



## **IIRP Conference – October 2006**

### ***“The Next Step: Developing Restorative Communities”***



**The Salvation Army -“OK Kids”**

# Welcome and Introductions



The Salvation Army  
Correctional and Justice Services

*Thank you for being here today !*

Major Bill King and Frank Leonardi  
("OK Kids" Group)



# Agenda



- The Salvation Army (Moncton)
- Did you know...
- "OK Kids" Group
- Quotes
- Any Questions ?



# The Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services



The Objective of The Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services is to assist all persons related to the Criminal Justice System.

# The Salvation Army

## Correctional and Justice Services



### Mission Statement

- To minister to offenders, victims, witnesses and others affected by the judicial system.
- Offering support, opportunities, reintegration programs and education through a demonstration of Christian love.



## “I Have a Dream...”



**“I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up  
and live out the true meaning of its creed: “We hold these  
truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.”**

**- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

# What is The Salvation Army?



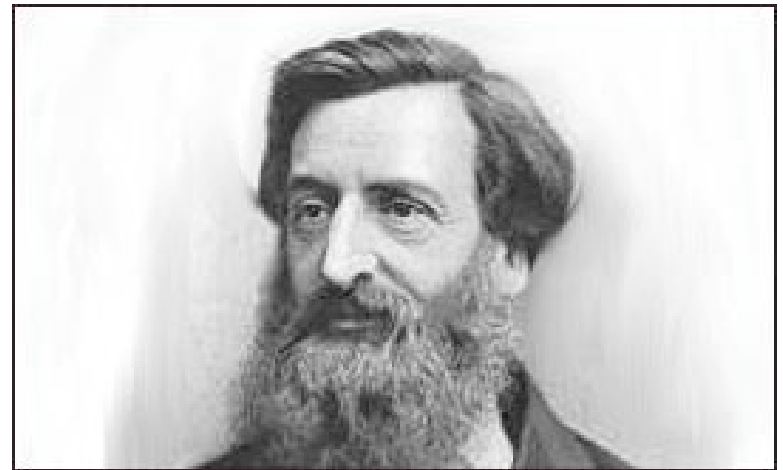
- It is a dream of a better world where people live up to what God wants them to be.
- It is a battle against everything that enslaves and dehumanizes people, against hunger, poverty, and despair - a battle fought with faith and compassion.
- It is people - ordinary people - who accomplish heroic things every day, and who are determined to make their dream a reality.

***“Everyday miracles. It’s what The Salvation Army is all about!”***

# Our History



- Founded in 1865 by the Rev. William Booth in London, England
- Originally known as The Christian Mission
- Its prime mission was to preach Christianity to those not being reached by the established churches







# Social Programs



Services offered in each community vary depending upon need and resources. Social Programs needing public and/or government funding could include:

- ☺ Drug & Alcohol
- ☺ Rehabilitation
- ☺ Hostels For The Homeless
- ☺ Transitional Homes
- ☺ Programs For People Living With Developmental Disabilities
- ☺ Services To Youth And The Elderly
- ☺ Disaster Services
- ☺ Health Services & Hospitals
- ☺ Hospice
- ☺ Camps For Children
- ☺ Life Skills And Services To Young Mothers And Their Families
- ☺ Providing Emergency Food & Shelter, & Clothing
- ☺ Corrections - Support For Those In Conflict With The Law & Their Families
- ☺ Job Help Programs
- ☺ Home Safe Programs
- ☺ Money Wise Programs



# The Salvation Army (Moncton)



- Community and Family Services
- Small Blessings Early Childhood Development Centre
- Lakeview Manor Nursing Home
- Moncton Citadel Community Church
- Thrift Store
- Correctional and Justice Services

## Did You Know ...



- Children of the incarcerated parent are *5 to 6 times more likely* to become involved in criminal behavior if there are no programs or activities aimed at intervening with them.
- They fear being labeled, misunderstood, stigmatized, or worse.



## Did You Know ...



- Without supportive system children at risk and families may continue in a cycle of intergenerational criminal activity.
- They face hardships outside of prison even though they are innocent and are not responsible for their parents' choices to commit crimes!



## Did You Know ...



- The children of incarcerated parents feel guilt, anger, fear, shame and loss, separation and anxiety, and are lacking in trust.
- Children of incarcerated parents are not problems that need to be fixed, they are children with personalities that need to be protected and nurtured.



## “OK Kids” - Objectives



- To help the children of incarcerated parents to deal with the stigma that surrounds this issue of parental incarceration.
- To identify the issues, wants and needs of the children and develop strategies to address them.



## “OK Kids” - Objectives



- To provide an environment that encourages the development of individual and small-group skills in relationship building and creative problem solving.

***“To believe in themselves and their abilities”***



## “OK Kids” - Goals



- To work with families in the community that may need support and encouragement with their children.
- To make aware and change how our local community views children of incarcerated parents and have the community involved in the healing process.

***Increase the Children's Empowerment!***



## “OK Kids” Support Group will allow children & youth...



- To meet other kids who share similar stories
- Help build self-esteem & self-confidence
- Learn about choices and responsibilities
- Respect themselves
- Learn creative problem solving skills

## “OK Kids” Support Group will allow children & youth...



- Reduce or remove the sense of shame and the stigma
- Learn how to work within a team
- Become aware of community support systems
- Become part of a group that understands and cares
- Healthier relationships

## How is the program delivered?



- Based on the "CABI" Kit © (House of Hope, Ottawa)
- Designed for multiple age groups (6-16) no more than 2-3 years apart for both male and female
- 14-weekly sessions (approx. 2 hours)
- With the help of caring volunteers
- Follow-up support about 2-3 weeks after the end of program



## “OK Kids - Session Topics



Activities are designed to focus on  
feelings, behaviours and coping skills



## “OK Kids” - Benefits



- Acquire valuable social skills such as how to better communicate, sharing, expressing empathy
- Make meaningful and positive changes in their lifestyle
- Develop a sense of community



# Community Benefits



- Allow the children to become aware of community values and beliefs
- Address issues of family violence and hopefully reduce it as the kids make positive choices
- Increase of public awareness and support for crime prevention
- Financial savings by possibly preventing the kids from also being incarcerated

# Community Involvement



- Partnered with different community resources for the purpose of Intake of children and youth.
- Partnered with community support organizations for referral of the kids.
- Partnered with community and educational establishments for Volunteers.
- Secured a location for the Support Group.

## Quotes from the Kids



- "I want to know other kids like me."
- "It's nice to talk about my mom being in jail with others and not be teased."
- "At first I thought it was my fault my dad went to jail and is not part of our family. But now I know it was drugs and not me."
- "Every family is unique and there are different types but they love me."





## Quotes from the Kids



- "You'll make yourself sick if you don't talk about it ."
- "We are responsible for the choices that we make. "
- "What I learned today is that I can control my anger in a good way. "
- "Your problems do not just go away ... you have to deal with them. "

## Quotes from the Kids



- "I like the "STOP THINK CHOOSE ACT" thing."
- "I made some really good friends in this group and it feels like I have new brothers and sisters. "
- "Wow!, I never received a certificate before for anything, wow this is really nice."

## Other Quotes ...



(from men incarcerated at Westmorland and Dorchester Institutes, NB)

- "I wish I had something like this when I was younger, someone I could talk too because I probably wouldn't be here today."



## Other Quotes ...



(from staff at the NOVA Institute for Women, Truro NS)

- "This would help ease some of the guilt the mothers are experiencing because they feel that they are not good parents and are not there for their children. It would be a way for the mother to give something to their child or children."

## Other Quotes ...



(from parents and guardians)

- "This is the best thing that has happened to my son. I can look in his eyes and see more peace, calmness and less turmoil."
- "My daughter is more caring about others and loved helping others out."
- "I feel this group is important as it gave my son a chance for him share his feelings and his emotions without the pressure."



# OK Kids



**Stronger family ties** are an effective form of crime prevention and leads to safer communities.

"If we are committed to safer communities, then our approach to crime prevention must involve the provision of effective support to the Children of the incarcerated. This process can only be accomplished when the experience of the children are heard, acknowledged and responded to."

*(Excerpt from "Waiting at the Gate" - Canadian Family & Corrections Network)*



## OK Kids



In order for this to succeed *we* must  
not allow these children to be the  
**forgotten ones ...**



OK Kids



**Any Questions ?**



OK Kids



*Thank you from  
The Salvation Army CJS...*

