

Major Pledge Allows CDA Kroc Community Center to Break Ground in June

Coeur d'Alene, May 12, 2007—The pledge of an Idaho family foundation has propelled Coeur d'Alene's fundraising drive for the Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center (RJKCCC) to a total of more than \$6,054,000.00.

The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation has pledged a \$1,000,000.00 gift, Mayor Sandi Bloem announced.

Joan B. Kroc, billionaire widow of Ray Kroc, founder of McDonald's restaurants, gave \$1.5 billion to The Salvation Army. The organization was designated to build community centers across the United States. On May 1, 2006, the City of Coeur d'Alene was awarded a Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. One of the prerequisites for being selected as one of the six northwestern cities that would receive funds to build a center, according to Bloem, was evidence of community support and sustainability, demonstrated by a successful fundraising drive. In the past year, fundraising efforts have focused on generating \$6 million in pledges so that construction could begin June 2007.

"With the \$1 million dollar gift, breaking ground in June is now a reality," said an ecstatic Mayor Bloem. "Although I was speechless when I received the news from Foundation Executive Director Lori Fisher, I was not surprised by their generosity," she explained. "The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation has had an enormous and positive impact on Idaho communities. Through its generous giving, the foundation affects the lives of thousands of children and families."

In addition, through the generous gifts of thousands of other individuals and private donors in the state and the Coeur d'Alene community, Coeur d'Alene demonstrated strong support for a center of this vision and scope.

The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation has long expressed its strong desire to support this project - initially pledging \$125,000.00 before Coeur d'Alene was even selected to compete with eight other northwestern cities in the third round of the application process.

"Our foundation believes that the new Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center will create a lasting benefit throughout the Coeur d'Alene and North Idaho community," said Lori Fisher, executive director. "We are happy to be among the many citizens and organizations that are able to help make this a reality, and we are confident that the new center will have a tremendous impact on generations to come."

The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation is an Idaho-based family foundation that gives to educational and charitable causes in Idaho.

###

FINAL