



NEWS RELEASE

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The Salvation Army in Kent County Celebrates National Donut Day Help, Hope, and Sweet Holiday Treats That Do Good

[GRAND RAPIDS, MI] (May 31, 2024) — Next Friday, June 7, is National Donut Day. Established in 1938 by The Salvation Army, National Donut Day is not only a great excuse to visit your favorite local bakery but also a reminder of the bravery of The Salvation Army's "Donut Lassies" who joined soldiers' on the front lines during World War I.

In 1917, The Salvation Army volunteers traveled to France and set up makeshift huts to provide soldiers with essential supplies, emotional and spiritual support, and fresh baked donuts. The sweet treat did more than raise spirits; it brought comfort and a taste of home to those who risked their lives.

Today, The Salvation Army continues serving on the front lines of our local communities by providing a wide range of programs and services to vulnerable individuals and families in need. In Kent County, The Salvation Army provides programs that include:

- An emergency food pantry.
- One of the county's largest seniors' programs, which has been assessed and approved by the Area Agency on Aging of West Michigan.
- Housing and Utilities assistance.
- Pathway of Hope which helps families break the cycle of generational poverty.

For more information about National Donut Day or to download the Donut Lassies' original recipe, visit sakentcounty.org.

About The Salvation Army

Founded in 1865, The Salvation Army is a faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to serving people in need without discrimination. In 2022, The Salvation Army in Kent County helped provide 7,714 meals to senior citizens, 7,058 individuals with groceries, 6,677 households obtain or maintain housing, 971 households with utility assistance, 1,674 in recovery outpatient services, 713 life-saving detox experiences, and 13,868 toys, 1006 teen gift cards, serving 1,524 households as part of Christmas assistance. Nationally, the Salvation Army uses \$.86 of every dollar raised to provide direct services to people in need. For more information, go to www.sakentcounty.org

