



EASTERN TERRITORY | FALL 2019

G SPIRIT OF GIVING

Dear Friends,

We all feel better with good food in our belly, don't we?

As our founder, William Booth, famously said, "You cannot warm the hearts of people with God's love if they have an empty stomach and cold feet." Feeding the hungry has been at the core of our mission since the beginning 154 years ago. And food continues to play a central role in nearly everything we do today. Whether it's disaster relief, after-school programs, summer camp, or whatever else, food is there. Food breaks the ice, brings people together, and communicates love in a tangible way.

Thank you for all you do to help us feed families in our community. If you'd ever like to talk about how you can be more involved or (like Alice Humphrey, whose story is on the next page) would like to see first-hand what your donations are doing, please get in touch and we'll set up a tour. I'm honored to partner with you in loving our neighbors! ♦

ANDRÉ GORGENYI



Senior Director
of Donor Relations
978.807.4789
Andre.Gorgenyi@
use.salvationarmy.org

THE THREE-HEADED MONSTER

It's a tragic irony that the poorest neighborhoods have some of the highest obesity rates. Low-income families often resort to the cheapest food options: prepackaged foods that are high in sodium, sugar and preservatives.

Poverty + Hunger + Obesity are like a three-headed monster, and it's threatening the health of our children and costing billions in health and education. The Salvation Army is determined to be part of the solution.

You'll notice our feeding programs are shifting. You'll start to see things like salad bars popping up at our soup kitchens and cooking classes at our youth programs. The days are over where the goal is simply to fill empty bellies. Instead, with help from donors like you, we are beating back the monster and making a healthy eating accessible to everyone. ♦

"If my clients had more access to healthy food options, I believe it could make long-lasting change in not only physical health but mental health—which ultimately could change the family."

— Sarah Miller, MSW, MA, NCC
Salvation Army Social Worker

Look What Donors Did In Western PA!

THE GOAL: Raise \$1.5 million over three years to implement sustainable, multi-faceted healthy eating programs.

THE RESULTS: Donors rose to the challenge and in less than 18 months blew past the 3-year goal.

IN JUST ONE YEAR . . .

- ♦ **34,000 servings of fresh fruit and vegetables** provided at eight soup kitchens.
- ♦ **600 students a month** participated in the "Love in a Backpack" program at 10 schools, taking home bags of healthy food to sustain them over the weekend when food is less accessible to struggling families.
- ♦ **1,700 children** at summer camp received education and tools to improve nutrition
- ♦ Residents in transitional family housing received **quarterly classes** on how to cook healthy on a tight budget. ♦

"You cannot warm the hearts of people with God's love if they have an empty stomach and cold feet." —William Booth

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: ALICE HUMPHREY



Alice loves children. Here, kids in a Salvation Army program thank her for supporting the cleanup and redecorating of their activity room. The room was named in honor of Alice's son, Jim Humphrey.

As a child during the Great Depression, Alice Humphrey remembers getting a nickel allowance. Her mother required the children to take one penny from that five cent allowance and drop it in The Salvation Army's red kettle. Today Alice is 92 and still delights in giving back through The Salvation Army. **Alice has made so much good possible.** She has given to renovate a community center kitchen. She outfitted a youth room with 10 computers and a printer. She gave a major gift through her IRA for some desperately needed bathroom renovations. And, her favorite project, she paid for most of a van that's used for transporting kids, picking up food donations, and taking seniors to events. Alice is the type of person who likes to see first-hand what her donations are doing. So she's become a familiar face around Salvation Army facilities. She'll come by to see the kitchen in use, or meet the kids who are using the new computers, or watch the van unload a group of seniors. "It makes me happy to see how my donations are helping," she says. "I feel like this is what God made me for." ♦

LOVE IN A BACKPACK

by Salvation Army Captain Amber Imhoff

When our division first rolled out a program called "Love in a Backpack," I was not planning to get involved.

I thought it was a nice idea—filling kids' backpacks with food items to take home to their families over the weekend. But we already had an emergency food pantry at our corps and I figured families who needed food would come to the pantry.

Then something happened in my own family, and I had a change of heart. My husband and I took our kids and foster children to visit family in Florida.

We were all sitting around the table eating dinner one evening when my brother-in-law stopped by with some friends. His friends took one look at us and turned right around and walked out of the house. That's sure never

happened to me before! Later, my brother-in-law explained that our family made his friends feel uneasy. "They'd never seen a family eating around table together like that," he said.

That experience helped me see Love in a Backpack—and really, all the feeding initiatives we do—in a different light. It's not just about giving food

to people. It's about the whole person. *It's about bringing families together.*

Statistically families that don't eat together are more likely to engage in harmful habits like drugs and alcohol

abuse. So often we try to combat those problems *after* they're epidemics. ***But what if we can help families heal first, with healthy food and good conversation around the dinner table?*** That's my vision for the families we serve. ♦



Thumbs up! Kids in a cooking class with Captain Amber.

DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Last fall a donor gave a large gift to Captain Amber's corps to remodel the kitchen—which meant we were able to cook on-site for summer youth programs instead of having to cater meals. This donor was so excited to see the direct and immediate impact of their gift, they wanted to do something else. So in the spring they gave \$35,000 for the Love in a Backpack program, which is what it cost the prior year to run the program in four schools. The donation enabled us to say "yes" to requests from four additional schools—**doubling the number of children who will go home with healthy food** for their families to enjoy over the weekend. Essentially, that one donor is providing 597 children with food to take home every weekend! ♦



G SPIRIT OF GIVING

YOU ARE PART OF THIS LEGACY

Because of generous donors like you throughout the decades, The Salvation Army has a significant presence as a place of refuge and restoration for women, children, and men who have been trafficked. I know that you, like we, feel that human trafficking is an offense against God and against humankind.

Traffickers' schemes are insidious, but with your generosity we are bringing the forces of good to bear on those who have been exploited.

You'll read in this newsletter about The Salvation Army's anti-trafficking efforts as far back as 1885. And you'll get a glimpse of what's happening today. If you would like to know more about what we are doing on this front—nationally, globally, and here in our own division—please get in touch with me.

I'm honored to be part of this 150-year-old legacy, serving alongside you in this worthy fight. ♦



ANDRE GORGENYI

Sr. Director of Donor Relations
The Salvation Army
978.807.4789
Andre.Gorgenyi@
use.SalvationArmy.org

DONORS LIKE YOU GIVE WOMEN A NEW START

Carolina was trafficked for the first time in Latin America.

She joined a gang that helped her escape to the U.S. But recent immigrants are a top target for traffickers, and Carolina was quickly recruited by new traffickers in Philadelphia.

Finally, thanks to donors like you, Carolina has a safe place to live and people who take care of her with no strings attached.

At one of The Salvation Army's, centers for survivors of human trafficking, Carolina lives with loving staff and volunteers. She has food, clothing, transportation assistance—and most importantly, a place to call home.

In this community of women who have all struggled to survive similar traumatic life experiences, Carolina has found support and friendship. She is learning English and she has been connected with attorneys to support her immigration case.

And for the first time in years, she is experiencing something we believe should be a basic right for all human beings: freedom. ♦

Mary experienced methods of torture no human should ever have to endure.

While still just a child, she was trafficked for sex by a family member. For years, she did not realize she deserved better.

But now, thanks to donors like you, Mary is learning to receive love, trust people, and take care of herself the way she deserves.

Recently, Mary was suicidal, and Salvation Army staff made a phone call that resulted in her being hospitalized. Mary was angry with us. And yet, after being released from the hospital she returned to The Salvation Army, where she was greeted with open arms and love.

"You know we care about you," one of our staff said to Mary.

"I know," she replied. "I only wish I could care about myself as much as you care about me."

Then Mary took a big step by asking us to help her get therapy. These are the moments statistics cannot capture. The hurt and pain of a woman hitting her lowest point—and then taking a step to start a new life. ♦

UNSUNG HEROES



Ellyn Jo Waller, Ed.D

About 15 years ago Ellyn Waller was asked to do some research about human trafficking for a mission convention she was helping plan. As the partner in marriage and ministry of the senior pastor of a well known church in Philadelphia, Ellyn has served people in her church and community in many ways over the years. But the human trafficking research opened her eyes and heart in a new way.

"I learned that the average age of entry was 13," she recalls, still shocked by the statistic. "My girls were 13 and 14 at the time. Kids the same age as my kids were being trafficked!"

The realization was a turning point for Ellyn. She became an advocate for women who have escaped the sex trafficking world. She rallied people from her church and launched *She's My Sister*, an anti human trafficking ministry.

Ellyn and her sisters in Christ from *She's My Sister* have been critical in supporting one of The Salvation Army's programs that serves survivors of human trafficking. They volunteer their time, visiting with the women at the center, chatting with

them woman-to-woman, sister-to-sister. They do simple, yet immensely practical, things like drop off rolls of toilet paper and bags of food to stock the center's pantry. And they have given generous financial contributions to keep the center's doors open. Over the past five years they have contributed about a quarter million dollars to support the work we do with human trafficking survivors.

"This wouldn't be possible without Dr. Waller," says Jennifer Diaz, the Principal Gift Director for The Salvation Army in Greater Philadelphia. "She is so passionate and driven about this issue. It just shines through her. The work we are doing marries so well with her personal beliefs, and that's why we are successful."

Ellyn says she finds encouragement in this hard and often sad work "when I look at people who have experienced deep prolonged trauma and I see light coming back on in their eyes."

She continues, "When you think about how people are victimized, it's often a matter of someone gaining their trust to take advantage of them. After that, trust is really hard. It's encouraging to meet with people who trust us enough to engage and share who they are and what their dreams and hopes are."

Ellyn is one of those unsung heroes, the "army" behind the Salvation Army. People like her, and you, who quietly serve and give, are making profound and redemptive work possible in more ways than you can ever know this side of eternity. ♦

JAILED!

Eliza Armstrong was 13 years old when she learned she would be purchased by a new owner.

It was 1885, and slavery was illegal, but the law meant nothing to Eliza and countless other victims caught up in the human trafficking underworld of Victorian England. (Sound familiar?)

Bramwell and Florence Booth were young Salvation Army officers, serving the poor in London when they became aware of the human trafficking happening in their country. Genteel Londoners certainly did not want to hear that such an abomination was taking place in their midst, so the Booths devised a provocative way to wake up the public. With help from an investigative journalist named W.T. Stead and Rebecca Jarrett, a fellow Salvationist and former prostitute, the Booths arranged to "buy" 13-year-old Eliza. After the "sale," Bramwell transported the young girl across the English Channel and placed her in the safe care of a Salvationist family in France.

Then the Salvationists published a multi-volume exposé telling their story and chastising their fellow Englishmen for lying in sleepy ignorance. The exposé got them into hot water! Bramwell Booth, Stead and Jarrett were tried for assault and abduction, and Stead and Jarrett both served prison sentences. But it also created a public outrage—which led directly to legislation raising the age of sexual consent and criminalizing procurement for prostitution. Thanks to their brave efforts, Eliza and countless others were spared a life of unspeakable suffering.

That was over a century ago. Today, alongside compassionate and generous supporters like you, The Salvation Army continues to fight for freedom. ♦