# Donations have lagged

Courtney Robbins/Index
**The Salvation Army is one of the many charities in Kirksville affected indirectly by Hurricane Katrina.**

**Roger Meissen**
Design Editor

Local charities are concerned the generosity of patrons might be maxed out.

The Salvation Army's appeal for mail donations is less than expected for this time of the season. Less money would mean tighter purse strings in the upcoming year's aid to Kirksville's needy residents.

Captain Don Kincaid of the Salvation Army said he was uneasy about how donations to Hurricane Katrina relief will affect giving into the Christmas season.

"That's what we're monitoring the effect of: Has the regular donor base already given their disposable income to charities through, first, the tsunami at the end of last year and, more particularly, Hurricane Katrina?" Kincaid said. "We're really thankful for that relief. I know we're talking something in excess of $30,000 being given just to the Salvation Army for our disaster relief work. What we're really concerned about is what we call the mail appeal or the checks that are written to the Salvation Army."

> "... The demand here in Kirksville hasn't changed."
>
> **Lukin Murphy**
> Senior Blue Key Service Chairman

That mail relief effort is starting out soft this year with donations lagging nearly 7.5 percent behind the $55,000 seasonal goal from this time last year, Kincaid said.

In addition, the Salvation Army's food bank has seen slim months since Hurricane Katrina. It receives significant aid from the Mid-Missouri Food Bank in Columbia, which was redirected to disaster relief in Louisiana and hurricane-stricken regions, Kincaid said. This has been restored but has put a strain on the ability to aid the needy completely. Last year the Salvation Army paid utility assistance for 150 families a normal yearly total, Kincaid said.

"We'll give out over half a million pounds of free food right here in Kirksville, which is mind-boggling," Kincaid said. "I have to admit, in October in particular, there just wasn't enough food coming into our building."

Campus organizations recently have responded to this need for food supplies, said senior Lukin Murphy, Blue Key service chair. Blue Key, a service/honor fraternity, aids the Red Cross through several events it sponsors each semester, including Fall Harvest, a food drive for which the organization puts grocery bags on every door in Kirksville.

"While their food pantry is somewhat at a shortage, the demand here in Kirksville hasn't changed," Murphy said. "Because we found out about this huge demand we weren't aware of, we did an impromptu food drive this last weekend in front of Wal-Mart where we collected well over a thousand items of food."

Although mail donation is down, contributions in red kettles outside of local businesses have increased slightly, said James Hawkins, a two-year veteran bell ringer.

"We're really amazed that Wal-Mart said that they're up because the amount of people coming in are down," Hawkins said. "Donations are up because we're getting larger bills, more fives and 20s. It's more bills as opposed to change. The buckets aren't nearly as heavy."

Despite differences, the Salvation Army remains positive.

"We're concerned, though, whether people will still have any funds to give here at the end of the year," Kincaid said. "As a human being, I'm a little nervous."

# Macon County residents protest building of hog farm

**Erin Mitchell**
Staff Reporter

Pamela Stokes received an upsetting phone call from her neighbor, Joyce Crawford, earlier this fall.

Crawford informed her that a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation was going to be built about one mile from her home. CAFOs are large hog farm operations that have been proven to have negative impacts on the communities in which they reside.

"People live in rural areas for clean air, clean water and less pollution," Stokes said.

The CAFO being built near Stokes' home, which is in Macon County, will consist of five buildings with 8,425 hogs. Stokes said a farm this large will produce the same amount of waste as 20,000 people.

Stokes and others in her community are concerned because of the health and community impacts the CAFO might have on their community. This is why Stokes and her neighbors have formed , Citizens Against a Polluted Environment. Through this organization, Stokes and many others are working hard to convince the Macon County commissioners to adopt health ordinances that would regulate CAFOs better.

Missourians for Local Control hosted an informational meeting Tuesday in the SUB Governors' Room to explain to local residents what CAFOs are, what health and community impacts they have and what residents can do to help their community.

Tina Herleth, a member of CAPE, gave emotional testimony Tuesday about the importance of family farming in rural communities. Herleth said she chose to live in a rural community because the air is fresh, the water is clean and the neighbors are friendly.

"Our first line of defense, which happens to be our state legislator, is actually the offense," Herleth said, referring to the involvement of Kathy Chinn, Macon and Shelby County representative, in building the CAFO.

Chinn is one of the two owners of the CAFO. The other owner is not a resident of Macon County.

Jim Libby, a Linn County commissioner, spoke at the meeting Tuesday as well. Libby was involved in passing the Linn County Health Ordinance in 1997 when a CAFO was being built in his community.

"The problem is that we have legislators telling them down there that this is what we want," Libby said.

Missouri state law dictates a hog facility containing up to 17,499 hogs may be built within 2,000 feet of a residence. A facility with an unlimited number of hogs may be built within 3,000 feet of a residence.

CAPE and Missourians for Local Control are concerned because state regulations do not require lining in the lagoons that hold the manure, so waste can easily leak from the lagoon and seep into the ground and water. These groups are fighting to adopt ordinances that would require CAFOs to use a tractor that would "knife" holes in the ground for the waste to seep into.

Chinn proposed legislation that would prohibit county commissioners from adopting local ordinances. This failed to pass by a small percentage and is why CAPE is pressuring its county commissioners to adopt health ordinances before it is too late.

A study conducted at the University of Iowa reported several health and community impacts as a result of CAFOs. Health impacts include respiratory problems, diarrhea, headaches, burning eyes, nausea, confusion, tension, depression and fatigue. Increased air pollution, decreased water quality, decreased population and a decline in property value impact the community.

John Ikerd, professor emeritus of agriculture economics at the University of Missouri - Columbia, spoke about the economic issues surrounding CAFOs. Ikerd said the number of hog farmers actually decreases in communities with CAFOs, and the short-term economic impact is outweighed by the long-term negative environmental impact that destroys the community.

"We don't have to subject our communities to economic exploitation just because it's profitable for someone else," Ikerd said Tuesday. "Missourians must confront the fallacies and stand up for their rights and the rights of rural people everywhere."

Members of organizations like CAPE and Missourians for Local Control believe communities should have the ability to impose higher living standards than the minimum standards required by the state. Wes Shoemyer, state representative for the 9th District, voiced his support for local control at the meeting Tuesday.

"Government is best when it is controlled by the people it is closest to," Shoemyer said.


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