



NEWS BRIEF

The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division • 5040 N. Pulaski Road • Chicago, IL 60630

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALVATION ARMY OPENS SHIELD OF HOPE FAMILY SHELTER

Nation's first rapid-response emergency homeless shelter provides families specialized and holistic services

March 6, 2018 (CHICAGO) – The Salvation Army holds ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Shield of Hope emergency family shelter on March 6. The project, a partnership with the City of Chicago, is the nation's first rapid-response emergency homeless assessment and response center providing intake services and interim care for families in need.

Through an innovative service model, the Shield of Hope, located across from the Army's Freedom Center campus in Chicago's West Humboldt Park neighborhood, will triage and assess families who find themselves homeless and place them into more stable living situations within 14 days. The new facility will support a continuum of care that advances The Salvation Army's promise of serving those in need, while ensuring they maintain their personal dignity. The facility will be able to provide shelter for as many as 75 family members if they're unable to find shelter elsewhere.

The Shield of Hope provides:

- 20 Bedrooms with Private Bathrooms
- Laundry Room
- Cafeteria
- Counseling, Support Services and Life Skills Training
- Assistance Obtaining Permanent Housing

Families staying at the Shield of Hope will also have access to an array of services at the Freedom Center:

- Social Service Programs
- Recreational and Educational Programs for the Entire Family
- Nutritious Meals and Snacks
- Treatment for Substance Abuse

"We are committed to providing these essential services to residents of Chicago who are most at-risk and in need," said Lt. Colonel Charles Smith, Salvation Army Metropolitan Divisional Commander. "Not only will The Salvation Army provide a safe and welcoming environment for families to live during emergencies, we will help them restart their lives by giving them the tools and resources to begin again with hope and joy. We will shield them from doubt and darkness.

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About the Salvation Army Chicago Metropolitan Division

In 2015, The Salvation Army celebrated its 150th worldwide anniversary and 130 years of service in Chicagoland. As one of the largest direct providers of social services in the state of Illinois, The Salvation Army operates 29 corps community centers, as well as other facilities in neighborhoods across the greater Chicago area, offering shelter, meals, child care, disaster relief, after-school programs, recreational activities, music education and more.

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