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Salvation Army mural speaks volumes

Summary: If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the new mural installed in the Salvation Army Thrift Store in Morris speaks volumes. Art students in Michael Eble's Media Studies: Mural Project and Public Art course partnered with the local outlet.

(May 9, 2006)-If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the new mural installed May 8 in the Salvation Army Thrift Store in Morris speaks volumes.

University of Minnesota, Morris art students in Michael Eble's Media Studies: Mural Project and Public Art course partnered with the local outlet in designing and creating the mural. Salvation Army employees visited the class and discussed the importance of the Salvation Army in the community and beyond. Students also visited and toured the Salvation Army and learned about the annual local projects that the Salvation Army does that are unique and important to the Morris community. The conversations resulted in a painted mural, four feet high by 16 feet long, that reflects on the importance of these projects along with a seasonal theme.

Said Eble, "This is not just a thrift store it's much more than that. This is public art in a place that cross-sections Morris."

The mural, which is titled "Working All Year Round To Help Those in Need," depicts a series of Salvation Army projects that impact Morris each year, said Peggy Kill, the Salvation Army west central Minnesota field director. A bus represents the back-to-school project a fall scene represents the coat drive and distribution a winter scene represents the kettle campaign and a hospital represents the baby layette project.

This project is sponsored by the Salvation Army and the UMM Service Learning Program/Learn and Serve Grant. Service Learning is a classroom experience that utilizes community service, community based research or other civic engagement activities to meet course goals and community needs. For more information please contact Argie Manolis, Service Learning coordinator, at 589-6257 or by e-mail at manolis@morris.umn.edu.

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