You are a lifeline for struggling families at Christmastime and throughout the year.

Read how you provided one family a very special holiday...
Two Ways to Bless a Family in Need This Christmas!

Angel Tree & Adopt-a-Family

For struggling families in Connecticut and Rhode Island, Christmas is an especially difficult time. Without the resources for any kind of holiday feast, let alone money to buy gifts for their children, they can feel left out of the celebration. You can help make sure that doesn't happen by participating in our Angel Tree and/or Adopt-a-Family programs this holiday season.

Through our Angel Tree program, you can select the name of a local girl or boy and brighten their Christmas with age-appropriate gifts. (Contact your local Salvation Army for more information.)

Families who have experienced a devastating tragedy or crisis during the past year qualify for our Adopt-a-Family program. Through this program you will be matched with a family to sponsor and will receive their “wish list.” Sponsors often help by providing these families with clothing, toys, Christmas trees, household items, and grocery store certificates.

To learn more, contact Elaine Ingraham, Development Associate, at 860-702-0035 or Elaine.Ingraham@use.salvationarmy.org.

“The Best Gift I Have Ever Received.”

The look on her daughters' faces that Christmas morning is forever saved in Melanie’s heart.

“The holidays are amazing and beautiful but can also be painful and stressful when you are in a situation as mine,” says Melanie, a single mother of two girls.

Through a series of challenging circumstances, Melanie and her daughters wound up living in a shelter last year. Thankfully, friends like you who support The Salvation Army helped them get back on their feet, and just before the holiday season they were able to move into a new apartment. Melanie was so thankful. “The Salvation Army came in and took the pain and stress away,” she says.

With the expense of moving into a new place, Melanie knew she would be unable to provide any kind of Christmas celebration for her children. “I had a talk with my girls and explained that we had the gift of a home and we should be grateful with that,” Melanie recalls. The kids agreed without hesitation. They were just happy to have a place to call home.

Even so, Melanie's Salvation Army case manager showed up two days before Christmas with bags of gifts for the girls—gifts made possible through our Angel Tree program. Melanie hid them, then put them under the tree for Christmas morning.

“The girls' faces lit up from the gifts under the tree,” Melanie said. “They received the most beautiful and thoughtful gifts—presents I would have picked out myself. I will never forget the look on their faces that morning. That was the best gift I have ever received.”

The names and photos used in this story have been changed to protect confidentiality.

“The Adopt-a-Family program helped my family in a very difficult time. My children were so excited on Christmas morning because of this blessing, and I could not be more grateful. One of my children has special needs and requires many medical supplies and attention. His smile that morning was bigger than ever. Thank you, Salvation Army and sponsors!” – Keli
Memories of Christmas Past

My name is Vicki, and my father always spoke as if The Salvation Army were heroes coming to the rescue. You see, his father died very young, leaving my grandmother to raise eight children on her own, with no income and the Great Depression right around the corner. The family quickly sank into poverty.

Dad often shared childhood memories of how all the children, including himself at only 8 years old, had to go to work to put food on the table. He would really light up, though, when he told us how The Salvation Army brought food and clothes and shoes—wonderful shoes!

The other thing that brought a smile to my dad’s face was when he told us about The Salvation Army bringing Christmas gifts to the family every year. New socks, hats, mittens, and some kind of toy. But what he remembered most were the oranges he received. He spoke of them like they were the greatest gift ever.

I am deeply grateful for the care The Salvation Army showed my dad in his childhood—and for the compassion they continue to shower upon struggling families after all these years. I’m thankful, too, for people like you who give generously to support their important work.

Your kind gifts truly impact our neighbors in need—not just with food and clothes, but with love. And that is huge.

This Year Give a Gift That Gives Back

A charitable gift annuity is a statement about your philanthropic intentions and an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. Through your annuity a payment will be made to you or a loved one—for life; then the remainder will be used to help those in need.

To receive your personal illustration, please contact:
Michael Afflitto, CAP®, Director of Planned Giving
860-882-7101 or toll free 888-468-5356, or email at Michael.Afflitto@use.salvationarmy.org.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6
Holiday Helpers Needed!

Share the joy of the Christmas season as a Salvation Army volunteer. We need help with:

- Bell ringing
- Christmas meals
- Food baskets
- Nursing home visits
- And more!

For more information on how to help, please visit ctri.SalvationArmy.org

A Salvation Army Bell Ringer Breaks World Record

In December 2016, Jamie Richardson, a Salvation Army bell ringer in Biloxi, Mississippi, broke a world record by standing and ringing his bell for 151 hours straight!

DID YOU KNOW

GIVE TODAY and become someone’s Christmas miracle!

We realize there are many good charitable causes you could support. Because you have entrusted The Salvation Army with your donations, we promise to make your gift go as far as possible to do the most good for needy families in our community this holiday season.

82 cents of every dollar spent sustains life-changing programs that bring hope to hurting souls.

82% Programs and Services
12% Administrative Support
6% Fundraising

Source: Latest National Salvation Army Annual Report

Thank You

...for making life better for so many struggling children, families, and seniors in our community.

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

Please consider becoming a True Neighbor by signing up to make monthly donations. Your regular gifts will be used to do the most good year-round by providing nutritious meals for hungry children, disaster services, and relief for struggling neighbors.

TRUE NEIGHBOR™
To become a monthly donor today, go to TrueNeighbor.org

Your gift to The Salvation Army will be used now and throughout the year to support Salvation Army services in your community.

To learn more about The Salvation Army visit our website at ctri.SalvationArmy.org

Photos reflect actual Salvation Army programs from around the U.S.