

Breaking ground on the Kroc Center of Memphis.

APRIL 12, 2010

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Photo by the Memphis Daily News' Lance Murphy

A rainy morning on March 22 couldn't conceal the sunny optimism and joy that our community felt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center at the Fairgrounds.

The Kroc Center, scheduled to be open in Summer 2011, will be a living testament to our city's belief in the power of unity. Our whole city needs to know what the

rest of the country already knows – the Salvation Army is not building these centers just anywhere. Memphis is one of the few cities in the United States where the support exists to create one and sustain one.

I'm not just talking about monetary support – although that is important! Years from now, when we look upon the Kroc Center, and we see the families and children coming in and out, some to learn, some to swim, some to play, some to pray, all of them enjoying life together, we will be reminded that Memphis possesses the emotional wealth and the spiritual wealth to accomplish great things.