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From difficulty to difference-maker

(continued from cover)

“I was forced to grow up very quickly,” Teresa says. “I was used to living in crisis mode.”

Teresa’s father struggled with alcoholism, and her mother never learned to read or write. They both worked factory jobs, but making ends meet was nearly impossible.

As a child, most of Teresa’s clothing came from The Salvation Army’s Family Store, because that was all her parents could afford. At age 12, she spent a week at Camp CONNRI, a summer camp that The Salvation Army runs for kids across Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The Salvation Army heard about Teresa’s situation through her high school guidance counselor. Around Christmas, they dropped off bags of gifts and other essential items to the young mother’s home.

Focused on the big picture

Since the day she received those gifts, Teresa was determined to help others. She’s continued to volunteer at our toy drives, food drives, and so much more. She is now the chairperson at the Litchfield Hills Service Unit and is the branch manager at Webster Bank.

Today, the mother of four takes care of her children and her parents. Her generosity to our community continues.

“Always focus on the big picture,” Teresa says about people facing difficult circumstances. “Stay true to yourself and follow God’s will. And when you can, give back to others.”

Commander’s corner

Christmas is such a busy time. It’s so easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holidays. But spreading tidings of joy to our neighbors in need can make their Christmas more meaningful than we can imagine.

Thank you for your support this Christmas season and beyond. Your generosity does so much to provide nutritious meals, shelter, and Christmas gifts to men, women, and children in our community who have nowhere else to turn.

Blessings to you this Christmas.

This Christmas, be an Angel

Sadly, thousands of children don’t expect to have a single present waiting for them when they wake up on Christmas morning. It’s heartbreaking. But through your support and the help of local businesses, we are working to make sure as many boys and girls as possible have a gift to open this Christmas.

Our Angel Tree program is a special, annual tradition that matches friends like you with a girl or boy in need. You receive a tag with their special Christmas wish, and you provide that unwrapped gift to The Salvation Army. So on Christmas morning, you make a child’s dream come true.

Faithful service

Packing food boxes, helping in times of disaster, making sure our children have safe places to learn and play, ringing our Red Kettle bells, and more—serving our neighbors in Rhode Island and Connecticut could not happen without our volunteers giving their time so generously.

If you’re considering being a volunteer for The Salvation Army, please contact Kathleen A. Orfitelli at (860) 702-0031 and see where you can do more good for more of our neighbors.

Make a difference and get a tax break

Your generosity ensures we can continue to help our neighbors in need through Christmas and into 2018. Your gift today will help do the most good and, if you give by December 31, you’ll get a tax deduction too. Please visit ctri.SalvationArmy.org today to make your year-end gift.

Merry Christmas

We are so grateful for your generosity and His grace, which bring hope to so many.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.” – Luke 2:14
“Stay true to yourself and follow God’s will. And when you can, give back to others.”

– TERESA, who got help from The Salvation Army

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True Neighbor

Did you know?

The Salvation Army operates after-school programs in hundreds of low-income neighborhoods across the U.S. so children have a safe place to learn, grow, and just be kids.

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How you’re doing the most good in our community

Always stay focused on the big picture

A little bit of kindness at Christmas was the beginning of Teresa’s new point of view. Her life had started out very differently. By the time Teresa was 16, she found herself married and pregnant. When she had nowhere to turn, The Salvation Army was there. Since the day she received help, she’s been determined to give back.

I’ll do more good for my neighbors this holiday season.

I’ve enclosed:

☐ $12    ☐ $20    ☐ $48    ☐ $________ to do the most good

Please consider sharing this newsletter so we can help more neighbors and families this holiday season.

Thank you!

Last December, you helped distribute almost 72,000 toys to local children in need.

Donate online at ctri.SalvationArmy.org

Please make checks payable to: The Salvation Army
Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 509
Hartford, CT 06141-0509

Thank you! Your gift is tax deductible. It will be used now and throughout the year to support local Salvation Army services that address human needs without discrimination.