Thank you for making life better for so many struggling children, families, and seniors in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

To help more neighbors in need, please send your next gift today. Your compassion will transform lives!

Thank You

Your support helps!

• 19,214 people received Thanksgiving assistance through meals, holiday baskets and grocery vouchers
Your generosity matters deeply to children and families in need, especially as we approach the holiday season. Thank you for being there when your neighbors need you most.

Thank you for your deep compassion for the hurting people of our community.

To become a monthly donor, go to TrueNeighbor.org
To give a one-time gift today, please go to salvationarmyctri.org/hope

Do you have a life insurance policy that you no longer need? Why not gift it to The Salvation Army?

Your life insurance provided peace of mind for you and your family; why not use it now to help those most in need? You can assign your policy to The Salvation Army and make the significant gift you never thought was possible.

To learn more, please contact: Michael Afflitto, CAP® Director of Planned Giving at 1-888-468-5356 (toll free), or visit: tinyurl.com/MyGiftPlan.

A Big Impact Right Here at Home

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If you want to do even more to help families we serve in Connecticut and Rhode Island, please consider becoming a “True Neighbor” with a monthly donation. It’s an easy way to have an impact every day.

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Dear Friend,

Your compassion and generosity bring hope—and can truly be life-changing for the families who come through our doors; and we are truly grateful.

One young boy in our community needed winter clothes. He had been wearing his grandmother’s black leather boots. They didn’t fit, but he didn’t have anything else to protect his feet from the cold. That’s why your generous support matters—so many families are without even the basics to get through their days.

As you’ll read in this newsletter, there are many in our community in need of assistance, especially for families struggling with the holidays approaching. You’re helping to provide nutritious food, nights of housing assistance, help with utility bills, after-school services for children, warm clothes—and so much more.

As we enter this season of thanks, we want to say thank you for your partnership in our mission.

Commander’s Corner

God bless you,

Divisional Leaders

A Family Finds a Fresh Start

Selma and her family lost everything—then learned about a difficult diagnosis. Thanks to you, they found hope when they needed it most.

Selma* and her husband thought moving to Connecticut would give the family a fresh start after losing their home in the devastation of Hurricane Maria. Instead, they faced even more challenges.

Shortly after moving, the oldest of their three children was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. Selma serves as her son’s primary caretaker, and with the continual cycle of doctor’s appointments, she cannot work a job outside the home.

Selma’s husband secured a job at a large retailer, but they were still struggling financially. The family felt overwhelmed and knew they needed help soon.

Thanks to the support of friends like you, they could turn to The Salvation Army to help them move forward. They joined Pathway of Hope, and through the help of their case manager, they secured housing assistance, disability benefits, mental health services, and children’s services.

Selma and her family also received food and toys at Christmas and coats thanks to the Coats for Connecticut community coat drive (see below for more information). Once their family got back on their feet, Selma began taking courses online to get her degree in medical coding. She’s hopeful she can work from home while taking care of her son.

Your generosity makes it possible for us to walk beside Selma and her family as they continue their journey toward independence through Pathway of Hope.

The 11th Annual Coats for Connecticut coat drive will kick off in November, thanks to our friends at Best Cleaners and WFSB, Channel 3.

You can donate gently used coats at any of the 12 Best Cleaners locations. They will be cleaned and delivered to The Salvation Army centers across Connecticut for distribution to neighbors in need of warm winter coats. For more information, go to bestcleaners.com or ctri.salvationarmy.org.

Building a New Future for Her Family

Thanks to you, Stacey could work toward a better life for her children.

At the beginning, Stacey* came to The Salvation Army in need of food assistance for herself and her three children. Your generosity has provided her with so much more.

A single mom, Stacey was out of work and unable to afford enough food to feed her children each day. She was struggling and her hope was almost gone. She wanted to improve the life of her family and found help through Pathway of Hope.

She worked for her local Salvation Army as a Kettle Worker, and shortly afterwards she found a position at a supermarket. When she saved enough money, Pathway of Hope helped her secure an apartment for her family of four. Thanks to your support, they received furniture donations and got help with some basic household items.

Stacey was determined to improve her family’s future. She graduated with her associate’s degree and began a program to get her bachelor’s degree in Human Services with a concentration in counseling. She is now starting an internship here at The Salvation Army, where she hopes to give back and help other people who have gone through some of the same challenges she has been through.

Finding a Place to Turn in Difficult Times

Jennifer, a single mother, couldn’t afford a holiday meal or toys for her son. Thanks to you, she and her son received the care they needed.

Jennifer* came to The Salvation Army as a single mother in the midst of a stressful time where she felt completely overwhelmed.

The father of her child decided to leave their family, which led to a difficult, lengthy custody situation. She was caring fulltime for her son, who has autism, and was unable to work due to some medical issues. She could barely afford to put food on the table—Christmas presents were impossible.

“I have to tell you, it’s been tough financially not being able to work,” Jennifer says. “They are willing to talk. They are willing to listen,” Stacey says about the people who have helped her at The Salvation Army. “If they can help, they will help. Whatever they can do. So, they’re just a part of this whole transition for me.”

When our neighbors need it most, your generosity gives families like Stacey’s a place to turn in difficult circumstances. We are grateful for all you do.

*Name and photo changed to protect privacy.

Jennifer says of The Salvation Army, “That’s just so amazing that there’s a place that I know I can turn to if I need support.”

Thank you for providing care, support, and hope to families in need like Jennifer’s. You’ve given neighbors facing difficult times a place to turn during the holiday season. We are grateful for all you do.

Families are encouraged to marshal their own strengths, talents, and resources and to work collaboratively with their case manager and community partners to create increased opportunities for education, employment, housing, stability, and independence. The consistent, supportive role of the case manager has been identified by previous graduates as being crucial to their success.

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“I have to tell you, it’s been tough financially not being able to work,” Jennifer says.

That’s when she found out about The Salvation Army. She entered the Pathway of Hope program and received many support services that have been vital to making ends meet for her family—all made possible through your compassionate generosity.

Jennifer and her son received a special meal at Thanksgiving, winter coats through Coats for Connecticut, and toys at Christmas. Jennifer says every bit of help she’s received has been a blessing.

“It’s just so nice to see when people are going through a hard time that they’re always there for you no matter what,” Jennifer says of The Salvation Army. “That’s just so amazing that there’s a place that I know I can turn to if I need support.”

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