

Community Information & Volunteer Centre

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Ring bells at Salvation Army kettles

Part of Christmas for me is hearing bells ring at Salvation Army kettles. I exchange smiles with these volunteers who encourage us to be generous during the holiday season. Money is quietly slipped into the opening.

Have you ever wondered how this tradition began? "Captain Joseph McFee started the campaign to feed San Francisco's poor at Christmas," explains Suzie Docherty, Volunteer Coordinator for The Salvation Army. "In 1981, he hung a large cooking pot from a tripod and placed a sign above it that read: Keep the pot boiling."

A 120 years later, Salvation Army kettles can be found around the world. "Money is raised for much more than hampers and toys for tots at Christmas," Suzie adds. "Food, emergency response, addiction recovery, single mom mentoring and many other programs and services are made possible all year long."

Can you hear the bells? Are you interested in volunteering as a kettle bell ringer in Kelowna or West Kelowna? With your help the 2011 goal of \$250,000 can be reached. Every penny you raise stays to help the needy in our community.

Kettle bell ringers will begin appearing at major retail locations on November 17th. The two hour shifts are perfect for busy people. Volunteer as a family to ring those bells and make a difference right where you live.

Please volunteer today by calling Suzie at 250-860-2329 local 33 or emailing suzied@kelsa.ca. Come to the Kettle Bell Ringer Sign Up and Orientation at The Salvation Army Kelowna Community Church 1480 Sutherland Avenue on November 14th at 7:00 pm.

The holiday season offers many ways to get involved in our community. You can sponsor a family, help prepare and serve Christmas dinner, or donate 'wish list' items. Find the charity of your choice at www.kcr.ca, 'Community Info Search'.

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