



THE SALVATION ARMY CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**“Investment
in early childhood
development yields an
extraordinary return, far
exceeding the return on most
investments, private or
public”**

**-Art Rolnick and Rob
Grunewald, Minneapolis
Federal Reserve**



INVESTING IN CHILDREN AND THE FUTURE OF MASSACHUSETTS

In Massachusetts, there are 19,000 low-income families with children eligible for daycare vouchers. The State is able to provide 11,000 of these families with vouchers, leaving about 8,000 families with the challenge of finding affordable high-quality, safe daycare.

The Salvation Army Children's Scholarship Fund will provide the financial resources needed to enable families to afford high quality, safe daycare and aftercare. The goal of the Scholarship Fund is to raise \$200,000 annually in charitable contributions for families who qualify for vouchers from the State but do not receive either a voucher or an open contract spot at one of the Salvation Army programs in the greater Boston area.

Each week day of the school year 295 children attend one of The Salvation Army pre-school and afterschool programs in the greater Boston area.

The Salvation Army is dedicated to the care of children through nurture, enrichment, education and support, and we believe that investing time,

resources and attention in these children will mean a brighter future for them, their families and the Commonwealth.

The families who rely on these Salvation Army daycare and afterschool programs are living at or below the poverty level or are homeless, single-parent households. These are hard-working families trying to do the best for their children. Affording high quality daycare would not be feasible for these families without some form of financial assistance.

At the Salvation Army facilities described above, annually, about 135-150 children whose families do not have a voucher or contract slot, receive a subsidized rate to attend the



The Scholarship Fund supports

- Our Place homeless children's daycare center at the Cambridge Corps
- Daycare and afterschool programs at the Children's Learning Center in Dorchester
- Afterschool program at the South End Corps
- Afterschool program at the Lynn Corps



Childcare Programs that Make a Difference

Our Place homeless children's daycare center, Cambridge

The Our Place center for homeless children opened its doors at The Salvation Army Cambridge Corps Community Center in 1987 at a time when no other human service agency was providing day care services for homeless children. Our Place was the first licensed day care center of its kind in

Massachusetts, and today it

is one of only four day care centers for homeless children in the Boston area. Of the 46 children currently enrolled at Our Place more than 50 percent come from Boston, and historically half of the families accessing the facility have been referred to the center by Boston shelters.

Children ages two point nine months to five years old qualify to attend Our Place if they are living in a Boston area homeless shelter, domestic violence shelter or transitional housing with their parent or guardian. For most children attending the program, Our Place is the only consistent part of their daily routine, and the center's success stories are well known by the

High quality programs level the playing field for children

program. The families provide some level of payment toward this rate based on a sliding fee scale. In accordance with our contractual agreement with the Commonwealth, The Salvation Army must provide the balance of the cost for these families daily rate through private charitable contributions.

To ensure a consistent resource of private funding that will enable the Salvation Army to maintain the subsidized rates while growing quality programming, more than \$200,000 is needed to meet our annual goal. Thus, The Salvation Army Scholarship Fund was created to inform donors about the daycare and afterschool programs and ensure that these children have the same opportunities as those who have the ability to pay for care.

courts, shelters and social workers, who continuously refer homeless parents to the center as a proven resource for returning homeless individuals to self-sustainability, having a dramatic impact in the lives of at-risk children, and restoring hope that a better future is in sight.

The Children's Learning Center (CLC), Dorchester

The Children's Learning Center in Dorchester is the longest running Salvation Army childcare center in Massachusetts. The center has capacity to serve 65 pre-school aged children and 30 school-aged children in its afterschool program. The CLC has provided safe, nurturing, educational and high quality daycare and afterschool programs for more than 5,000 families since its inception.

The CLC provides high quality programs and care that teaches age-appropriate learning skills, including reading, writing and math. The care and support from the staff also teaches important life skills that prepare the children for school and for the many challenges life often brings. For the parents of children at CLC, they are assured that their children are being nurtured, loved and cared for during the day by the compassionate, talented staff.

"Learning and motivation are dynamic, cumulative processes. Skill begets skill; learning begets learning. Early disadvantage, if left untouched, leads to academic and social difficulties later in life. Early advantages accumulate, just as early disadvantages do."

-James Heckman and Dimitriy Masterov, Committee for Economic Development



Afterschool Program, Boston South End

The Salvation Army South End Corps Community Center afterschool program focuses heavily on the well-being of children. Understanding the importance of education, the program provides homework assistance and tutoring; recreational activities and spiritual guidance; and an afternoon snack and during the school year a nutritious dinner. The afterschool program, with a capacity to serve 64 children, is one of the only places in the community that children can go to grow and learn in a safe environment during the hours between school and bedtime. During the summer, the program expands to a capacity of 115 children in its day camp program.

Kid's Club, Lynn

The “Kid’s Club” afterschool program at the Lynn Corps Community Center, with a capacity for 39 children focuses on nurturing, educating, and caring for kids. Besides tutoring and homework, the children involved in this program also have a snack, access the gym for physical activity, enjoy arts and crafts projects, read or listen during story time, experience music education, cooking classes, book clubs, and spiritual development.

“85 percent of who you are—your intellect, your personality, your social skills—is developed by age five. Let’s invest where it makes the most difference.”

-Massachusetts Early Education for All

Parents of children at these these afterschool programs are assured that while they are working or managing family issues that their children are safe, nurtured and nourished. By the time parents pick their children up from the program, they are assured that the child is fed, homework is done and quality interaction has taken place. As a result, these parents feel less stress and can focus on quality time with their children at home after a long day.

The Value of Affordable, Safe, High-Quality Childcare

Maintaining steady employment or gaining job training and education is unlikely to occur for any working parent without reliable childcare. For low-income and single parents, the availability, consistency, and quality of childcare programs is even more important. Without access to affordable childcare, these parents will

have little chance of finding jobs that will support their families. Many parents are forced to choose less desirable alternatives including unlicensed day cares, which are often less reliable, lack comprehensive educational or age appropriate programming, and may be less safe than formal licensed childcare settings.

Children in low-income areas often suffer from a lack of quality child care. Their families do not have the resources to purchase materials such as books and music, and some may also have low literacy levels and less access to information on positive parenting practices, such as limiting television time and encouraging imaginative play. In these situations of inadequate early education, studies indicate that the children will have a lower chance of starting their lives with the step up they will need to succeed in school.

Quality care begins with dedicated staff



IMPACT



How Scholarship Funds Impact Children and Families

Scholarships will be allocated from the Fund based on an annual assessment of available openings and the rates designed for each family in need at the four programs involved as listed on page one, above. The evaluation will be completed and the Funds distributed through standard Salvation Army financial review and other organizational procedures.

Your generosity can have a long-ranging impact not only on individual children – but on their entire family. Having a scholarship means that families don't have to sacrifice quality for affordability. Our lower student to teacher ratios allow more one on one interactions, that in turn helps foster improved language, word retention and capacity, which we know is a key factor in developing reading skills at an early age.

Short-term impacts of a scholarship affect both the child and the family as a whole. The child is able to get a head start on the socialization, cooperative learning, vocabulary skills, and education levels in which at-risk children are often lacking. In turn, the parents have the time to go to work, seek work, or obtain training for a career, all of which creates a more positive home environment for the child.

Looking forward, we know that the availability of high quality, safe, licensed care that is also affordable and available in low-income neighborhoods will have lasting effects. According to several long-term studies, including the High/Scope Perry and Abecedarian studies, there is solid evidence that high-quality education provides substantial benefits to at-risk children, their families, and their communities.

Our vision is for the children to have access to quality early education which will enable them to start school well-prepared, making them much more likely to graduate. The belief that if we provide this foundation that is vital to their future they are more likely to hold jobs, have higher salaries, are less likely to commit crime, and less likely to be on welfare. This leads to community-wide social and financial benefits for all to see.

The childcare programs of the Salvation Army provide the affordable, high-quality, safe childcare solutions for the families in the Cambridge, South End, Dorchester and Lynn neighborhoods that are helping children achieve the success that the research suggests is needed.

Report to Fund Donors

Donors to the Scholarship Fund will receive an annual or periodic report of the Fund's impact on the lives of children involved.

The Salvation Army Children's Scholarship Fund

Massachusetts State Headquarters
25 Shawmut Road
Canton, MA 02021





CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Yes, I would like to create a Brighter Future for Young children.

Please find enclosed my gift of \$_____ for The Salvation Army Scholarship Fund, which is used to provide scholarships for Salvation Army pre-school and after-school children that are not subsidized by the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires written documentation from the donor to indicate the donor's intent to restrict their gift to this Scholarship Fund. We would appreciate your signature for this purpose.

Please provide your signature here: _____

Scholarships will be allocated from the Fund based on an annual assessment of available openings and the rates designed for each family in need at the four programs involved in the Scholarship Fund program. The evaluation will be completed and the Funds distributed through standard Salvation Army financial review and other organizational procedures. We appreciate your trust in allowing The Salvation Army to determine the most beneficial distribution of the funds each year.

Donor's Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

I have enclosed a check payable to The Salvation Army.

Please charge my credit card.

AMEX MasterCard Visa

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD

_____/_____/_____



DOING THE MOST GOOD

**The Salvation Army
Children's Scholarship Fund**

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