

SALVATION ARMY SEEKS UPHAMS CORNER FACILITY

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Date: October 28, 2005 **Page:** B4 **Section:** Metro/Region

The Boston **Salvation Army** said yesterday it wants to build a state-of-the-art community center at **Uphams Corner** and is seeking a grant from the foundation started by the founders of McDonald's restaurants to pay for it.

Over the past six months, local **Salvation Army** officials have been meeting with city officials, community leaders, and Dorchester and Roxbury residents about the proposed center. The group is competing against 30 other **Salvation Army** organizations in the Northeast for grant money set aside by the Kroc Foundation to help build community centers.

"We are really excited," said John Barros, executive director of Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, which has worked closely with the **Salvation Army** on the proposal. "At the end of the day, we were really able to get the community to buy into it and get really excited about it," Barros said yesterday. "It would be a serious letdown if it didn't happen."

The proposed Dorchester center would be built on a vacant lot bounded by Clifton, Woodford, and Burgess streets. The 85,000-square-foot **facility** would house several gymnasiums, an aquatics center, a health club, a multipurpose auditorium, a family center, a library, an education/computer center, a commercial kitchen, and a chapel. Also, recreational fields would be developed on the lot.

The Boston **Salvation Army** is asking the Kroc Foundation for \$40 million for construction and another \$40 million for an endowment to help cover operating expenses. An additional \$15 million would have to be raised locally through foundations, corporations, and individual donors. **Salvation Army** administrators will know by early next year whether Boston is a finalist for some of the \$400 million in grant money, and final word about the proposal will come at the end of next year.

"It's a highly competitive process," local **Salvation Army** Major Frank Klemanski said. "If we get awarded, it will be glorious."

Joan Kroc and her husband, Ray, the founder of McDonald's, were longtime supporters of the **Salvation Army**, according to a statement released by the group yesterday. Joan Kroc made her first large gift more than \$90 million to establish a center in San Diego in 2002.