. Little jobs with big impact.

Melinese: How would you describe your experience?

Kiely: Very rewarding. I love meeting new people and volunteering is a great way to do that.

Melinese: What are your

hobbies?

Kiely: I love swimming, spending time with family and exploring new places

The Salvation Army could not do the work without the many volunteers that assist us in executing our mission every day. The army behind The Salvation Army!