



you say goodbye ...



After just two and a half years as divisional leaders, Lt. Colonels Bill and Judy LaMarr have bid farewell to NEOSA. They leave behind a divisional family that has come to view them as more than ecclesiastical leaders, but, in a real way as spiritual parents.

Two separate farewell events took place. There was a public farewell for soldiers and officers, as well as a private luncheon for DHQ officers and employees. Both were themed *A Legacy of Love*. The theme verse was 1 Peter 4:8a "Above all love each other deeply." This verse described the service of these two fine saints, who sacrificed personal comfort and positional benefits, for the sake of the people who followed their leadership in the NEOSA Division.

The LaMarrs were honored

in separate tributes from officers, employees, soldiers and the youth of the division. All made mention of their sacrifice and dedication to people.

With humility and honor the LaMarrs testified, in both meetings, to the goodness of God and the glory of His leading in their lives.

"There will be many stories told by us about NEOSA," Colonel Bill remarked. "They will be embellished over the months. By the time they get back to you, you may not recognize them."

That great humor, humility and heritage of holiness will be sorely missed by those who called them leaders, friends, pastors and spiritual parents. They did love us deeply. Theirs was definitely a legacy of love.

submitted by Major Larry Ashcraft

... and i say hello

Majors Bill and Lorraine Bamford come to us from Hartford, Connecticut, where they served as the Divisional Leaders for the Southern New England Division of The Salvation Army. Our "official" divisional welcome for them will take place at Camp NEOSA during Family Camp, but you will want to welcome them with open arms and hearts when your paths cross throughout the summer.

Here are some facts about them that you may find interesting:

- They have three children who are young adults, two daughters and a son. Their oldest daughter works for The Salvation Army in Syracuse, NY, while their younger daughter works in Lexington, KY. Their son currently attends Asbury College.
- Prior to becoming officers, Major Lorraine Bamford taught Junior High School, while Major Bill Bamford sold drugs. Of course, he was a pharmacist, so it was all legal.
- Major Lorraine Bamford has done dramatic presentations, such as a donut girl during WWI.
- Major Bill Bamford has some family roots in our division. In 1925-1926, Adjutant and Mrs. J. Bamford served as the Corps Officers at Akron Citadel.

As we look forward to the future, we know that God has some great blessings in store for us as the Bamfords begin their ministry among us. Pray for them regularly, as they take on this mantle of leadership.

submitted by Major Janet Ashcraft



BRINGING HOPE HOME

The Salvation Army Night with the Tribe is now just a memory ... but oh, what a memory! A sea of red shirts filled the stadium and excitement filled the air, as nearly 1100 of us descended upon Progressive Field from all over the NEOSA Division. Men, women and children cheered the Indians on to a 6-1 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Prior to the game, more than half of the Salvation Army contingent was led in the parade around the field by our own NEOSA Brass. It was very apparent that Salvation Army Night was underway. After the Brass offered a stirring rendition of the Canadian national anthem, Captain David Irwin represented The Salvation Army by singing "The Star Spangled Banner" in his vibrant baritone voice.

Nicauya Ware, a junior baseball pitcher at Collinwood High School and Senior Soldier from the Cleveland Temple corps, confidently stepped onto the pitchers mound and threw a perfect first pitch! The game was on!

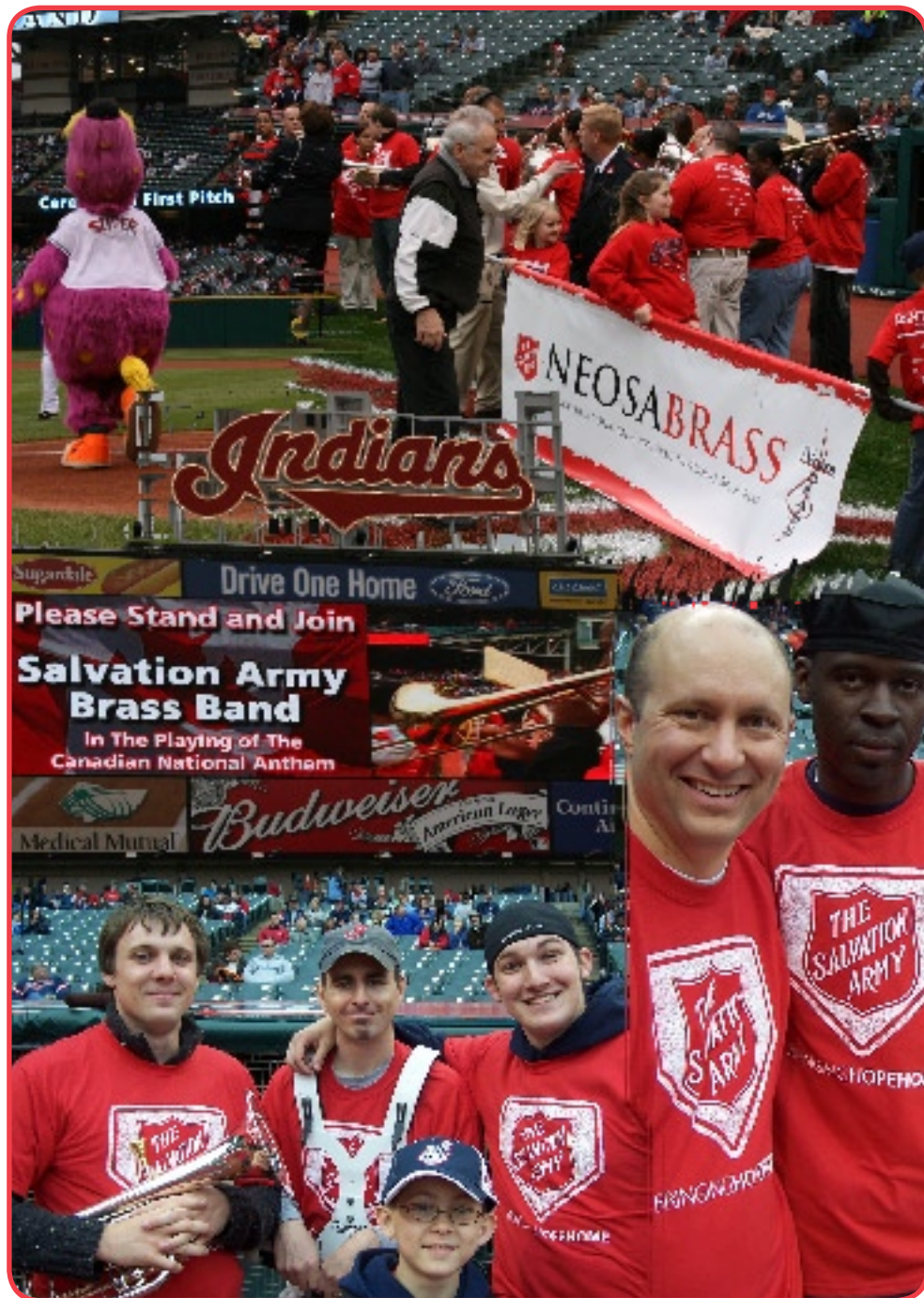
Wonderful weather, great food and a Tribe victory gave friends and families an evening free of the usual worries of life in a fun Christian atmosphere. Before heading home, all were treated to an incredible R&B-themed fireworks show.

What a night! Be sure you don't miss it next year!

Special thanks must be offered to the following, who provided their much-valued sponsorship: Grizzard, TruSense and Associated Underwriters Insurance. These Salvation Army supporters made it possible for hundreds of people to have a great and affordable evening of fellowship and relaxation.

It was just another reminder that The Salvation Army really is all about "Bringing Hope Home."

submitted by Major Janet Ashcraft



caring kid: kim keene



Recently, I was privileged to attend the inaugural awards ceremony for the Kids Who Care Program. The program, run by the Ashland County Community Foundation, recognizes Ashland County residents, ages 6-18, who demonstrate an outstanding charitable commitment to the community. We are excited to report that Kimberly Keene, one of our corps teens, was a co-winner of the

top award for the high school age group, for her work in the Army's Learning Zone.

Like many of us, Kim has had her share of struggles, but through it all, she's been a faithful LZ volunteer, day in and day out, and we're so pleased that she was recognized in this way.

submitted by Major JoAnn Shade

meals that heal



Minerva M&M (Meal & Message) began in April 2007 to capitalize on our clients' interest in spiritual things during the Easter season. For quite some time, we had desired to find a way to reach the "least-last-lost" of our community by feeding them in Jesus' name and telling them about His love. Since most of our clients do not believe they fit into existing local churches, Minerva M&M was started to be an extension of The Salvation Army Minvera/Malvern's emergency assistance ministry by giving our clients a place where they could gather and talk about spiritual matters. Our Salvation Army staff and volunteers wanted to enter the clients' community/network and share the gospel with them through dramatic presentations, providing activities for children, and building our relationships with them and praying for and with them. As it is a neutral location that people feel comfortable going to, we hold M&M in the Minerva Community Building. We advertise our dinners with flyers that are distributed each month at The Salvation Army food pantry. Since beginning Minerva M&M, our monthly attendance has averaged around 70 people. We see both repeaters and new people every month. Our clients often invite their friends.

The Minerva M&M format is to have a central theme for each month. The menu, Bible drama, and activities revolve around that theme. One month, we focused on "scary" characters in the Bible and how God's power overcame them. We then talked about what causes people to fear and how to overcome those fears by placing their trust in the Lord. The dinner meal is served first, and then the gospel message is presented in drama while our clients are finishing up dessert. Following a short explanation of the gospel lesson, the children are told of the various activities they can become involved in. While parents are waiting for their children to finish their activities, there are activities for them to attend such as the Prayer Center, where they can submit a written prayer request or pray with someone, the Offering Center, if they would like to financially give back in some small way, or they can just hang out and visit with friends and the Salvation Army staff and volunteers who mingle with the crowd. At the end of the evening's activities, there is also some kind of take home gift that goes along with the gospel lesson (flashlights, school supplies, pumpkins, etc.)

To date, three local churches have actively been involved in helping with Minerva M&M, and our goal is to eventually have 12 local churches take responsibility to each prepare one meal per year, thus reducing our expenses and involving more Christians in the ministry. One local church has already donated money to pay for one year's rent of the community building.

submitted by Pamela Hoffmeyer, Minerva Human Services Worker and Valerie Dulaney, volunteer and the "force" behind the Minerva M&M

rock-a-thon

In Medina, we recently held a great fundraiser called the *Rock-a-thon*.

The idea of the fundraiser is to find individuals or groups that will sponsor you to rock in a rocking chair for a certain amount of time. Our group was struggling to raise money and Youth Councils was just around the corner. But through the strong efforts of our teens and the community in which they live, we were able to raise over \$1400. This was enough money to send almost all of our teens to Youth Councils for free.

Needless to say, after the great success of our first *Rock-a-thon* we will be looking forward to doing this annually (at least).

*submitted by Matthew Frye
Youth Coordinator, Medina*



DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION

This year's Youth Councils (*Dancing Upon Injustice* - April 25-27) presented a huge challenge to each of the 365 delegates who attended: if you allow God to work through you, you can change the world. Throughout the weekend, delegates were challenged by videos, dramas, messages, small group sessions and presentations that showed the injustices in this world that hurt God and his people. Delegates learned that they were chosen by God to fight these injustices and bring hope to those in need.

A special emphasis was placed on the involvement of NEOSA's young people in conveying the message. The program included four powerful messages prepared and given by teenagers. Three teenagers wrote and performed monologues that approached the theme from thought-provoking perspectives.

At the Friday-night meeting, they were introduced to the four part DART drama written by Jackie Heming. Part one emphasized the distractions of the world that take our eyes off the reality of injustice. The program included a monologue by Brittany Yawn that emphasized the injustices around us in our sphere of influence that we may not notice, and a hip hop dance choreographed by Terrylee Wagner and Sarah Hall. Captain Suzanne Hickman gave the message, challenging the delegates to see injustices in our world. The meeting closed with a beat-box rap of the rules by Joe Pittenger and Teddy Collins.

Saturday's YAM meeting included three dramas, two mimes, a dance, two chorus pieces and two timbrel presentations. The program opened with the main DART drama which related injustices around the world and how we should respond to them. The meeting was based around four separate parts of the theme verse - "Chosen to Bring Justice," "God is by Your Side," "Selected to Bring Light" and

"Promise of Hope." Each theme was introduced by a message by the delegates: Nicauya Ware, Ashley Gault, Chris Hinzman and Charlotte Reed.

Saturday night's meeting opened with part three of the Dart Drama which emphasized the hopelessness we feel when we see injustice, and how Jesus has selected to fight injustice through us. The meeting also included a monologue by Jessie Wright. Our special guests for the weekend was the Railton School for Youth Worker Training who gave a fun, challenging and inspiring presentation on the theme. The meeting ended with a challenge to

commitment by Envoy Steve Bussey and many delegates responded and came forward, followed by several presentations including the Youth of the Year - Ashley Gault of the Ravenna Corps and the Youth Worker of the Year - Alex Fawcette of the Cleveland Miles Park Corps.

The final installment of the Dart drama, on Sunday morning, included a protest movement, a stomp and a hip hop dance, all in response to injustice. Each item conveyed the message that if we stand up to fight, others will do the same, but God has specifically given us the responsibility. The meeting included selected pieces by the NEOSA brass, a monologue by Ernie

Mummy that talked about injustices that we commit and how we can be forgiven. The meeting culminated in a message by Major Stephen Banfield that pointed to Isaiah 6 - that we need to hear the music in order to dance - that we need to be cleansed first.

And so the weekend ended, but not before a final impromptu piece that saw many of the leaders humiliate themselves in dance. In retrospect, the delegates will not be able to forget the message of the weekend.

This Youth Councils included many laughs and many tears. Our hope is for a response to the weekend. We pray for God's strength as our delegates take the message and put it into action.

submitted by Paul Heming



I'LL FIGHT

i'll FIGHT

i'll fight.

BOWLING OVER THE COMPETITION

Our Divisional Bible Bowl Final was held at Camp NEOSA on May 10th. It was an all-around beautiful day and we would like to recognize the three participating teams for their achievements during the 2008 season.

SUMMIT COUNTY
Akron Citadel, Akron Temple, Barberton
TOLEDO NEW HOPE
AUSTINTOWN

Every month, from January to May, these kids met at Divisional Headquarters for scrimmages. And what a privilege it was to watch as they grew in both knowledge and confidence. All three teams did an amazing job all season and should be commended for their hard work.

Oh, and just who came out on top? That achievement goes to the wonderful folks at Austintown, who would also go on to place in the Territorial Bible Bowl Finals!

submitted by Captain Gala Johnson



THIS IS A MAN'S WORLD SERVICES

Through the month of March, Captain Kevin Zanders decided to challenge the Sunday School children to raise more money for World Services. The deal was that if they reached \$30 Captain Kevin would get a pie in the face, \$60 and he would have to dress as Captain Tawny and finally, if they reached the \$90 mark, Captain Kevin would swim in a pool of spaghetti.

The challenge was then presented to the Captain about doing all three, from an unnamed, high-ranking retired officer. Captain Kevin said that the only way he would do all three was if the Sunday School raised over \$100.

With increased saving of pennies and dimes, and a little bit of paper from a couple of adults that had it out for the Captain, the entire Sunday School raised a whopping \$168 that month.

Captain Kevin held to his promise, and thus came the Three Plagues of Missionary March.

submitted, almost too willingly, by Captain Kevin Zanders



NEOSA Star Search Award List 2008

Drama Monologue Level 2

1. **Brittani Yawn** *Cleveland Temple*
2. Stephanie Davis *Massillon*
3. Becca Adkins *North Baltimore*

Timbrels

Level A: Akron Citadel

Level B: Barberton

Sacred Dance

Level 1

1. **Hailey Smith** *Cleveland West Park*
2. Katie Wiecek *Cleveland West Park*

Level 2

1. Jacqueline Coppes *North Baltimore*

Level 4

1. **Emilee Orr** *Cleveland West Park*

Group Level A

North Baltimore

Group Level B

Cleveland West Park

North Baltimore

Vocal

Level 2

1. Brionna Witcher *Toledo New Hope*

Brass

Brass 2

1. **Tyler Irwin** *Alliance*
2. Calvin Alexander *Cleveland Temple*
3. Joshua Redic *Cleveland Temple*

Brass 3

1. Nicauya Ware *Cleveland Temple*

Brass 4

1. **Sarah Biagetti** *Barberton*

Piano

Level 1

1. **Abigail Irwin** *Alliance*

Singing Company

Cleveland West Park

Cleveland Temple

Toledo New Hope

**NEOSA Territorial Star Search Representatives in BOLD*

MEDINA KIDS CLUBS

On May 4, the Medina Corps recognized its Tuesday night Kids Clubs Groups with the badges they earned this past year. The Sunbeams, Adventure Corps and new "56" group (fifth and sixth graders) stood proudly with their new sashes and badges presented to them by our Divisional Corps Cadet Counselor, Captain Gala Johnson.

Overall, the 46 children earned 174 badges this year including Etiquette, Personal Health, Friendship, Woodcraft and Fitness.

submitted by Captain Sienna Jackson



T.G.I. VIERNES

In the Spanish-speaking community, Good Friday is known as Viernes Santo, which translates into Holy Friday.

This year, the Cleveland Ohio City Corps invited the other Spanish-speaking officers of the NEOSA Division to take part in a United Good Friday Service. All of the officers contacted were in accord that it would be a great idea to bring all the Spanish-speaking congregations together for one united service.

Since there are seven Spanish-speaking officers in the division, each officer took part in speaking on one of the "Seven Last Words of Christ." Each of the attending corps participated throughout the meeting with

special presentations which focused and brought honor to Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

After the meeting, everyone gathered in the multipurpose room to enjoy a time of good food and great fellowship.



The officers (and corps) in attendance were: Captain Ida Perez (Painesville), Captains Rosa and Jose Paneto (Lorain), Captains Maria and Elias Goiz (Youngstown), and Captains Carmen and Edgar Sullivan (Cleveland Ohio City). We were all blessed in many ways as The Holy Spirit gently made his presence known throughout the meeting. The fellowship was excellent and we can say that it was indeed a Good, and Holy, Friday.

submitted Captain Edgar Sullivan

SILVER STAR LUNCHEON

Our recent Silver Star Luncheon found almost a third of the group's NEOSA membership enjoying a lovely dinner at the Massillon Salvation Army.

The *Stars of Spring* were treated not only to a great dinner, but also warm fellowship as they mingled and got to know other Silver Star Members from across the division.

One of the gifts each member received, was a lovely framed photo of their Officer child ... one or two of them being more humorous than lovely!

A special thanks goes out to Captains Kevin and Tawny Cowen-Zanders for all their help.

All-in-all, old friendships were renewed and new ones were made. And as the luncheon came to an end, more than once the phrase was heard ... "See you next year!"

submitted by Captain Ivan Musgrove



horsin' around

The theme for this year's Older Adult Ministries Rally was *Beautiful Ohio* and more than 117 beautiful Ohioans gathered at the Canton Salvation Army to enjoy a wonderful day of Ohio fun, Ohio facts and Ohio fellowship. Everyone participated on teams to be quizzed on Ohio history and facts by the "Quizmaster" Major Doris Dake and her assistant, Captain Bob Sears. And tons of laughter was heard throughout the day,

especially when the OAM Committee performed a skit about Camp, complete with horses!

It is with great anticipation we look forward to the OAM Camp, August 16-19. Westward Ho! Camp NEOSA on the lake!

See your Corps Officer today for registration details.

submitted by Major Alice Stahl

GREETINGS from the food drive

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to American Greetings for a beautiful job on the food drive that they held for us in February.

American Greetings' Desy Osunsade first contacted the United Way, who then referred her to us for follow up on our community's specific needs.

The food drive was held at

American Greetings and we received 20-30 boxes of food and assorted items which were promptly distributed to needy families in our community. We look forward to working with American Greetings in the future and thank them for their contributions to the needy residents in the community.

submitted by Captain Edgar Sullivan



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- old orchard beach aug 1-10
- OAM camp aug 16-19
- starlake musicamp aug 16-24
- human trafficking seminar aug 22
- family camp** **aug 22-23**
- united men's camp sept 9-21
- women's bible retreat sept 26-27

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assistant chief secretary and hispanic ministries director
and worship leader
major donna peterson
territorial evangelist

"since we live by the spirit, let us keep in step with the spirit."
galatians 5:25

see your corps officer
for details and registration

neosaonfire

PHOTOS TRIP

• • • • •
a look around the division

- men's bowling event
- youngstown diabol SASSY ladies
- cadets' campaign in cleveland
- dhq employee luncheon
- dover groundbreaking
- cleveland temple team CARE
- dancing upon injustice
- krac center construction begins

NEOSA BLAZE STAFF

Major William Bamford, *Divisional Commander*, Major Lorraine Bamford, *Associate Divisional Commander*, Major Janet Ashcraft, *Divisional Secretary for Program*, Jason Flowers, *Editor/Graphic Designer*

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WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY

Send submissions to jason.flowers@use.salvationarmy.org

newenrollments



JUNIOR SOLDIERS

Cleveland Hough Adrian Huff, De'Shonna Williams, Vashonda Williams
Cleveland Superior D'Mario Ashford, Gregory Avery
Cleveland West Park Brianna Jarrell, Hydee Jarrell
Elyria Manual Lewis, Malcome Newson, Jena Pelletier, De'von Taylor, Matthew Taylor, Raymond Wade
Newark Ellis Cramer, Micah Hughes, Dara Myser
North Baltimore Joseph Adkins, Paige Clark, Tony Coppes, Kelly Fay, Jr., Teresa Fay, Jasmine Hummell, Patrick Hummell, Lindsay Russell
Salem Elizabeth Brand
Wooster April Campbell, Susan Campbell, Lando Castro, Daniel Cavendish, Darrell Cavendish, Dustin Cavendish, Jacob Cavendish, Jonathan Cavendish, Jordan Cavendish, Bobby Griffith, Janell Griffith, Jessica Griffith, Neosha Jester, Kewanda Johnson, Hamlet Marco
Youngstown Citadel Aniya Bunch, Tyonn Chatman, Ty Davenport, Jayeisha Johnson, J.J. Johnson, Dominique Scott, Larry Scott, Cameraun White, Christiaen White, Corajaeh White, Corinthians White

SENIOR SOLDIERS

Cambridge Debra Warren, James Warren
Cleveland Hough Curtis Colson, Andrea Huff, Lamar Jordan, Angela West
Cleveland Hough Recovery Joseph Gray, Ralph Watts, Jr., Clarence Wilson
Cleveland New Hope Linda Lucas
Cleveland West Park Alicia Johnson
Lorain Nereida Torrez
Mount Vernon Kristin Manter
Newark Patrick DeMichael, Christian Hughes, Michelle Kahn, Tracy Tackett
North Baltimore Brenda Fay, Kelly Fay, Sr.
Painesville Elena Hernandez, Taoli Hernandez
Steubenville Thomas Bonham
Wooster Jeremy Bolter, Dan Miller, Ken Johnson, Debbie Mackey, Karen Platz, Ronald Todd
Youngstown Temple Yolanda Febres, Yolanda Garcia, Pedro Martinez, Aixa Romero, Rafael Romero
Zanesville Meredith Curley, Jeff Krouskouph, Joyce Krouskouph, Leroy Roberts, Michelle Roberts, Alice Siders, Katelyn Walker

ADHERENTS

Alliance Jason Johnston, Joey Lilley, Alicia Zeigler
Cambridge John Bambeck, Mitchell Eagleson, Misty Gattrell, Cary Morris, Ruth Slasor, Dee Webb, Ed Wheeler
Cleveland Hough Charmaine Delaney, Miyia Galloway
Cleveland New Hope Don Rodney Anada
Cleveland Superior Mikel Butler, Richard Butler, Cleveland Edwards, Kimmi Johnson, James Keys, Lasheena Pearson, Quintina Pearson, Gerald Sims
East Liverpool Brooke Christenson, Jane Gadd
Lorain Rosabeliz Batista, Taletha Paneto
Massillon Bruce Nicewander, Lucy Nicewander
Mount Vernon Robert Castro, Lois Hough, Earl Moore, Joe Proper, Denise Rittenhouse
Newark Benjamin Best, Christopher Best, Jennifer Best, Charles Timothy Castle, Matthew Castle, Ashley Jones, Rose Lynn Parker, Stephanie Thompson, Christina White
Toledo Citadel Catalina Garcia, Robert Yoder
Warren Shane Culver
Zanesville Georgianna Bissett, Amanda Doyle, Sharmaine McGee, Sandy Tubbs

Since the start of the **COME JOIN OUR ARMY** campaign, NEOSA has enrolled over **130 NEW SOLDIERS!**