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## Giant red kettle at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans in Appleton serves as a giant reminder to Salvation Army-Fox Cities' match day Friday

BY LARRY AVILA • POST-CRESCENT BUSINESS EDITOR • DECEMBER 4, 2009

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APPLETON — If you happened to drive by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' office on Appleton's northeast side Thursday, you probably noticed a red kettle next to the company's sign.

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The giant 3-ton, 7-foot, 6-inch red kettle was finished just in time for Friday's Match Day with the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation. Any donations made at the Salvation Army's 50 Fox Cities red kettle sites or by phone and online at [www.safocities.org](http://www.safocities.org) will be matched by the foundation up to \$125,000.

"It's just amazing, the support we get from the Fox Cities businesses," said Robb Waugus, director of communications and financial development for The Salvation Army-Fox Cities. "To have Thrivent helping us again and now the generosity of Azco ... it's been just a blessing."

Last year, a total of \$372,423 was donated during Match Day and combined with Thrivent's \$125,000, meant \$497,423 was collected, breaking a one-day national collection mark for the Salvation Army.

Azco Integrated Construction, a town of Menasha-based fabricating company employing more than 525 people, donated the materials and built the symbolic kettle and Profile Finishing Systems in Kaukauna painted it. The kettle, which resembles the Salvation Army's collection kettles, is visible from U.S. 41 between Meade Street and Ballard Road.

Mark Loper, president and chief executive officer of Azco, said his company is a long-time supporter of the Salvation Army.

"Internally, we have a charitable committee and the Salvation Army always has been one of our key beneficiaries," he said.

Loper did not disclose the cost of materials, which is made from carbon plate steel. When the kettle was completed, it was transported via flatbed truck to Thrivent's Appleton office on Ballard Road, then set into place with a forklift.

Loper said the company is looking at building a custom trailer for the super-size kettle.

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### Additional information

These links will open in a new window:

- ◆ [Click here to go to the Salvation Army-Fox Cities' Web site.](#)
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A larger-than-life Salvation Army collection kettle was put into place Thursday at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans campus on Appleton's north side, a day before the Salvation Army-Fox Cities match day. Thrivent is offering to match up to \$125,000 in collections made at Fox Cities' sites Friday. Azco Integrated Construction fabricated for and donated to The Salvation Army. (Photo courtesy of Azco Integrated Construction)

### MATCH DAY

More than 400 volunteers for The Salvation Army-Fox Cities will be out between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Friday taking donations at 50 collection sites. Any donations made today will be matched up to \$125,000 by the Thrivent Financial For Lutherans Foundation. Match Day donations also can be made by phone at 920-734-3324 and online at [www.safocities.org](http://www.safocities.org).

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