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Every time a bell rings ...

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The people who volunteer to ring the bells for the Salvation Army come out in all kinds of weather to collect donations. Read here about three groups who give their time for others.

Albert Allen, member of Jericho United Methodist Church, rang the bell outside Big Lots in Essex Junction on Thursday.

Q: Why are you out here today?

Allen: It's something different. I've never done this before. It's interesting to see and hear the reactions of people as they go by.

Q: So how has your first bell-ringing experience been?

Allen: People have been very responsive. I've been trying to get a tune out of this bell, but I can't. It doesn't want to sing -- it just wants to ring.

Kenneth Lafoe, 59, of Burlington and his community support worker from Champlain Vocational Services, 21-year-old Danielle Dorfer, rang the bell outside Price Chopper in Burlington.

Q: Why are you here today?

Dorfer: Kenny loves to volunteer in the community and this is something he was very excited to do. We've been doing this once a week for the past five or six weeks.

How do people react to your presence here?

Dorfer: A lot of people say thank you. Like, we say thank you to people who put money in the kettle and people tell us thank you for standing here. That feels good.

Scott McNulty, 29, captain of Burlington Rugby Club, rang a bell on Church Street Marketplace near the Burlington Town Center entrance.

Q: What are you doing here?

McNulty: Every year the rugby team gets together one night and rings the bell for the Salvation Army. This is our seventh year.

What do you call this method you use?

McNulty: We're just trying to get noticed. We're a little bit loud, and not a lot of people can go by without noticing the yelling in the background. We're trying to guilt people into giving money.

Q: How many bells are you ringing tonight?

McNulty: People bring their own bells. We have 10 or 15 bells tonight. The Salvation Army supplies two bells, but we usually have 15 people out here so we bring extras. Plus, two bells just aren't quite loud enough.

Q: Describe the group's personality.

McNulty: To play rugby you have to be fairly aggressive. We go out and tackle each other with no pads on, playing through the winter, so coming out here in the cold and ringing a bell is kind of like a day off.

Q: How does it feel to see the bucket fill?

McNulty: It's great. By the end of the night, we usually have to push the money down and it overflows the top, which is great. You just ring the bell and make a lot of noise and get people really excited. That's fun, too.

You're a rugby club. How does that translate into ringing a bell for the Salvation Army?

McNulty: It's a good opportunity to help out the community and have some fun with the guys. For 11 years we've been doing the Penguin Plunge in January and for 15 years we've done Toys for Tots. We're a lot of professionals from the area and we're older individuals. We're a little more active in the community than you might expect from a younger rugby club.