



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **The Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation Awards Grant to The Salvation Army Kroc Center to Fund The Kroc Fit Kids Childhood Obesity Program**

**San Diego, CA, July 26, 2011**—The Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation has awarded a \$20,000 grant to The Salvation Army Kroc Center to support the implementation of the Kroc Fit Kids program, a research based childhood obesity prevention intervention. This grant will allow The Salvation Army Kroc Center to work with three partner elementary schools within walking distance of the facility, to implement an innovative outreach program that will help off-set the budget cuts to physical education programs.

The program is set to kick-off in October, and will be broken up into six themed months spread out through the duration of the school year. Each month will include four elements: 1) Kroc Center staff will go into these three partner schools to teach a lesson about fitness and health, and engage students in 20 minutes of physical activity; 2) The students will then come to the Kroc Center for a guided fitness field trip; 3) The program month will end with a Kroc Fit Family Fun Night at the Kroc Center where families will learn about nutrition, fitness, and health in a fun way; 4) Teachers will utilize materials provided by the Kroc Center to engage students in Desk-Side physical activity during the school day.

This intervention will increase the number of minutes children are engaged in physical activity during any given school week, will engage parents and teachers in education about health and fitness, and will provide children access to a place to play and get fit during and after school.

This grant marks the continuation of a lasting partnership between The Salvation Army Kroc Center and the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation.

**About The Salvation Army Kroc Center:** The Salvation Army Kroc Center provides opportunities that facilitate positive, life-changing experiences through: arts, athletics, personal development, spiritual discovery, and community service. For more information about The Salvation Army Kroc Center, visit [www.kroccenter.org](http://www.kroccenter.org).

### **More about the Life and Legacy of Miss Ellen Browning Scripps**

Miss Ellen Browning Scripps was a remarkable woman by any standard of time or human judgment. "In a man's world, she quietly held her own. In the world of women, she was a role model for the country." A lifelong champion of women's rights and the soul of the Scripps



newspaper empire, she epitomized altruism. Among her long list of philanthropic deeds are many firsts. Here are a few for which she is credited:

- Regarded as the first columnist and the first foreign correspondent.
- First female graduate of Knox College.
- Established the first public playground in the United States and deeded it to San Diego.
- Established Scripps Memorial Hospital.
- Established Scripps Clinic, second such facility in the U.S.
- Established Scripps College and was the foundation for Pomona College.
- Established (with sister Virginia) the Bishop's School and St. James-by-the-Sea Church.
- Established Torrey Pines State Park.
- Established (with brother Edward) the Scripps Institute of Oceanography.
- Was the foundation of the San Diego Zoo.

Ellen was born in London, England, in 1836, but lived there only a few years. In 1844, her father John Mogg Scripps, widowed and bankrupt, took his young family to America and Rushville, Illinois. They joined relatives who had been settled in that prairie town for some 50 years. Here, Ellen began her education, taking advantage of the available schooling and the fine library that her father, a bookbinder in London, had brought. An acute intellect coupled with a strong character soon emerged, and by her late teens she was teaching school to earn enough to attend nearby Knox College. She matriculated in 1856 to become one of the first women to attend college in the United States.

After completing her studies in 1859, Ellen returned to Rushville to resume teaching, soon becoming the most highly paid, and very probably the best teacher in the area. Moreover, she extended her intelligence and wisdom to her family, with whom she lived and cared for. In particular, she became deeply attached to her young half-brother Edward Wyllis Scripps, and both taught him his letters and passed on her liberal philosophy and ideals. This close relationship continued throughout their lives, and was a major factor in the success of the vast newspaper empire "E.W." was to create.

(Sources: Preece, C. (1990). E.W. and Ellen Browning Scripps: An Unmatched Pair. Michigan: Bookcrafters and Ellen Browning Scripps Elementary School Dedication Ceremony, January 17, 2002.)

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