A William Booth Society Thank You!

In Connecticut and Rhode Island, our William Booth Society recognizes and unites our generous friends who contribute $1,000 or more in total each calendar year. We thank our members for renewing their membership, with many doing so at higher levels than before. Thanks to those of you who have also recently been welcomed into the William Booth Society. Lastly, we encourage those who are blessed to be able to do so to consider joining this dedicated group in our shared fight against poverty. Serving with God's grace, your belief in our mission allows us to help the ever-growing needs of those who come to our doors. We cannot thank you enough!

For more details on this special group, visit:
Or Contact
Adam P. Zinkievich
Director of Annual Giving
860-702-0040 or
Adam.Zinkievich@use.salvationarmy.org

DON’T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING IS ONLY LIMITED TO YOUR LIQUID ASSETS!

If you’re getting ready to sell your home to relocate or downsize, let our charitable gift staff show you the many tax-wise giving options available through The Salvation Army. We can show you how to bypass capital gains, save on and reduce your estate and income tax, while at the same time, help support vital programs and services in your community with The Salvation Army!

For additional information, please contact:
Michael Afflitto, CAP
Director of Planned Giving
The Salvation Army - Southern New England Division
1-888-468-5956 or email: Michael.Afflitto@use.salvationarmy.org

FULL CIRCLE

Lieutenant LeNissa Rivera has always been a part of The Salvation Army. She first started attending when she was three years old. She was able to make wonderful friends and memories because of the experiences and opportunities gained in the Army. As a child of a single-parent home, it was hard to be able to experience life outside of her immediate neighborhood. "The Salvation Army’s Camp CONNRI was the place where I found myself and my identity in God," recalls Lieutenant Rivera. "It was where I made my first real commitment to accepting God in my life. It opened up my eyes as a camper to the beauty of creation, and as a staff member, it helped me to be a light and positive example to the young campers who were looking to experience the same things I did."

Lieutenant Rivera truly did not realize what an impact The Salvation Army could make in a person’s life until years later when she fell on hard times herself. Her marriage had crumbled, leaving her and her two daughters without a home, car or employment — nothing to call their own. She was devastated and did not know what to do next. It was then that she sought out The Salvation Army in a completely different way. "The Salvation Army helped me at one of the lowest points in my life," says Lieutenant Rivera. "Ultimately, I was hired by the Army and one of my first assignments was to plan a music program at Camp CONNRI. Imagine my delight to return right back to the place where my life began!"

Several Salvation Army officers were instrumental in putting the pieces of her life back together. Commissioners William & Lorraine Bamford were there when she first made the steps to become a Salvation Army leader back in 2006. The Bamfords were stationed as the Divisional Leaders in Connecticut and Rhode Island, and did more for her than any job or assistance could. They were a source of encouragement and guidance and went above and beyond what any officer had done before. It was the first time that Lieutenant Rivera looked at Salvation Army leaders and envisioned what she would like to be. "The Bamfords are still people that are close to me today and who I look to as two of the most influential people in my life," says Lieutenant Rivera.

Fifteen years have passed since she began working for The Salvation Army and Lieutenant Rivera’s life has come full circle. She is now an ordained minister and is leading a Salvation Army center in Meriden, CT. Her daughters are now leaders within her corps and they all have the opportunity to make an impact on other young people. Lieutenant Rivera is eternally grateful for the ministry of The Salvation Army. "I feel like God, through The Salvation Army, has given me the opportunity to make a difference in this world," says Lieutenant Rivera. "I couldn’t imagine doing anything else."

To help people in your community who have fallen on hard times, visit www.salvationarmyct.org for volunteer opportunities and ways to donate. For information on becoming a Salvation Army officer, visit tsacfotny.salvationarmy.org
Dear Friends:

My wife and I feel privileged to serve alongside some of the best professionals, officers and soldiers of The Salvation Army who work every day to fulfill the mission of the Army in this wonderful Division. All too often, we are impacted by news of tragedy with the death of those who were too young to die. We have seen the images of suffering, the cries, the pain and the uncertainty the families face.

Moments like these remind us of the fragility of life and that we are not exempt from suffering. They are also a reminder that we live in a difficult and violent world where suffering can become a part of our lives at any moment.

But it is also out of suffering that emerges the best of people. Our Salvationists and friends who respond to tragedies, by meeting needs and providing emotional and spiritual care, are a visible reminder that we as an Army exist to serve suffering humanity. Our Founder, William Booth, at the end of his life summed up the essence of The Salvation Army’s mission and vision that perfectly typified his own 60-year ministry:

“While women weep, as they do now, I’ll fight; while children go hungry, as they do now, I’ll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I’ll fight; while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I’ll fight, I’ll fight to the very end!”

Every day at each of our centers, our ministry is to serve the suffering people impacted by poverty, loneliness, addiction, criminal offending, homelessness, human trafficking, illness, illiteracy, social isolation, unemployment, abuse and other human situations. Our response includes immediate care, crisis management, practical love, professional skills and training. Salvationists make such a response motivated by the impact and reality of God’s love and salvation operating in the individual lives.

For us, this is a war — a war against suffering that we cannot fight alone. This is why we thank you for your help and support. We are grateful that you have felt compelled to come alongside to help us continue the fight.

Blessings!

Jorge and Limaris Marzán

Yours in the war,
Majors Jorge L. and Limaris Marzán
Southern New England Divisional Leaders

The art program at The Right Place in Hartford, CT is centered on the Atelier, or Studio, a forum for art instruction and exploration. Under the guidance of the Atelierista, children develop their artistic vocabulary in media including pencil, pen, tempera, watercolor, oil and chalk pastels, clay, and wire. Children in the Studio use real art materials and learn authentic art making techniques. The Atelierista collaborates with each teacher to extend Studio experiences into the classroom.

Earlier this year, The Salvation Army hosted its first annual art showcase which supported the art program at The Right Place. Students displayed colorful artwork they’ve created throughout the year. Students, parents, faculty, donors, and sponsors enjoyed viewing these special projects. “I think our family grew just a little bit bigger during our showcase, as well as our hearts,” states Heather LaCasse, Director of The Right Place.

While proud parents viewed their child’s work, they also enjoyed offerings from the program’s Farm-To-School model, a new approach to ensuring preschool children experience locally grown and harvested foods. Savory and sweet food offerings were served including chocolate covered strawberries, spinach and feta puff, guacamole and bruschetta. Paired with fruit and herb infused waters, all foods were locally grown including some from the school’s own garden. “My son is a picky eater, but he’s able to try a lot of different foods here,” says Laverne Watts. Students are provided breakfast, lunch, and a snack daily.

Parents have noticed a big difference in their children since attending The Right Place and experiencing these programs.

“I’ve noticed a difference in my son since he started here. There’s older kids in the school, so it makes him want to learn. When it’s time to pick him up, he doesn’t want to leave,” says parent Rosemary DeJesus.

The Right Place offers nationally accredited early childhood education to children ages three to five, and helps children acquire the skills they need to be successful learners when they enter kindergarten.

The Right Place centers are operated by The Salvation Army, and are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which ensures the highest quality education for children. Parental involvement is key to a child’s academic success, therefore we partner with families to ensure classroom learning is re-enforced at home for lifelong learning. Creative experiences, which allow children the opportunity to develop and express their ideas and feelings include art and media, dramatic play, music, language, and movement.
ADOPT-A-FAMILY OR ADOPT-A-CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS?

Help us bring joy to families in need through our Adopt-A-Family and Angel Tree Program to assist needy families at Christmas.

Families who have experienced a devastating tragedy or crisis worry their children will have nothing under the tree on Christmas morning. These programs are designed to ensure that doesn’t happen.

For more information about our Adopt-A-Family or Angel Tree program, please contact:

Brenda Downing
Divisional Social Services Director

Brenda.Downing@use.salvationarmy.org
(860) 702-0025

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Your Support Shatters the Barriers Between the Possible and Impossible...

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But we are at a crossroads.

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The admittance rate is low, the standards are high, and the vision is long-term. For some, it’s an opportunity of a lifetime. Can I ask your help in making this opportunity a reality for families who want more for their children? Please contact me to discuss how you can be a part of this transformative endeavor. It would be great to hear from you.

Gratefully yours,

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Dawn.Fleming@use.salvationarmy.org
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Patricia Jean Lewis was brought up Catholic, but never had a close relationship with God. In her early twenties, she was living in Bristol, CT and working as a waitress. Introduced to a life of addiction by a boyfriend who was a drug user, as well as physically and verbally abusive to her, PJ soon found herself addicted to drugs. To support her habit, PJ turned to selling drugs and stealing. Her life was a complete disaster.

Every now and then, PJ tried to get better. She went through a couple of detoxes and thought she had her habit kicked, but couldn't hold a job, and was arrested on larceny charges. In 2007, PJ came to The Salvation Army’s Adult Rehabilitation Center for the first time. God began to change her life for the better, and good things started to happen. She got back on track and got clean.

When PJ walked away from The Salvation Army, she lost God, and became pregnant. She was in prison for six months, and when released, fell back into old habits – using drugs, lying, cheating and stealing. Eventually, PJ lost custody of her 4 ½ year old daughter.

PJ knew she wasn’t going to get better unless she changed her life. Facing nearly ten years in prison, PJ detoxed herself off of heroin and turned herself in. She was released in March of 2014 to The Salvation Army’s Adult Rehabilitation Center in Hartford. Her mindset was to do the bare minimum and continue her old lifestyle. Having been out of work for years, PJ lacked any set of skills. “I guess my self-image was ruined from the years of drug use and being with a man who physically and mentally abused me,” PJ recalled.

Weary and desperate to find out who she was again, PJ went through The Salvation Army’s Adult Rehabilitation Program. Each day was a challenge, but each challenge brought her closer to God. Now, PJ is the Fleet Manager for The Salvation Army’s ARC in Hartford. She spends mornings getting drivers out to make house calls, pick-ups, and drop-offs at the Family Stores. She oversees the phone room and dispatchers, and takes care of customers. “I make sure we are doing the most good for the community, because that is our mission,” PJ says. “I couldn’t do the most good anywhere else. This is my home; this is where I belong. This is where I can share God’s story and shed God’s light on others.”

PJ has been clean for over two years now and recently got a chance to speak with her daughter. “The visit we had couldn’t have been any better. She smiled and was truly happy. All this time, I thought my daughter was a broken little child, but she is happier than she could ever be,” PJ said. “It reminded me that everything I’ve been doing has been on God’s schedule, not mine. I wasn’t ready before, but I am now. It was worth the wait.”

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"The Salvation Army has been more than a blessing to me. I don't feel the way I did before – desperate, weary, and useless. God walks with me and has never left me. He's always been right there, but I was too blind to see it," said PJ. "The Salvation Army has made me a part of their home, and a part of their family." PJ is a graduated member of The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center's Redeem Team.

Stories from Around the Division ...

A Thanksgiving Blessing

The very next day, The Salvation Army showed up at her doorstep with a pre-cooked Thanksgiving dinner for her whole family.

Nearly 80 years later, Margaret has not forgotten how The Salvation Army helped her family have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. "I am so grateful for the kindness and goodness! The Salvation Army showed my family," Margaret said. She has fond memories of neighbors that were like family, the person who knocked on the door and saved her family's life and the Thanksgiving dinner The Salvation Army provided.

The IRA Charitable Rollover
A Simple and Smart Way to Give

• For individuals 70 1/2 years and older
• Gifts toward required minimum distribution
• You may exclude up to $100,000 from your taxable income

To learn more about charitable IRA donations please contact Adam Zaidman at azaidman@state.armymacy.org or by phone at (860) 702-0040

Getting Back on Track, Doing the Most Good

To help provide a family with a Thanksgiving dinner, donate to your local Salvation Army today.

www.salvationarmyct.org

When Margaret Pelkey was 8 years old, she was living with her parents and three siblings above the Italian Social Club in Waterbury. The youngest of four children, she remembers a traumatic cold night in late November like it was yesterday. It was the night before Thanksgiving. At about 2 a.m. her family was woken by a knock at the door from one of their neighbors. The front porch of their multi-family home was on fire. Someone had lit a match and set fire to a stack of boxes left under the porch. Thankfully, Margaret, her mother, father, two brothers and sister made it out unharmed. Although the porch was destroyed, the rest of the house was undamaged.

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YOU CAN BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

Volunteers are critical partners in helping The Salvation Army fulfill our promise to America of “Doing the Most Good.” Here at The Salvation Army in Southern New England (Connecticut and Rhode Island) we had:

16,714 individuals
who volunteered a total of
97,455 HOURS

If you feel motivated to give back and help The Salvation Army in Doing the Most Good, chances are we have an opportunity for you!

For additional questions about volunteering call Kathy Orfitelli at (860) 702-0031 or email Kathy.Orfitelli@use.salvationarmy.org

PATHWAY OF HOPE

Everyone deserves a second chance.
Not to mention a first.
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Moments like these remind us of the fragility of life and that we are not exempt from suffering. They are also a reminder that we live in a difficult and violent world where suffering can become a part of our lives at any moment.

But it is also out of suffering that emerges the best of people. Our Salvationists and friends who respond to tragedies, by meeting needs and providing emotional and spiritual care, are a visible reminder that we as an Army exist to serve suffering humanity. Our Founder, William Booth, at the end of his life summed up the essence of The Salvation Army’s mission and vision that perfectly typified his own 60-year ministry:

“While women weep, as they do now, I'll fight; while children go hungry, as they do now, I'll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I'll fight; while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight, I'll fight to the very end!”

Every day at each of our centers, our ministry is to serve the suffering people impacted by poverty, loneliness, addiction, criminal offending, homelessness, human trafficking, illness, illiteracy, social isolation, unemployment, abuse and other human situations. Our response includes immediate care, crisis management, practical love, professional skills and training. Salvationists make such a response motivated by the impact and reality of God's love and salvation operating in the individual lives.

For us, this is a war — a war against suffering that we cannot fight alone. This is why we thank you for your help and support. We are grateful that you have felt compelled to come alongside to help us continue the fight.

Yours in the war,
Majors Jorge L. and Limaris Marzán
Southern New England Divisional Leaders

The art program at The Right Place in Hartford, CT is centered on the Atelier, or Studio, a forum for art instruction and exploration. Under the guidance of the Atelierista, children develop their artistic vocabulary in media including pencil, pen, tempera, watercolor, oil and chalk pastels, clay, and wire. Children in the Studio use real art materials and learn authentic art making techniques. The Atelierista collaborates with each teacher to extend Studio experiences into the classroom.

Earlier this year, The Salvation Army hosted its first annual art showcase which supported the art program at The Right Place. Students displayed colorful artwork they've created throughout the year. Students, parents, faculty, donors, and sponsors enjoyed viewing these special projects. “I think our family grew just a little bit bigger during our showcase, as well as our hearts,” states Heather LaCasse, Director of The Right Place.

While proud parents viewed their child’s work, they also enjoyed offerings from the program’s Farm-To-School model, a new approach to ensuring preschool children experience locally grown and harvested foods. Savory and sweet food offerings were served including chocolate covered strawberries, spinach and feta puff, guacamole and bruschetta. Pairs with fruit and herb infused waters, all foods were locally grown including some from the school’s own garden. “My son is a picky eater, but he’s able to try a lot of different foods here,” says Laverne Watts. Students are provided breakfast, lunch, and a snack daily.

Parents have noticed a big difference in their children since attending The Right Place and experiencing these programs.

“I’ve noticed a difference in my son since he started here. There’s older kids in the school, so it makes him want to learn. When it’s time to pick him up, he doesn’t want to leave,” says parent Rosemary DeJesus.

The Right Place offers nationally accredited early childhood education to children ages three to five, and helps children acquire the skills they need to be successful learners when they enter kindergarten.

The Right Place centers are operated by The Salvation Army, and are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which ensures the highest quality education for children. Parental involvement is key to a child’s academic success, therefore we partner with families to ensure classroom learning is re-enforced at home for lifelong learning. Creative experiences, which allow children the opportunity to develop and express their ideas and feelings include art and media, dramatic play, music, language, and movement.

To learn more, or to donate, visit salvationarmyct.org or call (860) 543-8488
The next art showcase is scheduled for June of 2017
A William Booth Society Thank You!

In Connecticut and Rhode Island, our William Booth Society recognizes and unites our generous friends who contribute $1,000 or more in total each calendar year. We thank our members for renewing their membership, with many doing so at higher levels than before. Thanks to those of you who have also recently been welcomed into the William Booth Society. Lastly, we encourage those who are blessed to be able to do so to consider joining this dedicated group in our shared fight against poverty. Serving with God’s grace, your belief in our mission allows us to help the ever-growing needs of those who come to our doors. We cannot thank you enough!

For more details on this special group, visit: http://bit.ly/SNEWBS

Or Contact
Adam P. Zinkievich
Director of Annual Giving
860-702-0040 or
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Full Circle

Lieutenant L. LeNissa Rivera has always been a part of The Salvation Army. She first started attending when she was three years old. She was able to make wonderful friends and memories because of the experiences and opportunities gained in the Army. As a child of a single-parent home, it was hard to be able to experience life outside of her immediate neighborhood. “The Salvation Army’s Camp CONNRI was the place where I found myself and my identity in God,” recalls Lieutenant Rivera. “It was where I made my first real commitment to accepting God in my life. It opened up my eyes as a camper to the beauty of creation, and as a staff member, it helped me to be a light and positive example to the young campers who were looking to experience the same things I did.”

Lieutenant Rivera truly did not realize what an impact The Salvation Army could make in a person’s life until years later when she fell on hard times herself. Her marriage had crumbled, leaving her and her two daughters without a home, car or employment — nothing to call their own. She was devastated and did not know what to do next. It was then that she sought out The Salvation Army in a completely different way. “The Salvation Army helped me at one of the lowest points in my life,” says Lieutenant Rivera. “Ultimately, I was hired by the Army and one of my first assignments was to plan a music program at Camp CONNRI. Imagine my delight to return right back to the place where my life began!”

Several Salvation Army officers were instrumental in putting the pieces of her life back together. Commissioners William & Lorraine Bamford were there when she first made the steps to become a Salvation Army leader back in 2006. The Bamfords were stationed as the Divisional Leaders in Connecticut and Rhode Island, and did more for her than any job or assistance could. They were a source of encouragement and guidance and went above and beyond what any officer had done before. It was the first time that Lieutenant Rivera looked at Salvation Army leaders and envisioned what she would like to be. “The Bamfords are still people that are close to me today and who I look to as two of the most influential people in my life,” says Lieutenant Rivera.

Fifteen years have passed since she began working for The Salvation Army and Lieutenant Rivera’s life has come full circle. She is now an ordained minister and is leading a Salvation Army center in Meriden, CT. Her daughters are now leaders within her corps and they all have the opportunity to make an impact on other young people. Lieutenant Rivera is eternally grateful for the ministry of The Salvation Army. “I feel like God, through The Salvation Army, has given me the opportunity to make a difference in this world,” says Lieutenant Rivera. “I couldn’t imagine doing anything else.”