

DISCOVER 419

A feature publication of The Courier and Review Times



RED KETTLE CAMPAIGN REIMAGINED

By JEANNIE WILEY WOLF and KAYLA TREVINO
Staff Writers

The most iconic symbol associated with the Salvation Army is the red kettle, and the volunteers stationed all throughout the town ringing bells while collecting holiday donations.

While those red kettles will still be found outside storefronts and town centers this year, there will be

another option: “We have tons of volunteers; we can’t fit them all in. So, we introduced virtual red kettles,” said Lt. Jimmy Hughes of the Tiffin Salvation Army.

The virtual red kettle program allows for anyone to host their own Salvation Army donation drive. It’s a way to give to the Salvation Army if you can’t go out and ring the bell, or if you would rather stay home and do your holiday shopping online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Findlay, community members began seeing red kettles and bell ringers a week earlier this year than usual. Findlay Salvation Army Major

Dianna Morales said the local drive began Nov. 13.

“We need to rescue Christmas,” Morales said. “My husband says we’re taking back Christmas.”

According to information provided by national headquarters, this is the first time in 130 years that the Salvation Army is starting its annual kettle drive early in an attempt to meet increasing needs. Morales said COVID-19 will definitely have an impact on Christmas efforts this year.

Continued on page 3

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“With people not working, students not in classes, businesses closing or reducing their workforce, and the threat of a resurgence, our reliable resources are not as reliable,” she said.

Based on the increase in services already provided in response to the pandemic, the national organization estimates that it could be serving up to 155% more people in 2020 with Christmas assistance.

Morales said there will be a QR code at kettle stands and throughout the community that will allow shoppers to make digital donations.

“We hope to flood them throughout Findlay, if the stores will let us. And they can be scanned through glass, because we tried it. So we’re going to ask stores if they’ll put them in their windows,” she said.

Bell ringers are following new safety protocols this year, including wearing masks and adhering to additional sanitizing guidelines.

“A lot of the stores — we have national contracts with the bigger stores — and they’re worried about safety protocols and all those kinds of things. We don’t even know what stores we’ll be allowed to stand at when we do start,” she said.

“There may be a little extra (for the volunteers) to learn this year, but it will keep them safe as well as the people who donate, and make the stores feel that we’re OK being there,” Morales said.

Last year’s kettle drive generated more than \$70,000 for the Findlay organization. The money goes to the organization’s Christmas efforts and other offerings throughout the year, which include a food pantry, soup kitchen and children’s programs.

“Help the Salvation Army rescue Christmas,” Morales said. “Kids have had such a rough year, too. Things have been so topsy-turvy for them, so

it would be good to make Christmas somewhat normal for them.”

The Tiffin Buffalo Wild Wings is also raising money for the Salvation Army through gift cards. Every gift card of \$25 or more will give 5% back to the Salvation Army. These donations are only valid if gift cards are bought at the Tiffin restaurant.

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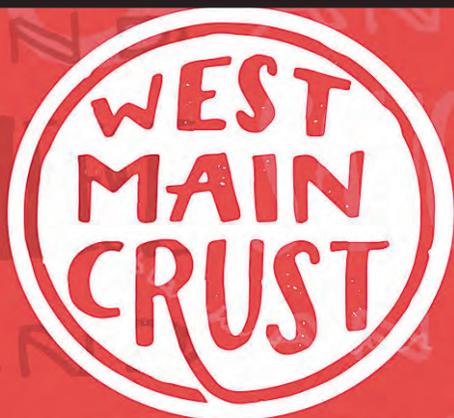
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Staying Connected with Family and Friends

For most people when they think of domestic violence, causing physical harm to a loved one often comes to mind. In many abusive relationships emotional abuse occurs more commonly than physical abuse. Emotional abuse includes name calling, putdowns, threats, and isolation. Isolating a partner from their family and friends is a very common power and control tactic used by abusive partners.

Since we have all been keeping to ourselves due to COVID-19, you may not have thought much about your close friend or family member that you have not heard from in a few months.

If you know or suspect someone is being abused, try to stay in contact with them especially during this time. Your support and encouragement are crucial now more than ever. Do not assume that just because they have not reached out to you that they do not need you. They need you, but probably are not able to give you a call or text due to their partner monitoring their phone and/or not allowing them to contact anyone.

An unintended but likely consequence of the pandemic and stay at home measures is increased stress at home, which in turn creates a greater risk for domestic violence and child abuse.

Financial stress from lost jobs and income can make it more difficult for survivors to leave abusive relationships and add strain to already volatile situations.

For survivors, having a support system they can depend on no matter what can literally mean their life. Just giving someone a quick call or text lets them know that you care and that you are there for them.

If you or someone you know has questions about domestic violence or needs help, Open Arms services are open and available. Services are free and confidential. Our crisis hotline (419-422-4766) is answered 24/7 by staff members eager to assist anyone with access to our services, answer questions, and provide referrals to local resources.

Ashley Ritz
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MERRY CHRISTMAS

How to host virtual holiday celebrations

The 2020 holiday season figures to be vastly different than seasons past. The novel coronavirus COVID-19 has transformed daily life in many ways. The public has become accustomed to wearing masks while shopping, limiting the number of people in public venues and keeping their distance from friends and loved ones. Many events have been reimagined as virtual celebrations because of social distancing protocols. For those with large families or people with inherent risk factors that make them more susceptible to illness, sharing the holidays over video conferencing apps may be the safest way to go in 2020.

The following tips can help holiday hosts make the most of a virtual holiday experience.

Pick a bright, festive spot

Set up your tablet, smartphone or computer in a bright area with a festive backdrop. You'll want others who join the virtual hangout to be able to see you clearly. A Christmas tree or a decorated fireplace in the background can set the scene.

Choose the right conferencing app

Certain programs may work better than others depending on your needs. For example, if everyone has the same operating system platform (iOS or Android), you may be able to use an app inherent to that system, which won't require a separate download or login.

Apps also may be chosen depending on how many people can be invited in, as some set limits. Do your homework and conduct a test run prior to the holidays. Have patience with older family members as they learn how to participate in a virtual gathering. Practice a virtual meeting with them prior to the actual holiday celebration.

Keep props nearby

If the goal is to open gifts virtually, be sure to have everyone gathered and gifts nearby so no one is scrambling in and out of view.

Position the camera at eye level

Try to set up the camera so you're not looking up or down. Practice looking straight into the camera instead of at

yourself in the minimized window or even others on the screen. This way you'll appear engaged.

Use mute when not speaking

Muting yourself (and encouraging others to do the same) when you are not speaking will limit the amount of background noise. As the host, serve as the moderator and encourage everyone to speak one at a time. Choose a visual cue to signal when someone has the floor to speak, such as raising a hand or even showing a festive picture.

Tune into virtual worship

While some places of worship have reopened to some capacity, others may still be offering hybrid services. If your place of worship offers services via YouTube or another video platform, gather around and watch together and participate just as if you were there in person. Better yet, share the link with other family and friends so they can tune in as well.

Share dinner 'together'

Set up your camera source so it captures the holiday table. All parties gathering virtually can then sit down to the holiday meal as one and enjoy one of the season's more endearing traditions.

Virtual celebrations may continue through the holiday season. Adapting with some video conferencing tips can ensure everyone enjoys the festivities while staying as safe as possible.



Humans of Findlay is a documentary project based on the blog “Humans of New York.” The project was created to introduce many of the unique people of Findlay, Ohio. The man behind the lens and the project is Dave Morrow. Morrow has interviewed over 700 people of Findlay, ranging from age 5 to 102 years old, with a wide range of diversity and backgrounds. Jenna Wilkins has joined Dave in continuing the Humans of Findlay project.

On April 4, 2018, a proclamation was signed by Mayor Lydia Mihalik designating the day as “Humans of Findlay Day.” Each of the stories have been read up to 30,000 times, and can be located on humansoffindlay.com, Humans of Findlay Facebook page, as well as in this monthly magazine. Know someone that you feel should be featured? Send a nomination on the Facebook page.



A few weeks ago, as I drove by St. Michael Catholic Church I was struck by an impression when I observed two Catholic Sisters in their bright white habits walking past the chapel. This strong impression of these two young women, who I knew voluntarily choose to leave the common world behind, instead vowing to live quiet, simple lives, dedicated to serving others, as representatives of Christ, made me want to know more. I was fortunate that the four Sisters, who recently arrived in Findlay to teach at St. Michael, agreed to share their stories with me and us.

I quickly eliminated any mental images of elderly, frowning nuns, in black habits, walking around the classroom with ruler in hand to maintain discipline the moment I sat with these four young,

fun, energetic Sisters. I have been sworn to secrecy regarding the ages of these young Sisters! (Sorry St. Michael students!). These four amazing women, though all raised in strong Catholic families, are so different and diverse in regard to personalities, sense of humor, paths they traveled to become Sisters, and choices in favorite foods. The commonalities they all share is an infectious joy, obvious radiance, and complete commitment to their vows and profession, which is to be servants to others, as Christ prompts them to do.

One is from Michigan, two from Northern California, and one from Ohio, yet all found their way to Convent of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, located in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Here they each began a year of being

a “postulant”, learning, studying, reflecting and becoming able to “hear the Spirit” by learning how to be silent for periods of time. After the first year, new Sisters are given their new names, receive their habits and white veils beginning a two-year period as a “novice.” After these two years are over, they make temporary vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience and receive the black veil. Once an additional five years have passed and both the Sister and the community believe that she is being called to be a Sister forever, she takes final vows.

“We each take a lifelong vow of poverty, chastity and obedience. We willingly live a quite simple but full life serving others, representing and teaching of Christ, and hopefully being a beacon to bring others to know Christ.”

Collectively these four young sisters are already in love with Findlay. “We have been received with such warmth, kindness and love.” Here are just snippets of their lives to this point. May I introduce Sister Mary Bethany, Sister Maria Miguel, Sister Chiara Luce, and Sister Gianna Marie.

Sister Mary Bethany, the youngest and bubbliest of Findlay’s four sisters, was raised in a family “where the Catholic faith was an “integral and beautiful” part of our daily life.” Early in life she had little interest in becoming a Sister, “I thought it would be soooo boring!” As she grew older, the experiences she had through prayer and studying scripture while learning to know Christ, led her to where “I began to strongly desire to love and serve Him completely.”

Sister Mary Bethany also was deeply impressed by the “Profession ceremony of the Missionaries of Charity” she witnessed back in the eighth grade. “I was struck by the radiance and joy of those women.” She realized the “utter joy and freedom such a life held.” The most difficult moment for her was the day she left her family, knowing the sacrifices they were making because of her choice. “I would later learn that God would also bless my family as I served Him.”

She joined the convent in 2013 and will be professing her Final Vows this summer. “The happiest day of my life was the day of my “Profession”, July 29th, 2016 when I made my first vows to God, of poverty, chastity and obedience. (“Making these vows, we embrace the pattern of life lived by Jesus Christ.”) Sister Mary Bethany completed her degree and teaching certification in Early Childhood Education at Eastern Michigan University. She really loves teaching the little ones at St. Michael School.

Sister Maria Miguel was raised in a wonderful family, very active in the Catholic faith, yet never considered becoming a Religious Sister. Even at a young age she had a deep desire to have a closer relationship with the Lord, but “I did not know how. Instead, I focused on school sports, (she was a “dominating” forward in basketball!), clubs, playing the trumpet in the band, and getting good grades.”

After high school graduation she enrolled at Bowling Green State University, studying microbiology, hoping one day to become a cancer researcher. It was here she met with the campus Catholic youth group. They were fun, “normal”, and loved God. As they each talked about their love for God, she knew then that this was what she really wanted too.

“I attended a college Catholic “discernment” retreat where I learned about prayer and little about finding inner peace. It left me wanting so much more. I said a prayer that weekend, “I don’t know how to find Him! Please help me!” It was then I realized I might actually be destined to become a Sister. I even stood in front of the mirror, with my hoodie pulled up, just to try and envision how I would look in a habit!”

At the age of 19, Sister Maria Miguel arrived in Ann Arbor at the convent of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, as a new Postulant. She admits it was difficult leaving “my parents, my two brothers and a sister, close friends, the life I loved, but I have never regretted it.” Even though she has learned such happiness and peace in serving the Lord, she admits that getting up at 5 a.m. was tough at first and being silent for long periods of time was also difficult for

her! She describes those first twelve months as “a beautiful time of growth, studying and transitioning from the world to the life of a Religious Sister.” At the end of her first year, Sister Maria Miguel, made the decision to become a life-long Sister, receiving her new names along with her habit and veil. She entered Eastern Michigan University to earn her teaching degree focused in mathematics. (The Apostolate of the Dominican Sisters, the focus of their mission, is become teachers and educators.)

Sister Chiara Luce is the second oldest child, having an older and two younger siblings. Her first thoughts about becoming a Sister came back in second grade. “My mother had considered this life before marrying my dad. She loved Sisters, often taking us to visit them at their convents. I was captivated by the genuine joy and love shown by the Sisters. When I was around them, I felt like I was home.”

Leaving home for the first time eight years ago, saying goodbye to her family and friends was extremely hard. This was followed by the life lesson of learning how to live in close quarters with 60 other women in the convent. “I also attended EMU where I received my education degree. I taught for two years in Phoenix before coming to Findlay. I love teaching religion and reading/writing to children. They have such a pure hunger to learn more about God.”

Sister Chiara Luce mentions there are times of feeling lonely or discouraged, but “I have learned, as Pope John Paul II said, “We fully discover our true self only in sincere giving of oneself”, that serving others lifts my spirits.” (Sisters willingly limit their contact with family to regular emails, as they don’t have cellphones to text or “face time”. This is in order to keep their focus primarily on their mission to serve.)

She made her Final Vows this past summer. “I cannot express the deep peace and joy that came with giving my life to Christ. As a Sister I believe we are to be examples of Christ’s presence here on Earth. In our habits, we can be a sign to the world of God’s presence and the intimate love He has for each of us.”

And finally, meet Sister Gianna Marie, who serves as the Mother Superior of the Findlay Convent.

“When I was eight years old, I met some Carmelite nuns. I was struck by the joy in their eyes and voices...and they look like princesses in their habits!” She was raised in a very active Catholic family and her parents encouraged all their children to consider church vocations if God prompted them.

She was a typical young lady in high school, “I had all the things the “world” said would make me happy: a closet full of cute shoes, a fun job, great friends, a cute boyfriend... but I kept feeling there was something more, something missing.” After saying many personal prayers and attending a discernment retreat with a dear family friend, who also was a Sister with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, Sister Gianna Marie came to the decision to “commit her heart and life to Christ” and join the order, leaving the “world” behind.

Sister Gianna Marie completed her teaching degree at EMU majoring in Mathematics. After graduation, now a teacher, she began teaching Kindergarten-2nd grade students. In 2016, she received a “wonderful” two-year assignment to serve as a librarian at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Now back in the US, Sister Gianna Marie is incredibly happy to be here in Findlay at St. Michael School teaching middle-school students.

(In closing, these “very normal, fun, radiant” Sisters would never turn down anything chocolate, peanut butter/chocolate, dark chocolate pretzels or fruit smoothies that might mysteriously appear at the convent! However, to show they indeed are human with human weaknesses, one loves avocados, and two like math...I see repentance and penance in their future. Seriously, I was humbled, uplifted, I laughed and was blessed by spending a couple of hours with these amazing Sisters. Regardless of your faith or belief system, it is wonderful to see young people, dedicated to selflessly serving their fellow human beings. Say “Hello” and “Welcome” if you see them out around Findlay!

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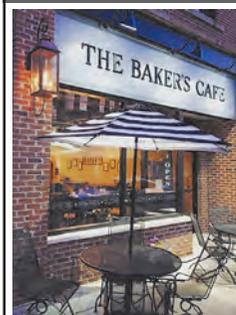
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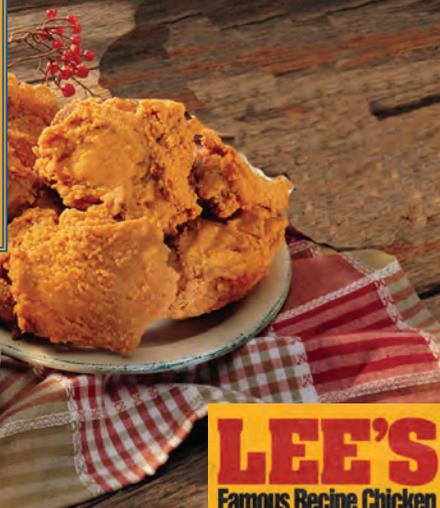
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701 West Sandusky Street, Findlay
419.422.5151

8-PIECE MEAL

\$17.99

Includes 8 pieces of mixed chicken, 2 large sides and 4 biscuits



CHICKEN POT PIE COMBO

\$6.99

Includes chicken pot pie and a drink

JUMBO BONELESS WINGS CUP-TO-GO

Includes all white meat Jumbo Boneless Wings and a dipping sauce

\$3.89

Valid only at participating Lee's. Buy up to 6 at this price with this coupon. not valid with any other promotional offer or coupon. Expires 12/31/20



LIVERS OR GIZZARDS MEAL

Includes livers or gizzards, coleslaw, mashed potatoes & gravy and a biscuit

\$4.99

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3-PIECE BREAST STRIP MEAL

Includes 3 breast strips, 2 individual sides and a biscuit.

\$5.49

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2-PIECE MEAL

Includes leg, thigh 2 individual sides and a biscuit

\$4.99

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LARGE SIDE

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\$1.99

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BREAST MEAL

Includes chicken breast, coleslaw, mashed potatoes & gravy and a biscuit

\$4.49

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12-PIECE MEAL

Includes 12 pieces of mixed chicken, 3 large sides and 6 biscuits

\$24.99

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2-PIECE SNACK

Includes 2 pieces of chicken and a biscuit.

\$2.99

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COUNTRY FRIED STEAK MEAL

Includes county fried steak, coleslaw, mashed potatoes, & gravy and a biscuit

\$4.99

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JUMBO BONELESS WINGS FAMILY MEAL

Includes 20, all white meat Jumbo Boneless Wings, 2 large sides and 4 biscuits

\$17.99

Valid only at participating Lee's. Buy up to 6 at this price with this coupon. not valid with any other promotional offer or coupon. Expires 12/31/20



20-PIECE BOX

Includes 20 pieces of mixed chicken

\$24.99

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2 FOR \$6

Two Like It® Size Create Your Own (Ice Cream or Yogurt + 1 Mix-in) for \$6



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LIKE IT CYO 119 SIG 131 SHAKE 208 SMOOTHIE 142 FRAPPE 236	LOVE IT CYO 121 SIG 141 SHAKE 162 SMOOTHIE 189 FRAPPE 237	GOTTA HAVE IT CYO 126 SIG 164	MIX-IN 174 PLAIN WAFFLE 235 DIPPED WAFFLE 246	Expires 12/31/2020
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\$3 OFF

Any Cake (excludes Pies, Petite Cakes, Cupcakes & Cookie Sandwiches)



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