Volunteering with The Salvation Army provides you with a great opportunity to get involved and give back to your community. No matter where you live, volunteer opportunities are available.

Through a variety of ways, anyone can provide ministry to their community through The Salvation Army. We are dependent on volunteers, board members and community groups in every town in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Volunteer opportunities are available in emergency and disaster response services, serving meals, assisting with food or toy drives, mentoring in one of our centers and many other ways. You can offer your assistance in either long-term or short-term projects, fundraising events, or advisory capacities here in the Southern New England Division, or in other parts of the United States or the world.

The Salvation Army serves in 128 countries throughout the world. You can reach out to the homeless, hungry, lonely and spiritually-weakened individuals in a way that interests you. For any and all assistance in either long-term or short-term projects, of our centers and many other ways. You can offer your assistance in either long-term or short-term projects, fundraising events, or advisory capacities here in the Southern New England Division, or in other parts of the United States or the world.

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The huge uptick in the total number of donated coats came from expanded participation of local schools, youth groups, businesses and Best's campaign partner, Eyewitness News WFSB-TV 3 and Young's Printing/Part Signs. WFSB collected over 900 coats at their station headquarters, while many other local organizations held their own collection events. The total value of the donated coats and dry-cleaning services combined is an estimated $515,000. "Each year I am always amazed by the sheer magnitude of giving in our community. This year was exceptional and much credit needs to be given to our volunteers who helped us deliver coats each week, and our campaign partners who helped get the word out throughout the eight week effort," stated Shawn McCann, President of Best Cleaners and organizer of Coats For Connecticut. "Of course none of it would happen without the hard work of The Salvation Army in getting each donation into the hands of those who need it through the winter months."

According to Captain, Sienna Jackson of The Salvation Army, "We want to thank the Connecticut community for their continued generosity. Donations reached families in our shelters and feeding programs, as well as individuals assisted through our food pantries and holiday programs. Even more men, women and children stayed warm this winter."

Best Cleaners wrapped up its 8th annual Coats For Connecticut campaign, making the last delivery of donated coats to Salvation Army centers around the state in January. The number of coats donated far exceeded the drive’s goal, collecting more than 18,100 coats. This year’s community collection kicked off on November 10 and ran through January 7. The general public was asked to donate gently-used winter coats and jackets at any of Best Cleaners’ 33 locations, where they were then cleaned and delivered to Salvation Army centers and shelters in Hartford, Middletown, Meriden, Bristol, New Britain, New Haven, Bridgeport, New London and Waterbury.

Karen came from a good home in Connecticut with loving parents and was privileged to receive a private high school education. However, Karen had traumatic issues at home that were difficult to overcome, and as a senior in high school, she made bad choices — choices that would affect the next 30 years of her life.

She started drinking and doing drugs at 18 and her life spiraled out of control. She committed her time to getting high and was unable to keep a job. Karen was hungry, homeless and hopeless. "I didn’t care about anybody or anything," Karen recalls. "It was all about me and what I wanted."

We met Karen at our soup kitchen in Greater Hartford several years ago. After a brief Bible devotional, a nourishing meal was served. Karen said she didn’t care about the devotional, but she needed to eat. She came, listened inattentively to the devotional and ate. Then Karen stopped coming. Her addiction to crack had fully consumed her life.

Karen resurfaced several years later at The Salvation Army’s Community Center in Hartford. She recognized The Salvation Army staff whom she had seen at the soup kitchen before. They welcomed her back and provided her with a nourishing meal and compassionate support. Eventually, she was encouraged to try The Salvation Army’s Celebrate Recovery program. Celebrate Recovery offers a space for those who struggle with life’s difficulties or addictions to come together — at no cost — to find real and practical solutions through the Bible, small group studies, fellowship and worship. Karen was skeptical, particularly because she felt there was no God. Certainly if there was, He wouldn’t allow the life “she was stuck in” to continue. But, Karen came anyway.

The first step was to report to The Salvation Army every day to participate in a Bible study that would take a year to complete.

Envoy Pat Wood said, “Every morning, she would come here and work on her Bible study and stay out of that [crack] house.”

During Karen’s daily visits, she was surrounded by caring people who provided her with a budding faith that soon became her lifestyle. Karen managed to become sober on her own, despite living in the same unhealthy setting while searching for alternative housing. Although everyone around her was getting high, she no longer had the desire to join them.

Because of caring donors, The Salvation Army was able to offer Karen the spiritual, physical and emotional support she desperately needed. She has been clean for four years now and volunteers daily at The Salvation Army mentoring others to sobriety. She has faith, hope and a new life. Through your investment in our work, we invested in Karen and others like her. Karen’s story is one of redemption, but really, it is a story about you. Through your philanthropic support, you have lifted Karen — quite literally — out of a crack house and nourished her body and soul. Your gifts of support will help us continue to transform lives like Karen’s — at their point of greatest need. Thank you.

For more information on the Coats For Connecticut drive go to: www.bestcleaners.com

Watch Karen’s story on our YouTube page: The Salvation Army CTRI or inseguro.com/KarenSNE

You can make a difference!
Dear Friends:

Spring gives us the opportunity to hope for new and better things.

The Salvation Army is dedicated to walking alongside those who have experienced the chaos of pain and loss of hope in their lives. Pain is disillusioning.

As we meet the hopeless, we remind them that this does not need to be the end. It is through programs like Pathway of Hope, Anti-Human Trafficking and feeding and sheltering the homeless, that we can stand alongside so many and help them embrace tomorrow with new hope.

When you give to the Army, you become part of those who help others embrace hope every day. For thousands that have had so many doors shut in their lives, the Army is able to open a door to renewed hope because of people like you who generously embrace the needs of others. It is with your help that places like The Salvation Army’s Camp CONNRI in Ashford, Connecticut and Rhode Island, our officers and volunteers see people like you who generously embrace the needs of others. It is through programs like Pathway of Hope, Anti-Human Trafficking and feeding and sheltering the homeless, that we can stand alongside so many and help them embrace tomorrow with new hope.

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Some People’s Legacies Are Engraved on Monuments... Yours Can Be Written on Lives.

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Whether by will, trust, transfer on death or some other vehicle, gifts made to The Salvation Army with multi-affiliate situations, branches and parent bodies need to be very clear when a gift is intended for restricted purpose. Without specific language, these gifts will be allocated to the parent body as unrestricted gifts.

To learn more about proper wording in your will or trust or to schedule your free, no obligation review of your estate plan, please call our Office of Planned Giving. We’ll help you ensure your legacy gift is used as you intend.

Camp CONNRI in Ashford, CT offers campers a wide variety of activities including Jesus Theater, swimming, hiking, fishing, kayaking, baseball, softball, basketball, volleyball, nature studies, arts and crafts, rock wall climbing and much more. The camp offers a safe, Christian environment that nourishes children’s physical growth, mental maturity and spiritual enthusiasm.

“I would say, one of my favorite things about camp is the silence. But then, right after that, I like to hear that silence get filled up,” said Captain Jon Jackson, who is Camp Director along with his wife, Captain Sienna Jackson. “I love the sound of the kids running through camp.”

Children from Connecticut and Rhode Island come together at camp and form a sense of community. When kids come off the bus at camp, they’re excited to get involved. “They ask questions right off the bat,” said Katie Perrett, Assistant Camp Director. “They ask about what clubs they can join, if they can go swimming and rock climbing. They definitely can’t wait to just jump right in and get started.”

Going to camp as a child opened up the world to Captain Sienna. Going to camp as a child expanded who I could be.”

“I really like the rock wall, archery, and gaga ball,” said Luke, a camper from Willington, CT. “I really like the staff and everybody.” Some of the staff at Camp CONNRI are brought in from different parts of the world including Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand and England, just to name a few. Part of the experience of camp is giving the children the opportunity to learn about different cultures and expand their outlook on the world.

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“We’re here for the kids,” said Captain Jon Jackson. “It’s just an awesome place to connect with God, to connect with yourself and learn something else about yourself that maybe you didn’t know about. Camp is a great place to be.” Because of donors like you, children are able to have fun and be a kid at Camp CONNRI.

The Salvation Army • Southern New England Division •
855 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, 06105

The Salvation Army • donor relations director
(860) 331-0018 (mobile) 860-702-0037 (office) or
Down.Fleming@use.salvationarmy.org

For additional information, please contact:
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Camp CONNRI is proud to be accredited by the American Camping Association, the State of Connecticut and The Salvation Army.
fire victims find support after devastation

By Susan Rayburn

When a police officer asked if they had anyone who could help, they thought of their caseworker at The Salvation Army. “Rhode Island is one big community and The Salvation Army is a part of that community,” said Major Steven Stoops, Rhode Island State Coordinator. “When one person in the community is hurting, the community pitches in as they can. Some give of their time, some give of their resources, others give of their own expertise. The Salvation Army’s expertise is serving and helping. It is no surprise that Angineet, our case manager, took action when part of the community was hurting. The Salvation Army has been helping people for more than 100 years in Rhode Island and we’re glad we could do it again for Janet and Michael.”

Mr. and Mrs. Stephens made it clear that they wanted to make saving their home a priority. Susan also voiced her desire to return to school in order to expand the professional opportunities available to her.

The Pathway of Hope staff worked alongside the family. First, The Salvation Army collaborated with a local community partner, the Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust, to assist the family with a mortgage modification, allowing them to keep their home. Second, after being informed of a program at Housatonic Community College, Susan returned to school. Susan arrived early for an appointment one day with her case manager eager to share her grades from the fall semester — a 4.0 GPA! Despite the challenges Susan and her family were facing, with support, she stayed on track and achieved academic success. We are incredibly proud of the Stephens family’s progress, and will continue to stand beside them on their journey to self-improvement this spring.

Rhode Island has a large market for Asian massage parlors and in Connecticut, hotels are a valuable resource for trafficking, as many offer hourly rentals. These factors contribute to our states’ vulnerability for human trafficking.

Michael and Janet stood in the street as firefighters put out a fire in the living room of their home. Initially, nothing was going through their minds as the smoke came out of the windows and responders ran in and out of their home. But then, reality set in. “As we saw the smoke coming out of our living room we had no clue what we were going to do, we felt so hopeless,” Janet recalled.

When a police officer asked if they had anyone who could help, they thought of their caseworker at The Salvation Army on Broad Street in Providence. “We’ve been to The Salvation Army for food and toys, but never thought we would need them for this. When we called Angineet at the Army, we weren’t sure if they could do anything to help, but they did,” Janet said. “The caseworker got to work, finding them a place to stay; connecting them with their insurance company; getting them food, clothing, and eventually appliances and furniture.

“I was truly overwhelming, being able to help a family in need,” said Angineet Perez, Case Manager. “It brought me satisfaction being part of an organization that helps.”

At part of a national initiative by The Salvation Army, a local task force was created to raise awareness and respond to issues of human trafficking. The Committee for Hartford Area Against Trafficking (CHAAT) launched last year as a way for Hartford’s community to tackle the issue of human trafficking. CHAAT convened interested parties to create and implement outreach and awareness efforts of this troubling and often misunderstood injustice.

Each month, representatives from 24 groups meet, including law enforcement, faith-based organizations, sexual assault/domestic violence agencies and members of the general public, to name a few. Human trafficking is a growing crisis in Connecticut and Rhode Island, in part because of its popular route for traffickers along Interstate 95, with convenient stops to buy and sell victims. “It’s happening in our schools, neighborhoods and communities and is certainly much worse than people think,” said Kristal Ambrozaitis, Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator for The Salvation Army’s Southern New England Division.

“When we talk about trafficking, people still have this idea that it’s an overseas problem that doesn’t happen here.”

Rhode Island is one of the stops on the route for traffickers along Interstate 95.

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The Salvation Army’s Anti-Human Trafficking program has recently launched a case management program in Greater Hartford. The program will be available to any domestic, adult survivors of human trafficking, and will connect them with resources in the community including housing, substance abuse treatment, medical/dental services, etc. Additional locations will be opening in the future throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island.

“Human trafficking affects everyone, and it can be prevented by anyone. You can help by volunteering or participating in program activities or making a monetary gift to ensure victims are getting the support they need. If you are a parent, educator, or pastor, advocate for anti-trafficking seminars in our schools and churches. Most importantly, whether in a restaurant, a hotel or at a nail salon, if you see something, say something!”

Kristal Ambrozaitis
Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator
Kristal.Ambrozaitis@use.salvationarmy.org
(860) 702-0082
To learn more about our efforts, go to: ctri.salvationarmy.org/SNE/CombatingTrafficking

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Identifying instances of human trafficking can be difficult. Victims may appear unaware or unaware of their surroundings; they may have multiple cell phones, hotel room keys, expensive clothes/jewelry or other items with no explanation as to how they were paid for. Victims are often forced to work with little or no pay, inadequate sleep and often spend much of their time with a “controlling employer.”

In September, CHAAT organized one of the largest human trafficking film screenings in the state. The movie, SOLD, tells the story of a young girl who risks everything for freedom after being trafficked from her mountain village in Nepal to a brothel in India. The film, screened at Rose Cinemas in Manchester, attracted nearly 200 viewers. Several groups and high schools brought their youth as a way to begin conversations surrounding the dangers of human trafficking.

Ambrozaitis has participated in conferences and panels at the University of New Haven, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, TYCA Hartford and New Haven Public Library. Locally, 65 people including Salvation Army officers, staff, medical professionals and concerned members of the community have participated in seminars and training on the issue of human trafficking.

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FIRE VICTIMS FIND SUPPORT AFTER DEVASTATION

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Did You Know Many Companies Have Matching Gift Programs?

Many companies match gifts of cash, securities and volunteer hours, dollar-for-dollar, while others match at ratios as high as four-to-one! Certain companies match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses.

Each year, matching gift funds ensure people are fed, children can experience camp and families can transcend poverty. If you want to double or triple your donation, initiate the process with your employer. We will handle the verification of your gift and process any required paperwork.

If you have any questions about matching gifts, please contact:
Lisa Cretella, Director of Development
Lisa.Cretella@use.salvationarmy.org
(860) 468-5356

For additional information, please contact:
Dawn Fleming, CTRI - Donor Relations Director
860-331-0018 (mobile) 860-702-0037 (office) or
Dawn.Fleming@use.salvationarmy.org

The Salvation Army • Southern New England Division • 855 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, 06105

The Place You Really Want to Be!

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Going to camp as a child opened up the world to Captain Sienna. She grew up going to camp, later worked at camp and met her husband there.

"It changed my life," said Captain Sienna.

"It expanded who I could be."

Everything that is done at camp is about fostering the opportunity to interact with God. "My favorite part about camp is Jesus Theater," said Angela, a camper from Warwick, RI. "I learned that you have a choice to be with Jesus or choose the wrong way." Alys Daily, Waterfront Director said, "I think a big thing is the spiritual message. Being here has made me feel much more at one with things."

"They (campers) get to come and be here for a week and just enjoy being a kid," said Captain Sienna. "It’s totally different out here. It’s a different environment. Everything is focused on them, it’s for them, centered for them to grow and enjoy being a kid and I don’t feel like kids get to do that all the time." Senior Counselor Chris Jordan said, "Usually they come in shy, but by the end of the week they are best buds. It’s a beautiful place here. I wouldn’t change that for anything."

"I really like the rock wall, archery, and gaga ball," said Luke, a camper from Willington, CT. "I really like the staff and everybody." Some of the staff at Camp CONNRI are brought in from different parts of the world including Scotland, Ireland, New Zealand and England, just to name a few. Part of the experience of camp is giving the children the opportunity to learn about different cultures and expand their outlook on the world.

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In Connecticut and Rhode Island, our officers and volunteers see the pain of disillusionment in the many families that enter through our doors for assistance — the homeless who have experienced rejection and loneliness, those who fall in the clutches of addiction and alcoholism, the ones who find themselves abused and enslaved to the will of others. These people are our friends and neighbors we encounter every day and they’ve lost hope of a better future.

As we meet the hopeless, we remind them that this does not need to be the end. It is through programs like Pathway of Hope, Anti-Human Trafficking and feeding and sheltering the homeless, that we can stand alongside so many and help them embrace tomorrow with new hope.

When you give to the Army, you become part of those who help others embrace hope every day. For thousands that have had so many doors shut in their lives, the Army is able to open a door to renewed hope because of people like you who generously embrace the needs of others. It is with your help that places like The Salvation Army’s Camp CONNRI in Ashford, CT become places of hope and transformation for people of all ages.

While you read the pages of this newsletter, you will learn about our programs; you will see some of their faces and hear their stories. As you do, remember that you are the reason we have helped them see that life can be different, that they are loved, that they can embrace hope and break cycles of dependence, addiction and despair.

On their behalf, we want to thank you for being givers of hope.

Blessings!

Majors Jorge L. and Limaris Marzán
Southern New England Divisional Leaders

Rebuilding Haiti

In January of 2010, a devastating 7.0 earthquake rocked Haiti, causing massive damage and loss of life to one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere. Years later, The Salvation Army continues to work alongside Haitians to strengthen their communities — as we have since 1950.

Despite damage to The Salvation Army’s infrastructure in Haiti, officers, soldiers, employees and volunteers worked through their corps, schools and clinics to serve those in need immediately after the quake.

During the initial response, nearly 8 million meals were provided to families in need, more than 30,000 patients received medical care and an estimated 20,000 people who lost their homes received shelter. The Salvation Army not only provided essentials like food, water, shelter and medical care, but also offered prayers and a shoulder of support during the most desperate times.

As time passed, emergency lifesaving efforts transitioned to recovery with the establishment of the Haiti Recovery and Development Office (HRD). Over the last five years, Salvationists and Haitians have worked to restore vitality to their damaged communities.

Rebuilding efforts have focused on these areas:

• Long-term housing reconstruction projects for displaced families, including programs for vocational training.
• Primary Health Care focused on Port-au-Prince and Fonds-des-Nègres.
• Integrated community development programs in 50 communities throughout Haiti. These are helping communities address concerns such as clean water, income generation, access to education and food security. These efforts mean renewed opportunities for the resilient people of Haiti.
• In more than 70 communities, men and women are starting new businesses, children are getting an education, parents are learning new skills and farmers are growing new crops thanks to support from The Salvation Army.

Much has been accomplished in the past seven years, but much remains to be done. The Salvation Army is proud to be a member of the community in Haiti, helping give Haitians the tools to create a brighter tomorrow for themselves and their families. We also thank donors like you for supporting our local and global disaster relief efforts.
Best Cleaners wrapped up its 8th annual Coats For Connecticut campaign, making the last delivery of donated coats to Salvation Army centers around the state in January. The number of coats donated far exceeded the drive’s goal, collecting more than 18,100 coats. This year’s community collection kicked off on November 10 and ran through January 7. The general public was asked to donate gently-used winter coats and jackets at any of Best Cleaners’ 33 locations, where they were then cleaned and delivered to Salvation Army centers and shelters in Hartford, Middletown, Meriden, Bristol, New Britain, New Haven, Bridgeport, New London and Waterbury.

The huge uptick in the total number of donated coats came from expanded participation of local schools, youth groups, businesses and Best’s campaign partner, Eyewitness News WFSB-TV 3 and Young’s Printing/Past Signs. WFSB collected over 900 coats at their station headquarters, while many other local organizations held their own collection events. The total value of the donated coats and dry-cleaning services combined is an estimated $515,000. “Each year I am always amazed by the sheer magnitude of giving in our community. This year was exceptional and much credit needs to be given to our volunteers who helped us deliver coats each week, and our campaign partners who helped get the word out throughout the eight week effort,” stated Shawn McCann, President of Best Cleaners and organizer of Coats For Connecticut. “Of course none of it would happen without the hard work of The Salvation Army in getting each donation into the hands of those who need it through the winter months.”

According to Captain, Sienna Jackson of The Salvation Army, “We want to thank the Connecticut community for their continued generosity. Donations reached families in our shelters and feeding programs, as well as individuals assisted through our food pantries and holiday programs. Even more men, women and children stayed warm this winter.”

For more information on the Coats For Connecticut drive go to: www.bestcleaners.com

Karen’s Story

Karen came from a good home in Connecticut with loving parents and was privileged to receive a private high school education. However, Karen had traumatic issues at home that were difficult to overcome, and as a senior in high school, she made bad choices — choices that would affect the next 30 years of her life.

She started drinking and doing drugs at 18 and her life spiraled out of control. She committed her time to getting high and was unable to keep a job. Karen was hungry, homeless and hopeless. “I didn’t care about anybody or anything,” Karen recalls. “It was all about me and what I wanted.”

We met Karen at our soup kitchen in Greater Hartford several years ago. After a brief Bible devotional, a nourishing meal was served. Karen said she didn’t care about the devotional, but she needed to eat. She came, listened, inactively to the devotional and ate. Then Karen stopped coming. Her addiction to crack had fully consumed her life.

Karen resurfaced several years later at The Salvation Army’s Community Center in Hartford. She recognized The Salvation Army staff whom she had seen at the soup kitchen before. They welcomed her back and provided her with a nourishing meal and compassionate support. Eventually, she was encouraged to try The Salvation Army’s Celebrate Recovery program. Celebrate Recovery offers a space for those who struggle with life’s difficulties or addictions to come together — at no cost — to find real and practical solutions through the Bible, small group studies, fellowship and worship. Karen was skeptical, particularly because she felt there was no God. Certainly if there was, He wouldn’t allow the life “she was stuck in” to continue. But, Karen came anyway.

The first step was to report to The Salvation Army every day to participate in a Bible study that would take a year to complete.

Envoy Pat Wood said, “Every morning, she would come here and work on her Bible study and stay out of that [crack] house.”

During Karen’s daily visits, she was surrounded by caring people who provided her with a budding faith that soon became her lifetime. Karen managed to become sober on her own, despite living in the same unhealthy setting while searching for alternative housing. Although everyone around her was getting high, she no longer had the desire to join them.

Because of caring donors, The Salvation Army was able to offer Karen the spiritual, physical and emotional support she desperately needed. She has been clean for four years now and volunteers daily at The Salvation Army mentoring others to sobriety. She has faith, hope and a new life. Through your investment in our work, we invested in Karen and others like her. Karen’s story is one of redemption, but really, it is a story about you. Through your philanthropic support, you have lifted Karen — quite literally — out of a crack house and nourished her body and soul. Your gifts of support will help us continue to transform lives like Karen’s — at their point of greatest need. Thank you.

Watch Karen’s story on our YouTube page: The Salvation Army CTRI or tinyurl.com/KarenSNE

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