

**Paige Lytle:** With the season of giving in full swing, many charitable organizations are gathering donations for their local communities. One of these organizations is the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army has been helping out Lawrence, Kan., since 1886. One way it raises money is through the bell ringers you'll see outside many grocery and department stores. Lieutenant Marisa McCluer is a corps officer and pastor at the Salvation Army Church in Lawrence. She talked about how the donations go toward funding their budget for the whole year. The money is used to help low-income families in the community.

**Lieutenant Marisa McCluer:** We always try to make sure that when we're providing the services we're not just saying "Ok, here's \$20 of gas so you can get back across town." How are we going to help you move forward? How are we not going to see you again? How are we going to make sure that you're all right?

**Paige Lytle:** The bell ringers in Lawrence raise about \$100,000 every year during the holiday season. These volunteers are essential to the Salvation Army and the community as well.

**Lieutenant Marisa McCluer:** It's that time at the kettle, those dollars that go in, that change that goes in, that's what changes people's lives. That's what spreads hope.

**Paige Lytle:** Lonnie Johnson has been a bell ringer for the last seven years. He volunteers because of how the Salvation Army has supported him in the past.

**Lonnie Johnson:** They've helped me several times over the years. You know, sometimes, especially in this economy, we all fall a little short. And they've always been here for everyone.

**Paige Lytle:** For the Benefits of Benefiting, I'm Paige Lytle.