



# THE SALVATION ARMY METROPOLITAN DIVISION

SERVING THE GREATER CHICAGO AREA, NORTHERN ILLINOIS, AND NORTHWESTERN INDIANA

## NEWS RELEASE

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### SALVATION ARMY SET TO BUILD STATE-OF-THE-ART, FULL-SERVICE HOMELESS RESPONSE CENTER THAT AIMS TO COMBAT CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS ACROSS ENTIRE CITY – GIVING RENEWED HOPE

#### Newly approved collaboration with City of Chicago allows a more holistic and specialized service approach

**CHICAGO** - The Salvation Army, one of the largest direct providers of social services across Chicagoland, collaborates once again with the City of Chicago in a newly-approved, multi-year agreement to operate as the City's first rapid response center and to also build a new state-of-the-art facility adjacent to the current Salvation Army Freedom Center in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood. This new facility would provide immediate intake services and interim care.

Currently, The Salvation Army is operating the City's centralized emergency shelter and services, located at 10 S. Kedzie, which will remain operational. Beginning next spring, this center, named Emergency Homeless Assessment and Response Center (EHARC), shall be renamed as "[Shield of Hope Center](#)"; which is able to provide an available capacity of 75 beds per night, to vulnerable families in need.

Through an innovative service model, Shield of Hope will triage, divert or place homeless individuals and families, in more stable shelter programs as quickly as possible. The Army has committed \$10 million for the new facility that will include longer-term shelter for those awaiting placement, meals, showers, and a play space for children.

"We are committed to providing these essential services to residents of Chicago who are most at-risk and in need. The Salvation Army has been committed to serving Chicago for over 125 years, and with each passing year, this commitment grows stronger" says Lt. Colonel Charles Smith, Divisional Commander, The Salvation Army Chicago Metropolitan Division. "The City of Chicago and specifically DFSS have been key partners with us for many years. We are ready and prepared to continuing serving those in need while ensuring they also have the dignity and receive more holistic services".

The Army also recognizes the dozens of delegate agencies and officials who have been vocal advocates in addressing the chronic homeless epidemic, and who will continue to be a key ingredient in successfully combatting the issue across the city.


"The City Stands firm on our commitment to providing shelter and services to those in need, so that no family is forced to sleep on the streets" said Mayor Emanuel. "Thanks to our partnership with The Salvation Army, we will create an innovative and triage response system that prevents homelessness whenever possible by connecting our families with the care they need to return to housing and stability."

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#### ABOUT THE SALVATION ARMY CHICAGO METROPOLITAN DIVISION

In 2015, The Salvation Army is 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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