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THE MOST  
GOOD™

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE SALVATION ARMY CONTINUES SERVING THOSE IN NEED DESPITE  
CHALLENGES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

*Shelter-in-place mandates in PA & DE force changes in how the non-profit organization  
provides critical services during health crisis*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** – The Salvation Army of Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware (EPA) continues to feed and shelter those in need in the community despite many new challenges due to the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) global pandemic. With shelter-in-place mandates from the Governors of Pennsylvania, Delaware and the Mayor of Philadelphia now in place, The Salvation Army has transitioned its feeding services in order to limit person-to-person contact. In complying with local and state government recommendations and mandates, we are now using our *Corps at the Door* approach at all of our feeding facilities. Division-wide feeding programs are attempting to mitigate the spread of the virus by providing food items in boxes or bags that clients either: a) pick up outside of our facilities, or b) have our workers place into their car trunks while wearing gloves and practicing social distancing.

Ensuring the safety of those who depend on The Salvation Army's programs and services, along with the safety of staff and volunteers, remains our utmost priority.

Our shelters are open and operating with scrupulous hygiene practices and social distancing in place. In addition to receiving warmth and a place to sleep, residents in our shelters continue to receive three meals a day and snacks.

Our non-critical services are on hold until further notice, including: Senior programs, After School Programs, Bible Studies, men's and women's ministries and youth programming. Multiple fundraising events across the division have been cancelled or postponed until further notice.

“Wide-ranging restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19 have dwindled our volunteer manpower that we usually rely on to help us during crises, forcing The Salvation Army to make tough decisions regarding our services, as well as how to administer services,” explained Lt. Col. Larry Ashcraft, Divisional Commander for The Salvation Army EPA Division. “We don't want to put any of our volunteers' lives in jeopardy. Using our own staff, we will continue providing the critical necessities of food and shelter because some people won't get a meal unless we



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provide it. There is no quarantine for hunger. There is no quarantine for homelessness. The Salvation Army will stand in the gap, as we've done for over 150 years, helping the marginalized no matter how many curve balls the virus throws."

While no Salvation Army EPA employee or client has been diagnosed with COVID-19, we are closely monitoring our facilities, workers and clients. Additionally, we are tracking current statistics through CDC reporting. Our Incident Management Team is regularly interfacing with local, state and federal authorities, and we are operating out of an abundance of caution, proactively planning for a variety of outcomes, and adapting to changes that come almost daily.

We are an Army of caring individuals who will do all that we can. To feed. To shelter. To help. To care.

To help us stay on the front lines providing much-needed resources to area communities during this critical health crisis, *Donate by Distance* at [pendel.salvationarmy.org](https://pendel.salvationarmy.org).

You can also give by texting HELP TODAY to 41444.

To donate by check, mail your contribution to: The Salvation Army-HOPE, 701 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19123.

Please refer all corporate gift offers to Stan Retif at [stan.retif@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:stan.retif@use.salvationarmy.org).

**About The Salvation Army:**

*The Salvation Army of Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware is a faith-based, comprehensive human service organization whose programs help individuals, families and whole communities lead healthier, safer and more productive lives. Since 1879, The Army has held a record of accomplishment stemming from its holistic approach to providing for the needs of the whole individual – physically, emotionally, economically and spiritually. The Army's programming serves every zip code in Eastern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and Delaware through 48 community centers and a network of compassionate volunteers. Programs and services historically include: shelter, food distribution, counseling, early childhood development, recreational opportunities, music programs, after-school arts and educational programs, job training, activities for older adults, spiritual development, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation.*

**Mission Statement:**

*The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.*

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