



EL PASO CONNECTION

APRIL 2026

A Monthly Newsletter of The Salvation Army of El Paso

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: MUSIC & ARTS CONSERVATORY SUMMER PROGRAM

Registration is now open for the Music & Arts Conservatory of The Salvation Army, offering an exciting summer opportunity for young people to grow in their musical abilities, explore creative arts, and develop their gifts in a supportive, faith-centered environment.

This year's Conservatory will take place from June 15 through July 12, meeting Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The program is designed for students ages 9-14 and provides a structured day of instruction in music, arts, and performance.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn from experienced instructors, build foundational skills in instrumental and vocal music, and engage in creative arts activities that encourage expression, discipline, and teamwork.

Beyond technical training, the Conservatory emphasizes character development, collaboration, and spiritual growth. Students will be encouraged to use their talents to serve others and glorify God through music and the arts. The program ends with a graduation concert at The Salvation Army church where families and friends can celebrate the progress and achievements of the participants.

Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged. Visit salvationarmyelpaso.org to register or learn more.



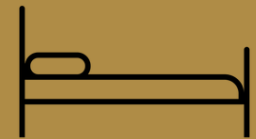
Schools with music programs have an estimated 90.2% graduation rate, compared to 72.9% at schools without music programs.

Students who participate in band or orchestra have the lowest levels of lifelong use of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs among groups in our society.



MONTHLY IMPACT REPORT

March 1 - March 31



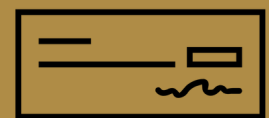
2,543

NIGHTS OF SHELTER



6,048

TOTAL MEALS



\$6,357

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



442

VOLUNTEER HOURS



Leslie Martinez Installed as Corps Sergeant Major

On Sunday, March 22, the El Paso Citadel Corps installed Leslie Martinez as the new Corps Sergeant Major, a two-year leadership appointment within The Salvation Army church.

The Corps Sergeant Major serves as a senior local leader who supports the corps officers in ministry, helps strengthen the spiritual life of the congregation, and sets an example of faithful service, discipleship, and commitment to The Salvation Army's mission.

Leslie Martinez has already demonstrated strong leadership across multiple areas of ministry. She serves as the Corps Cadet Counselor, guiding young people as they complete structured lessons in Christian living, leadership, and service within The Salvation Army.

Leslie is also the leader of the praise team, organizing weekly rehearsals and helping lead worship each Sunday.

In addition, she volunteers every Wednesday with the Troops youth program and supports Community Care Ministry through nursing home visits, extending the corps' presence to those in the broader community.

Leslie also takes lead in coordinating the El Paso Citadel Corps' participation in the Red Kettle Campaign. Under her leadership, Citadel volunteers filled the highest number of bell-ringing volunteer slots among participating groups and helped raise more than \$9,000 for this annual fundraiser.

TX YOUTH COUNCILS 2026



Youth Councils Weekend Celebrates Faith & Leadership

Texas Youth Councils is an annual Salvation Army event that brings together young people from across the state for a weekend focused on worship, Christian fellowship, leadership development, and spiritual growth.

Held in Midlothian near Dallas, the event requires a long road trip for the youth from El Paso, but provides a meaningful opportunity to connect with other Salvation Army youth while strengthening their faith and commitment to serving others.

Throughout the weekend, participants enjoyed worship services, line dancing, horseback riding, swimming, feeding the longhorns, and other camp activities.

The El Paso Citadel Corps was especially proud to celebrate two delegates who were recognized during the event. Jessica Sawyer received the Sue Byers Youth Leader of the Year Award, and Christopher Martinez was honored with a Texas Youth Spotlight Award.

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BECAUSE HE
FIRST
LOVED US."
1 JOHN 4:19**



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