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## Interview with Sue Nieberger of the Salvation Army

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Sue Nieberger

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### **Interview Transcript**

This interview took place on March 14, 2001 in Sue Nieberger's office in Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

KT: How long have you been working with Salvation Army?

SN: Oh, it'll be going on 6 years.

KT: Had you been involved in a business like this before?

SN: No, I had worked for the American Red Cross for 8 years, and wanted to get into another type of agency work because I enjoyed the Red Cross so much.

KT: Is the Red Cross related in any way to Salvation Army?

KT: Not so much with the financial assistance and the social work, but we still do a lot of working one on one with people, especially those who have home fires. I was involved with the blood program...I coordinated all the classes.

KT: What is the Salvation Army's goal?

SN: Would you like to see the mission statement?

KT: Yes, please.

SN: In fact let me give you one of these. The Salvation army has been in existence for over 135 years. And its mission is exactly what it states there, to meet human need with no discrimination.

KT: What is your job at the Salvation Army?

SN: We provide services for help with rent, I do prescriptions, we do lodging for transients or anyone evicted who needs someplace to stay. We do all kinds of utilities, electric, colombia gas...help with propane. We also have a food pantry.

KT: How does a place like Interchurch differ from the Salvation Army.

SN: Well, a place like Interchurch is mainly supported through the different churches in the area. There not a United Way agency which is what we are. Most of our money comes through

donation. We don't have any government grants like Interchurch.

KT: How does your foodbank work?

SN: Well, the food is free. People are eligible to come in once every three months for food, unless it's a real emergency..we don't hold real tride and true to it all the time. I order food through the food bank in Colombus, Ohio. A lot of our food is donated, especially in the summer months we have a lot of farmers who will come in. The table in our hallway is called our "free table." That is where we have breads and baked goods that come in from Kroger. Those usually come in on Thursdays and people know that if they come in they can take whatever they can use. And like I said in the summer months we have a lot of fresh fruit.

KT: It seems like a very safe place to come?

SN: Well yes, and you never know what you'll find on our free table. And there are times when people will come in and need taxables, and I do keep taxables in our pantry, toilet paper and femenine hygiene products and cleaning supplies etc. Those items take a lot of money out of your grocheries.

KT: do you see mainly families?

SN: A little bit of everything. I don't see as many senior citizens as what you might think. I think the senior citizens were raised in a time when you just made things do and you didn't come asking for help. A lot of the families I see are families in there 20's, 30's and early 40's. Once in a while I'll have a senior citizen come in for some food. A lot of people laid off, or people who don't have insurance.