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MAJOR EVAN P. HICKMAN
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MAJOR SUZANNE R. HICKMAN
DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

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Major Robert D. Bender

I have been a Salvation Army Officer for 26 years. I am married with five children. Our present appointment is serving in Painesville Ohio. We have had three previous appointments; Meadville Pa., McKeesport Pa., and Mount Vernon Ohio.

I am the son of Salvation Army Officers who served for 45 and 47 years in The Salvation Army.

I serve presently as the Commanding Officer along with my wife Karen in the Painesville Corps of The Salvation Army. My responsibilities are to oversee all operations for The Salvation Army in Painesville and the surrounding area. The following are some of those responsibilities; Fundraising, oversee various programming such as; management of the front office, oversee the homeless program, oversee the various youth programs, our emergency services to the needy, the older adult ministry, assist when necessary the teen and younger programs. I also help and assist when necessary our Learning Zone.

We also have an Advisory Board that has organizational meetings once a month that I prepare for. Along with those responsibilities are those that come with the responsibilities of being a minister along with my wife. I also have the responsibility of drafting an accurate yearly budget that encompasses the entire operation.

My responsibilities as far as the Mentoring program is concerned will be one of a management position as well as a participant should the need arise. Part of that will be to make available space in our building and transportation if needed for this program. Also, to help make sure all documentation that is required is done and of sufficient quality.

I am a fully ordained minister and have 12 years of higher education experience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Major Robert D. Bender

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Program Director, Mentor Bio

Jon Bullis- The Salvation Army, Program Director

Jon Bullis is a lifelong member of Lake County, and has spent the last 18 years working with the youth in the community. Jon is the Program Director at The Salvation Army in Painesville. He oversees a youth program that works with teens in 6-12th grades. He works to keep teens in school, which includes tutoring in an afterschool tutoring program. He has a passion to see the youth grow and succeed in life. Jon is also a Senior Chaplain with the International Alliance of Chaplaincy Corps. He has been instrumental in local youth groups at various churches for the past 12 years. He volunteered as a soccer coach for the YMCA. He has participated in workshops on Understanding Poverty, and collaborated with Perry High Schools Service Learning, Leadership Lake County, and several other high school groups. He has taught special programs at Willoughby South High School and the YMCA. Jon has been invited to speak at the National Honor Society Graduation for Mentor High School, as well as Kirtland Middle School on behalf of United Way. Jon resides in Painesville Township with Donna, his wife of 27 years.

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Agency Partner Bio

Christine Young- Painesville City Schools

Christine Young is the Director of Student Services with Painesville City School District. Chris oversees all the special services for the children in Painesville City Schools. She has been instrumental in collaborating with community organizations that support children and youth. She has helped organize the Lake County Back to School Bash which served over 2,500 needy children in Aug. 2014. She helped organize a pilot program for Painesville City Schools to place a Family Advocate in one of the elementary schools with the hope of extending it to all Painesville City Schools. She helped organize a public preschool program for Painesville City Schools. Chris has worked in collaboration with The Salvation Army after school program sharing student information and making referrals. Chris wants all the Painesville City youth to have a successful future and she does what she can to make that happen.

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Volunteer Mentor Bio

Asa Cox - Asa Cox Homes, Owner

Asa Cox grew up in Painesville City and is a graduate of Harvey High School. She overcame many obstacles in her life and became a successful Real Estate Agent. She started her own real estate company, Asa Cox Homes, in 2009. Asa has always found ways to give back to the community. As a result she started her own nonprofit charity, Asa's Angels, in 2012. Her desire is to teach families skills to overcome poverty. She is the only Real Estate Company in Lake County who helps low income families buy a house of their own, through the USDA assistance program. Through her charity she does a food distribution at Thanksgiving. In Dec. 2014, she gave out over 5,000 toys to needy children for Christmas. She also partners with many organizations to do a school supply distribution in Aug. serving over 2,500 needy children. Asa has employed at risk youth to work for her so she can teach them job skills. Asa has done public speaking for groups of youth, sharing her story of overcoming adverse circumstances and becoming a successful business owner. Asa sits on the Advisory Board for The Salvation Army. She is also a member of the Painesville Area Chambers of Commerce.

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Volunteer Mentor Bio

Josh Bogner- Volunteer/Mentor, Research Scientist at Avery Dennison

My name is Josh Bogner and I grew up in Thompson Ohio. Thompson is a small rural town in Ohio and the school I went to had rural quirks such as manure spreading in the school parking lot and staging road kill in the classroom. Because I went to a small school, I had a hard time finding classes and programs that fit my "extra" energetic demeanor so I didn't exactly excel. I had issues with authority which lead to suspensions and very poor grades. I did however find acceptance in a local youth group that planted the seeds of my faith.

When I was teenager, I found God in the backseat of my car in the form of a small bible my brother gave me. This changed my life and I started to realize that submission to the highest authority was something God demanded of all of us. Because I learned to submit, I started to excel in college because I learned to submit and actually do the recommended work. Along the way through prayer, I felt God calling me to engineering where I met my beautiful wife and we both pursued and completed our Engineering degrees while getting married in the process. We have both since completed our graduate degrees and I am employed as a Research Scientist at Avery Dennison.

I volunteer at Salvation Army, along with leading a Youth Group at my local church, because I love God and I want to show that love to the teens that went through the same problems I did. I want to show them that they can rise above the problems of home life/school life and flourish. I want to show them they can always find love and acceptance through our Father and pray that through my actions they can see that at least a little bit.

Josh Bogner| Sr. Research and Development Engineer| Performance Tapes.WW

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