

Kroc gains funds

By **Rob Pavey** | *Staff Writer*

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

A campaign to raise \$20 million toward the Salvation Army's Kroc Center in Augusta's Harrisburg community has gained \$2.5 million more in pledges.

Organizers who announced \$10.5 million in contributions May 11 said this week that the total is now \$13,062,594 -- less than \$7 million from the local commitment needed to qualify for matching funds to build the 85,000-square-foot center.

"We're just shy of two-thirds of our goal," said Kroc Center coordinator Derek Dugan, who would not identify the newest donors.

The 17-acre center is the legacy of a gift by McDonald's heiress Joan Kroc to the Salvation Army after her death in 2003. Her \$1.5 billion gift was designated to build "Kroc Corps Community Centers" across the nation. Trustees awarded \$33.9 million for construction and \$33.9 million in endowment funds for Augusta's center.

Mr. Dugan said groundbreaking could occur in late summer or early fall.

Once open, the center will generate significant economic impact, according to a study by the Regional Development Center. The study said the center would have about 100 jobs, a \$2 million annual payroll and generate 66 new households and retail sales of more than \$2.1 million a year.

Reach Rob Pavey at (706) 868-1222, ext. 119, or rob.pavey@augustachronicle.com