



SOUTHERN SPIRIT

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the development of the Salvation Army in Nashville for decades. It culminated with the announcement that Jay Servais had won the National Commander's Kettle Challenge. Last year, he and his supporters raised an incredible \$276,252.80, blasting past all other competitors across the country. For his efforts, he was presented a plaque and received the happy news that he and his wife were to

was widespread and the pioneering work difficult. Referring to the open-air tactic of forming a circle, Hodder said, "Salvationists formed circles because of the opposition. They could look across and see someone who could encourage them. But they also did it because they found that lining up against a wall resulted in people just walking past. When they formed a circle they created a front row, making it easier for a crowd to gather. What was their message? They preached hope, love and victory. Not a sentimental kind of love but one that transforms coming only from God Himself. The Salvation Army sees those victories all the time. When we get out and serve the homeless, we win. When a child comes to our programs and sees possibilities for her life, we win. When we see someone kneel and accept Christ as Savior, we win big time."

After speaking about other aspects of Army service, Hodder then came back to the idea of the circle. "You who are here are in that circle with us. You say with us, 'We can do this.' Over your shoulder is a world that desperately needs what you have. They need that same victory. Angels are watching what will happen."

Area commanders Captains Phil and Elaine Canning happily reported the Gathering of Angels successfully surpassed its goal of \$300,000.

'Dunkin' Becomes Honorary EDS Member

BY MAJOR FRANK DURACHER

Canines 4 Christ member, "Dunkin," receives an official Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) patch to add to other identifications on his doggy vest. Dunkin and his handler, Tina Reeder, partnered with other EDS volunteers working in the Port Charlotte, Florida area in the wake of Hurricane Ian. "Dunkin is a rock star," says Laurie Fried, Port Charlotte incident commander. "He has been a huge positive factor, both for our EDS personnel and families devastated by the storm."



Commissioner Kenneth G. Hodder, USA National Commander, presents an award of recognition to Mr. Jay Servais for winning the National Commander's Kettle Challenge. Also pictured is Jay's wife, Melissa.



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