

The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte

IMPACT REPORT

2025



IN THIS EDITION:

19 UNIQUE
WAYS

To Support Your
Salvation Army This Year

**"I Just Thank God for
The Salvation Army"**

A Testimony of Hope

PLUS

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The Salvation Army's Advisory Board is proud to share this annual report and reflect on the meaningful work The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte accomplished over the past year.

This year was marked by major milestones, collaborations, and a shared commitment to meet people where they are. With support from donors, volunteers, and community partners, we continue to advance our mission and strengthen our programs and services for individuals and families in Mecklenburg and Union Counties.

The Advisory Board remains committed to providing strategic guidance, advocacy, and support as The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte adapts to evolving needs and looks toward the future. I am encouraged by the impact reflected in this report and confident in the direction ahead.

Monica Chavis, Board Chair



Arriving in Charlotte in June 2025, we hit the ground running, getting to know community partners, supporters, volunteers and donors. Some of the most meaningful conversations we have are with those who give of their time and energy to care for those in need in our community.

We have faced many challenges this year, and we know there will be more in the days ahead. But, what brings us encouragement is knowing that we don't walk alone. We have an "Army" of partners like you walking with us, and a God who promises to strengthen us and help us: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

In the pages of this report, you see stats and stories showcasing the impact of The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte last year. You've played an important role in each life touched, and for that we are incredibly grateful.

We hope you will be encouraged by what you read and that you will continue to partner with us to change many more lives together in the next year.

Majors Andrew & Hazel Wiley



**The Salvation Army
of Greater Charlotte**

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Highlights *of service*

Opposite page: 1. Teens from the Sedgefield Red Shield Youth Center harvest tomatoes from the on-site Learning Garden. 2. Volunteers from Keller Williams grill out for residents at the Center of Hope. 3. Volunteers from RSM lead a rousing game of kickball for Red Shield Youth Center kids. 4. UNC-Charlotte football players serve a meal at the Center of Hope. 5. Red Shield Youth Center members have fun with Sir Purr at a special flag football clinic hosted by the Carolina Panthers. 6. Hundreds of children received Christmas gifts - and bikes - thanks to the Angel Tree program. 7. Center of Hope staff create a fun and festive atmosphere during the Halloween season.

This page: 8. Belmont Avenue Red Shield Youth Center kids enjoy a day at the trampoline park. 9. Bank of America volunteers join forces with the Charlotte Hornets to put together snack packs at Spectrum Center. 10. Red Shield Youth Center members enjoy STEM projects. 11. Belmont Avenue Red Shield Youth Center members show off their beautiful creations. 12. Charlotte Hornets star Miles Bridges stops by the Belmont Avenue Red Shield Youth Center to offer a basketball clinic...and a few selfies.





14,820

People served through The Salvation Army's programs.



156

Families rehoused through The Salvation Army's rapid rehousing and SHIP programs.



257

Children who found a safe place to learn and grow at Red Shield Youth Centers.

Year in Review

by the numbers

This collective impact takes thousands of people working together — Salvation Army officers, staff, volunteers, partners, donors and community leaders. Each one of these numbers represents a life that was impacted by your support. A meal, gift, coat or place to sleep is not just a temporary transaction. It's something that can forever change the course of a person's life.

**Statistics represent service in fiscal year 2025 (Oct. 1, 2024 - Sept. 30, 2025).*

499,749

Meals and snacks provided

224,963

Nights of lodging provided

66

Men graduated from the Adult Rehabilitation Center program



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30,397
Gifts distributed



16,730
Articles of clothing distributed

5,312
Volunteers

16,827
Volunteer hours served



19 Unique Ways to Support Your Local Salvation Army

1. Follow, like and share content on your social media platforms.
2. Subscribe to our regular emails to stay up-to-date on opportunities and impact.
3. Sponsor or serve a meal at our Center of Hope shelter.
4. Host a “Dignity Drive” at your office or church to collect new underwear for the women and children at the shelter.
5. Assemble “Hope Bundles” for children at the shelter, including items such as journals, colored pencils, a stuffed animal, games, socks and other goodies.
6. Provide a “Welcome Home Basket” for families transitioning from shelter to housing. These are laundry baskets with much needed household essentials.
7. Ask your favorite local restaurant to consider a donation for The Salvation Army — this could range from a gift card for use in a silent auction to at-the-register donation campaigns.
8. Set up a recurring monthly donation to fund critical local programs.
9. Attend an annual event hosted by The Salvation Army — we annually host fundraising and awareness breakfasts, luncheons and golf tournaments.
10. Assemble snack packs for our students at the Red Shield Youth Centers.
11. Volunteer to help students at the Red Shield Youth Centers with homework.
12. Sponsor summer field trips or a week at Camp Walter Johnson, The Salvation Army’s 340-acre camp in Denton, NC.
13. Organize your friends, church or civic organization to collect loose change in baby bottles — funds that will support the single moms at the Center of Hope.
14. Join the Women’s Auxiliary or Echelon Charlotte (Young Professionals) and give your time, talent and treasure consistently to the work of The Salvation Army.
15. Donate non-perishable food items for our on-site food pantry serving families in our Supportive Housing Innovative Partnership (SHIP) program.
16. At Christmas, ring a bell at the Red Kettle, adopt an Angel from the Angel Tree and host a toy drive.
17. Donate clothing, furniture or household items to the Thrift Store. Or, go above and beyond and organize with your neighbors and arrange a neighborhood pickup.
18. Shop our online registries to order much needed supplies, such as linens, washcloths and blankets, that can be shipped directly to our location.
19. Collect school supplies to support our children at the Red Shield Youth Centers and Center of Hope.



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE!



How We Serve the Community...



Homelessness Services

Through The Salvation Army Center of Hope and its programs, we help women and children experiencing homelessness with their immediate needs of food and shelter, while working with them to provide a successful path to stability. Located two miles north of Uptown Charlotte, the Center of Hope sleeps an average of 290 women and children every night, and offers them the stability they need as they get back on their feet. An active member of the Homeless Services Network, The Salvation Army is a leader in helping families transition into permanent, affordable housing.

The Salvation Army follows a housing-first model, reflecting best practices from across the nation for permanently moving families out of homelessness. Last year, we rapidly rehoused 253 households, providing rental subsidies while individuals gained employment or worked to increase their income. Eighty-five percent (85%) exited this short-term program into permanent housing. Through our Supportive Housing Innovative Partnership (SHIP) with Inlivan, the local housing authority, we served 67 families, providing them with long-term housing stability while they received job training, attended school and increased their savings.

HOW TO HELP:
Adopt or serve a meal at the Center of Hope.

Donate critical items such as toiletries, linens, blankets or diapers.

Assemble “Welcome Home” baskets for families exiting the shelter into housing.



Youth Development

Through Red Shield Youth Centers, The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte has served children for more than 90 years, making it one of the most experienced and trusted providers of out-of-school programs for children in grades K–12 in the area. Parents have continued to rely on these programs, not just because of the affordable membership cost, but most importantly, because they can trust the organization and the people.

Many of our staff members have made mentoring youth their life’s work. Our history of service demonstrates our dedication to helping young people overcome challenges and open up a world of possibility. Programs include academics, leadership & workforce development, health & wellness, and character & spiritual formation. The Red Shield Youth Centers serve families across the community, many living in neighborhoods with lower median income, higher crime rates and lower performing schools.

HOW TO HELP:
Volunteer to help a child with homework.

Collect school supplies.

Coordinate involvement from your company or group to volunteer on-site, work on a beautification project, or assemble snack packs.



Christmas Assistance

Since the beginning, The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte has been there for families in need during Christmas, through its Angel Tree (children 12 and under) and Silver Bells (seniors 62 and up) programs. Each year, thanks to the generosity of the community, thousands of children and hundreds of seniors in need receive Christmas gifts.

HOW TO HELP:
Volunteer at the Christmas Center or ring the bell during the Red Kettle Campaign.

Adopt Angels from the Angel Tree or seniors through the Silver Bells program.

Make a financial donation, or donate toys or gift cards.



...And How You Can Partner.



Emergency Disaster Relief

Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) brings together Salvation Army officers, staff and volunteers to provide food, shelter, clothing and spiritual comfort to first responders and survivors of disasters in the area and throughout the nation. Floods, fires and hurricanes do devastating harm, and since 1900, The Salvation Army has offered aid to people in places where we can do the most good — and stay as long as we are needed.

HOW TO HELP:

Donate to disaster relief at HelpSalvationArmy.org.

Sign up and train to become a disaster volunteer to serve during local and regional disasters.



Adult Rehabilitation

When you donate to one of the Salvation Army Thrift Stores in the Charlotte area, you are helping to change the lives of men in our community battling substance abuse, giving them a new beginning. Proceeds from the Thrift Stores support the Adult Rehabilitation Center, which serves 116 men at a time, providing housing and support to help them recognize the value of their lives and transition from chemical dependency to self-sufficiency.

HOW TO HELP:

Donate furniture, clothing and household goods - call 1-800-SA-TRUCK or visit SATruck.org to schedule a pick up.

Shop at local Salvation Army Thrift Stores.



Summer Camp

Continuing a long-standing tradition of Salvation Army camp programs in the Carolinas, 340-acre Camp Walter Johnson was opened in Denton, NC, in 1974. Each summer, youth from Salvation Army units all over the Carolinas come to Camp Walter Johnson on High Rock Lake for a life-changing week. Every year, The Salvation Army in Charlotte sends dozens of students to camp. At Camp Walter Johnson, children can experience a variety of fun, outdoor activities and participate in specialized camps, such as performing arts and music.

HOW TO HELP:

Send a kid to camp with a \$250 donation.

Join Our Text List



When you join our “Ambassadors of Hope” text list, you will be the first to know about urgent needs, volunteer opportunities or major announcements. Text **“Hope”** to **(833) 709-1052**. You can unsubscribe at any time, and we will never send more than 4 messages a month. Standard message and data rates may apply.

Communities of Faith | Worship Centers (Corps)



Charlotte is home to two Salvation Army Worship Centers where people from all walks of life can find healing and a sense of family through weekly worship services, Bible studies, music programs and activities for seniors and youth.

HOW TO HELP:

Attend weekly programs at one of the Worship Center locations, 940 Marsh Road or 901 Belmont Avenue.

HOMELESSNESS

“I Just Thank God for The Salvation Army”

Shaina Little, a mother of 5, received help when she needed it most ... and it changed her life forever.

Shaina Little faced a hardship no mother should have to encounter: housing insecurity.

As a single mother of five, Little always worked hard to make sure her children had a roof over their heads and food on the table, but moving from one place to another was far from easy.

The children often changed schools, and enrollment was not easy because their ages ranged from 3 to 18. Little was often left to watch the youngest because she could not afford daycare, which impacted her ability to work. The money she did make was just enough for her family to get by. There was no extra money for emergencies and no family in town to help. Little was left to juggle everything on her own.

“It was a lot,” said Little.

There was a constant rush of worries flowing through her mind.

‘How are you going to feed your kids?’

‘How are you going to pay for the hotel?’

‘Is your check going to come in time?’

Little was tired of trying to figure it out all on her own, so she put her pride aside and turned to The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte. Little and her family moved into The Salvation Army’s Center of Hope women and children

shelter, where they had a stable place to lay their heads and where three meals a day were served.

“It was a very humbling moment, but a grateful moment at the same time,” she said. “We had a roof over our head, were being fed, and were able to bathe. I was able to have a little peace of mind with my kids.”

While at the shelter, Little was paired with social workers Maria Gibbs-Deberry and Shamecca Davis, who helped her secure a job, reach her financial goals and ultimately get her back on her feet.

“I appreciate that they go above and beyond,” she said. “If it weren’t for them, I wouldn’t have been able to meet some of the goals I have met today.”



Now, Little and her family live in the Hampton Creste Apartments through the Supportive Housing Innovative Partnership (SHIP) program of The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte. With the help of her social workers, she found affordable childcare for her youngest so she could return to school, something Little had talked about doing for years. She’s earned her electrocardiogram technician (EKG) certification and plans to take classes to become a Certified Medical Assistant (CMA). Her oldest child, now a high school graduate, is following in their mother’s footsteps, entering the medical field as well.

Little wants to set the example for her children by showing them that anything is possible once you put your mind to it. What keeps her motivated? She says hearing her kids say, ‘Mom, I’m proud of you.’

“The Salvation Army gave me and my kids a place to stay and helped us out,” she said. “If it wasn’t for them, I don’t know where I would have been right now.”

SCAN TO HEAR SHAINA'S STORY:



2025 State of Homelessness

*Excerpts from the 2025 State of Housing and Homelessness Report released by Mecklenburg County.
Authored by Mary Ann Priester, PhD, MSW, Mecklenburg County Community Support Services*

The 2025 State of Housing Instability and Homelessness report provides a comprehensive view of housing conditions across the full housing continuum from instability to homelessness to stable housing. Produced annually by Mecklenburg County Community Support Services, the report integrates local, regional, and national data sources to assess housing instability, homelessness, and access to stable housing, offering critical insight into both system performance and structural challenges.

The 2025 report highlights the growing pressures facing households across Mecklenburg County and underscores the structural factors driving housing instability. Taken together, the findings show that housing instability remains widespread, homelessness persists, and deeply affordable housing remains critically insufficient to meet community need. These trends reinforce the importance of coordinated strategies that address both immediate housing crises and the upstream conditions that place households at risk.

Housing cost burden is one of the clearest indicators of housing instability. In 2024, half of renter households in Mecklenburg County were

cost-burdened, meaning they spent more than 30% of their income on housing. Nearly one in four were severely cost-burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. These pressures are no longer limited to the

The findings show that housing instability remains widespread, homelessness persists, and deeply affordable housing remains critically insufficient to meet community need.

lowest-income households. Cost burden has increased across income levels, including among moderate-income households, reflecting a widening gap between wages and housing costs.

Rent has increased dramatically over the past decade, rising 40% since 2014, while wages, particularly for low-wage workers, have not kept pace. At the same time, the supply of low-cost rental housing has sharply declined. As a

result, the affordability gap is especially severe for households with extremely low incomes. There are approximately three extremely low-income households for every one rental unit they can afford, leaving most households with no choice but to rent units beyond their means and increasing their risk of housing instability.

Eviction filings increased sharply in fiscal year 2025, with more than 52,000 filings, almost two-thirds of which resulted in eviction orders being granted in whole or in part. An eviction filing can make it significantly more difficult to secure future housing, contributing to prolonged housing instability and increasing the risk of homelessness. These trends illustrate how economic pressures, combined with limited affordable housing, can quickly push households from stability into crisis.

Homelessness continues to affect thousands of Mecklenburg County residents each year. The annual number of people experiencing homelessness increased by 6% between fiscal year 2023 and fiscal year 2024, with many individuals experiencing homelessness for the first time. In 2024, 71% of people in shelter or transitional housing were experiencing homelessness for the first time, highlighting the growing number of households being pushed into homelessness by economic and housing market pressures. At the same time, exits to permanent housing have declined. In fiscal year 2020, 38% of people exited the homeless services system into permanent housing. By fiscal year 2024, that share had decreased to just 25%. This decline reflects the growing shortage of affordable housing options available to help people successfully exit homelessness. Emergency shelters continue to operate near capacity, and while housing programs demonstrate strong outcomes when available, limited housing supply constrains system flow. Despite continued local investment, deeply affordable housing and long-term rental subsidies remain insufficient to meet demand. Persistent affordability gaps, especially for extremely low-income households, continue to drive housing instability and homelessness.

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Long-term, deeply affordable housing is essential for achieving lasting reductions in homelessness. Permanent Supportive Housing provides critical housing stability for individuals and families with the lowest incomes and highest support needs. However, the supply of these units and subsidies remains limited. In 2025, Charlotte-Mecklenburg had approximately 1,216 permanent supportive housing units, with demand far exceeding availability.

Housing Choice Voucher wait times reflect this shortage. The average wait time exceeds nine years, demonstrating the scale of unmet need for long-term housing assistance.

While short- and medium-term rental assistance programs, such as rapid rehousing, play an important role in stabilizing households, they cannot fully address the needs of households facing long-term affordability challenges. These programs are most effective when paired with an increased supply of deeply affordable housing. Local investments, including the Housing Trust Fund, have added thousands of affordable housing units. However, the supply of housing affordable to households earning at or below 30% of Area Median Income remains insufficient relative to demand.

Housing instability and homelessness are not driven by individual choices alone. This report highlights three primary systemic drivers: Insufficient income and income inequality; lack of affordable and available housing; and structural and systemic inequities. These factors interact to shape housing outcomes and disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities. The report also underscores the connection between housing instability and broader economic trends. Mecklenburg County's population has grown rapidly, increasing demand for housing, while wages for many workers remain insufficient to afford market rents.

While local investments and system improvements have strengthened Mecklenburg County's housing and homelessness response system, the data make clear that housing affordability remains the central challenge. Preventing housing instability, responding effectively to homelessness, and expanding access to deeply affordable housing will require sustained investment and continued strategic alignment. These efforts are essential to ensuring that all households in Mecklenburg County have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.



Did You Know?

2,678

People in Charlotte experiencing homelessness (as of December 2025); a decrease year over year, however steadily growing throughout the fall of 2025 and up 10 percent from September 2025.

290

Average number of women, children and veterans who sleep at The Salvation Army Center of Hope on any given night.

800

Average nightly census of all Salvation Army shelter and housing programs.

221

Average number of days residents stay at the Center of Hope shelter.

156

The number of households rehoused through The Salvation Army's Rapid Rehousing and SHIP programs, which provides rental subsidies while individuals gain employment or work to increase their income and savings.

29%

The percentage of individuals entering the Center of Hope with a mental health disorder.

39%

The percentage of individuals entering the Center of Hope with a physical disability or chronic health condition.



Finding Calling Through Service

Center of Hope Volunteer Father Paul Tsahakis learns that healing doesn't happen only in hospitals

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” (Mark 16:15)

Father Paul Tsahakis and his ministry volunteers have held Bible study sessions for women and children at The Salvation Army Center of Hope since 2019. During each session, he hands out small wooden crosses to anyone who would like one, reminding them that Jesus is always with them. However, Tsahakis didn't start volunteering as a Greek Orthodox Priest at the Center of Hope. He became familiar with the shelter under a different service.

Tsahakis was a well-known orthopedic spine surgeon for 30 years before he became a full-time priest. While a surgeon, he offered free weekly orthopedic clinics to women at the shelter who had joint pain and couldn't afford to see a specialist. However, clients sought more than an orthopedic check; they yearned for spiritual services. That's when Tsahakis realized his journey to becoming a priest was greater than himself.

“When the women speak from their hearts and souls about the things that happened to them, it's almost like a public confession,” says Tsahakis. “They feel very comfortable talking with me.”

The volunteer group, St. Hermione Home Ministry, attracts an average of 70 women and children every Tuesday for its Bible studies. The group provides organic fresh fruit, pizza and pastries. When available, they even bring clothing

items for clients. The sessions begin with prayer, followed by a scripture reading and an interactive group discussion. The children separate and volunteers facilitate an age-appropriate session.

“It's a very engaged group,” he says. “When I ask if someone would like to comment, ten hands would go up. Many people want to express themselves.”

Our goal is to be present and to bring Christ,” he says. “We always say, ‘they don't need us, but everyone needs Christ.’ So, we try to empty ourselves of ourselves and make that commitment to come every week.

The group also partners with Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) to help women start careers. School representatives come to the shelter once a month to enroll women in their “Walk with Me” program, which allows women to get their GED and learn a vocation concurrently. With sponsorships, the program provides bus tickets for travel to and from CPCC, school supplies, and tutoring.

“[The program] went from very modest, ‘let's have a Bible study’, now to a very well-developed complex offering,” he says.

Before starting this program at the Center of Hope, Tsahakis did not fully understand homelessness. He knew the problem existed, but his world revolved around his work as a surgeon, working long hours in operating rooms for days at a time. That changed when he began volunteering for The Salvation Army. He realized he could make an impact simply by showing up.

Based on surveys conducted by the ministry, there has been an improvement in anxiety and depression levels and decreases in suicidal ideations and substance abuse, thanks to the Bible study sessions.

Some women noted:
“You don't judge us.”
“You treat us with respect.”
“You don't force us to believe.”
“Everyone is welcome.”

And to this day, they carry their little wooden crosses, knowing that Jesus is always with them.

“Our goal is to be present and to bring Christ,” he says. “We always say, ‘they don't need us, but everyone needs Christ.’ So, we try to empty ourselves of ourselves and make that commitment to come every week.”

By showing up every Tuesday, Tsahakis understood something no textbook could teach — healing doesn't happen only in hospitals.



A veteran CMS bus driver battles cancer but ensures her kids will find Christmas joy

For Charlotte resident Pamela Curry and her sons, 9-year-old Elisha and 5-year-old Elian, the holidays used to look very different. On Christmas Eve, Curry and her mom would stay up late into the night, chatting and wrapping presents. They'd decorate the house, toast one another — Curry with coffee and her mom with ginger ale — and give a prayer of thanks that they could celebrate Christmas together.

Curry would keep wrapping while her mom prepared a feast for the next day. “That was the best food in the world,” she said, reminiscing about the annual meal that included turkey, macaroni salad, collard greens and Curry’s favorite — homemade cornbread and turkey giblet dressing.

But about three years ago, everything changed. In the span of a few months, Curry lost her oldest son’s father to a heart attack and her beloved mother fell gravely ill. Ten days after burying her mother, Curry was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. She was unable to return to her longtime job as a bus driver for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. And with money so tight, she also worried about her boys and the upcoming holidays. There have been a couple years, she said, where her kids woke up on Christmas Day and there was nothing under

the tree. “And I told them we’ll celebrate Christmas later when I get some money,” she said. That’s where

The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte’s annual Angel Tree program comes in. This year, Curry’s kids [joined] the thousands of Charlotte-area children who [received] gifts of clothes and toys under the Christmas tree again this year, thanks to contributors to the program. In cases where donors don’t step up, Charlotte Observer readers cover the expense by giving to the Empty Stocking Fund, which the Observer has sponsored since about 1920.

Among The Salvation Army’s most popular efforts, Angel Tree matches children in need with anonymous donors who buy them presents for Christmas. Senior citizens and people with disabilities also receive gifts.

Since her diagnosis, Curry has been in and out of the hospital, going through chemotherapy and radiation

treatments, several surgeries and some health complications. A nurse now comes five days a week to help

Curry. Still fighting to get her own short-term disability payments, she and her family are living off the death and disability payments of her older son’s father. After paying bills, Curry said she’s lucky to have \$5 left over.



“Thank God I get food stamps,” Curry said, “...so we never go hungry. But every year I have a hard time with holidays or Christmas and at least having a few toys and having a few outfits or coats.”

Following her mom’s death and her own cancer diagnosis, Curry has been unable to return to her job with CMS, a position she held for about 18 years. Curry said the family has been “blessed” a couple times by anonymous gifts, kindness that brought her to tears. The family also participated in the Angel Tree program in 2021, and Curry was deeply moved by that experience.

She remembers how the woman at the Salvation Army asked if she had a coat. When she told her she didn’t, the worker offered her one, along with gloves, a warm hat and a Christmas stocking. “And I just broke down crying because I told the lady, ‘Y’all supposed to do it for the kids.’ The woman told her she knew “sometimes the parents need a little smile on their face.” “I was going through so much that I wasn’t expecting it,” Curry said. “Angel Tree is helping out tremendously,” Curry said, “because this year I didn’t have any help.”

Curry said she’s been dealing with depression and unable to do many of the things that she used to do for Christmas. She especially misses the Christmas dinner her mom used to make. But she is getting excited seeing her kids’ enthusiasm. She wants to make the holidays as special as possible for them. With some money her nurse gave her, Curry was able to purchase a tree and some decorations from Family Dollar. She and the kids make cookies for Santa and she’ll help them write a Christmas letter to him.

“I’m going to turn the fireplace on and make it like we’re sitting in front of a real fire, and drink hot chocolate and eat marshmallows and watch a good family movie,” she said, “and just have a good time.”

GIVE WITH J Y



Your monthly gift brings joy to local families in need this holiday season - and throughout the year.

SalvationArmyCharlotte.org



Breaking Barriers to Become a Shining Example for Others

Imagine a child's first day in a new after-school program. Everything feels new, emotions run high, and the child worries about fitting in and making new friends. Now, consider the added challenge of a language barrier. This was the reality for Yasmine Moujahid as a kindergartener.

Like many other families, Moujahid and her brother attended Sedgefield's Red Shield Youth Center for its affordable after-school care, a program that helped their parents, but was actually difficult for Moujahid.

"I was a closed-off child," she says. "I didn't make many friends because I struggled with the language barrier, which was a huge problem."

Moujahid grew up speaking Arabic and French, leaving her behind in English during grade school, something assistant director Fred Williams noticed while she was doing her homework. So, Williams did what any other staff member would do at the Red Shield Youth Center and started tutoring Moujahid in reading. They began by reading simple books with pictures, like Dr. Seuss, then moved to chapter books and progressed until she was comfortable reading on her own.



"When working at the Center, they teach you to always be inclusive," says Williams. "So, I made it my mission to get her to where everybody else was so she could have a fair chance of being at the Center."

"I was a closed-off child. I didn't make many friends because I struggled with the language barrier, which was a huge problem."

Twelve years later, Moujahid blossomed into a confident, friendly and selfless teen. When she graduated in 2025 from Harper Middle College High School, she concurrently earned her high school diploma and an associate's degree in science through Central Piedmont Community College. Moujahid was involved in several clubs at school, including the International Student Organization, National Honor Society, and Student Council. She was also named the Red Shield Youth Center's Student of the Year and awarded a college scholarship from the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary. With the scholarship program, Moujahid also has access to mentorship from Women's Auxiliary members, who keep in regular contact with her.

Moujahid still enjoys coming to the Sedgefield Red Shield Youth Center. She speaks highly of the program and explains how it has shaped her into the person she is today through lessons, programs and volunteerism.

"It gives you the opportunity to know people and make friends," says Moujahid. "After school, you get your homework done, have snack time, and participate in a lot of activities. It's a lot of fun!"



SCAN TO HEAR YASMINE'S STORY

Outside of school, Moujahid was a barista at Waterbean Coffee Shop and participated in a volunteer program at Atrium Health. She loves puzzles, listening to R&B and French music, dancing, and hanging out with her family and friends. Today, she attends Queens University and aspires to be a dentist. She's already had the opportunity to job shadow. She looks forward to interning soon, attending dental school, and eventually, opening her own practice.

Williams played a huge role in Moujahid's upbringing at Sedgefield Red Shield Youth Center, teaching her to read while instilling advice and lessons she can use throughout life.

"My goal when I first started at the Youth Center was for all my kids that I started with, who were in kindergarten at the time, to graduate," says Williams. "Not only to graduate, but to become the model citizens that I know they can be."

Although Williams was sad to see Moujahid officially leave the program, he's proud and knows she will have no problem conquering anything she puts her mind to.

THE SALVATION ARMY RED SHIELD YOUTH CENTERS

Founded in 1934, The Salvation Army's local Red Shield Youth Centers have a long-standing track record of serving and supporting kids in our community. In 2025, the national partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America came to a close, and The Salvation Army returned to its roots of serving youth with its own programs, partners and curriculum.

75 Average number children attending daily afterschool programs at two local Red Shield Youth Centers.

96% Percentage of Red Shield Youth Center participants achieving a C average or better, much higher than their peers.

92% Percentage of Red Shield Youth Center students attending school regularly and avoiding the label of being "chronically absent." By comparison, statewide, about 25% of students are considered chronically absent.



SCAN TO SEE WHAT A TYPICAL DAY IS LIKE AT THE RED SHIELD YOUTH CENTER!



Salvation Army Red Shield Youth Center Helps Teen Find His Way

"If it wasn't for this place, I would probably be doing things I have no business doing."

Micah Grier is a teen student who's been coming to the Red Shield Youth Center on Belmont Avenue every summer since he was five. He loves playing basketball in the gym, hanging out in the teen room with his friends and helping around the center. Grier is a respectful young man who understands how valuable his future is, something that wasn't clear to him when he was younger.

Grier describes his younger self as angry and explosive. He would throw tantrums when he didn't get his way. Felicia Cohen, the site director for the Red Shield Youth Center on Belmont Avenue, remembers his behavior all too well.

"He would blow up out of nowhere," said Cohen. "The smallest things just set Micah off."

Cohen and her staff would often pull Grier out of group activities to let him calm down. It's a technique Cohen uses frequently with the students.

"Sometimes they get explosive and can't control their emotions," said Cohen. "Once they calm down, I give them a few minutes to sit in the office. Then I ask, 'ok, what happened?' and then they talk."

That kind of space was necessary for Grier to express himself, but more importantly, to build his trust with the staff. Over time, Cohen and other camp counselors became mentors for Grier, supporting him both inside and outside the youth center. They attended his football and basketball games, spent time with him during his lunch period and were there for him during difficult life events.

"My first year of middle school, a lot had changed in my environment," said Grier. "But then I realized that I could talk to people about what was going on and what I was going through."

One of the people Grier felt he could talk to was Cohen. During their one-on-one time together, there was one piece of advice she gave that stayed with him.

"You can't let anything control you," Grier recalls.

Now an "upper classman" in high school, Grier is a junior staff member and a role model for other children. He helps keep the youth center clean by taking out the trash, sweeping, and mopping the floors. He also assists staff with the younger groups by facilitating games. Most importantly, he's having fun and making friends every day.

"When he was younger, I could see him being a leader. He just didn't know how to show it yet," said Cohen. "Being in this environment, he had to help others. He has leadership skills, and putting him in a place to be a leader is what I believe helped him."

Grier is currently on his high school football team and has a 3.2 GPA. He has his eyes set on attending his dream school, Florida State University, when he graduates. He is interested in studying IT.

"He's come a long way, and I'm proud of him," said Cohen.

Grier feels proud of himself too, saying he no longer lets his emotions control him. Most of all, he's excited for next summer to create more memories at the Red Shield Youth Center.



Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Provides Opportunities for Students and Families



In 1945, a group of women dedicated to the mission of the local Salvation Army banded together to make a collective impact. The result was the formation of The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary — a collection of volunteers who have impacted countless lives across generations.

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary in Charlotte supports, both physically and spiritually, the numerous services of The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte, and it has been doing so for more than 80 years.

Today, there are more than 70 women who support the Auxiliary through their gifts of time, talent and treasure. These women support The Salvation Army's local programs by functioning as a volunteer service and fundraising group.

Their support includes hosting parties and craft activities for kids at the Red Shield Youth Centers; serving meals to families experiencing homelessness at the Center of Hope as they work to turn their lives around; hosting birthday parties for seniors at the Belmont Community Center;

providing Christmas stockings for kids through the Angel Tree program; supporting critical programs for men at the Adult Rehabilitation Center; and much more.

One of the group's crowning achievements is the establishment of the Women's Auxiliary Scholarship Fund, which helps students in need from Salvation Army youth development programs achieve their educational goals and dreams. Women's Auxiliary members act as mentors to encourage and support each student. Since the program was established in 2002, more than 90 students have received assistance (some of which are highlighted on the next page).

Many have gone on to not only earn bachelor's degrees, but also attend graduate school. Others have pursued their interests and achieved careers they only dreamed about, with the Auxiliary helping to make it possible.

Perhaps the biggest benefit are the mentoring relationships that form between volunteer and student. Each recipient is paired with a volunteer to check in on them, who provides guidance and assistance along the way.

Diane Minsker is a longtime volunteer with The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary. She has

worked closely with many of these scholarship students.

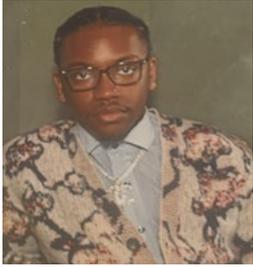
"I am inspired by these determined and self-motivated students who want to find their place in the world and ultimately make the world a better place for those who will follow them," said Minsker. "Investing in the next generation is how we create lasting change, not only for the students, but also for their families and communities for the years ahead."

Each year in April the Auxiliary hosts an event that raises around \$100,000 to fund scholarships and critical programs. This event usually features a silent auction, entertainment and awards presentations, highlighting "Women of Distinction" in the community. These awards honor community philanthropists, women who have overcome challenges to achieve greatness, and students on the path to success.

"This group is a powerful example of what happens when compassion meets commitment," said Annetria Lattimore, president of The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary. "These women show up with open hearts and willing hands, transforming the lives of those we serve through service and faith. The impact reaches far beyond our programs and events — it builds hope throughout our community."

Where Are They NOW?

We caught up with some of our past Red Shield Youth Center members who have been supported by The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary's scholarship program — and surprise, these young people are still amazing!



Fellow Lewis graduated from Jackson State University with *cum laude* honors in 2024. He knew he wanted to go on to make a meaningful difference. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice, Fellow enrolled in law school at Suffolk University and will receive his Doctor of Law degree in 2027.



Mecca Glover graduated from UNC Greensboro in 2024, while serving as captain of the cheer team. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology. She currently is employed in physical therapy at Novant Health while working on her master's degree in sports management at Western Carolina University, with an expected graduation in the summer of 2026.



Trey Burgess graduated in 2025 from the Institute of Aviation Maintenance with a 3.4 GPA. He hopes to be board certified soon, and he is confident he will have the opportunity to work for a major airline as a mechanic — a position in constant high demand!



Paradise Jones fulfilled her dream of getting an associate's degree in baking and pastry arts from Central Piedmont Community College in 2024, while working full-time. "While this field has satisfied my creative urges, I think that by having the degree, I am encouraged to expand my experiences in the culinary world. I am hoping to relocate to Japan in the coming year to explore that [country's] food culture."



Shanekque Allison graduated from NC Central University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. After working in the corporate world for a few years, Shanekque earned her master's degree in finance from Johnson & Wales University. As a finance analyst at Duke Energy, she is seeing the benefits of her hard work and steady focus on her professional goals.



Tatiana Aguilar graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2022 with a degree in behavioral science. She earned her Master of Public Health degree from the Gillings School of Global Public Health in 2024. Currently, she is working on her PhD in Behavioral, Social and Health Education Sciences at Emory University where she is a teaching assistant. She hopes to graduate with her PhD in 2028. In summer 2026, she will present on her research at a conference in Icheon, South Korea.

Echelon Charlotte - Mobilizing Young Professionals



Charlotte is increasingly recognized as a hub for young professionals. According to the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, 157 people, most under 40, move to the city each day. With the rise in young adults, The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte saw an opportunity to engage them with the organization and developed Echelon Charlotte. Echelon seeks to mobilize the next generation for The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte by providing opportunities for

young professionals under 40 to engage with the organization through fellowship and networking, donations and fundraising, and service and volunteering. These activities directly support The Salvation Army's services in the community. The chapter has hosted several social and volunteer events, including a networking social, sorting gifts at the Christmas Center, participating in the National Echelon Red Kettle

Takeover, and creating arts and crafts with children on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Echelon Charlotte strives to become a connected community of like-minded young adults who want to make a difference in their community. We are excited to continue building this affinity group and to shape the future it holds for The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte.

An Update on the Better the Future Campaign

In 2022, The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte officially launched its Better the Future Campaign. The campaign was inspired by Catherine Booth, one of the cofounders of The Salvation Army in London in 1865, who once said, “If we are to better the future, we must disturb the present.” In other words, we can’t keep maintaining the status quo if we want to experience change in our community.

The \$32 million campaign was built around three key priorities:

Addressing Homelessness – Better serving Charlotte’s growing unhoused population with improved facilities and additional capacity. This includes purchasing a hotel (Booth Commons) to serve families experiencing homelessness and expanding our existing Center of Hope shelter. At the Center of Hope, expansion includes expanded dining room space and a new addition to provide a safe place for individuals during cold weather and extreme weather events.

Building Strong Families and Communities – Creating neighborhood centers in targeted communities, offering Red Shield Youth Centers and a variety of holistic programs for the entire family. The next phase in this project: developing the program plan and engaging an architectural firm to begin the process.

Restoring Lives – Enhancing our programs and facilities for those battling substance abuse. The plans have been developed for a new recreation pavilion, exercise space and a vehicle maintenance shop. As soon as funding is secured, these projects will begin construction.

This long-term vision is seeing significant progress. More than \$25 million has been raised, which has enabled the organization to advance forward on the first stages of projects.

In November of 2025, community and organization leaders joined together to break ground on the new addition to the Center

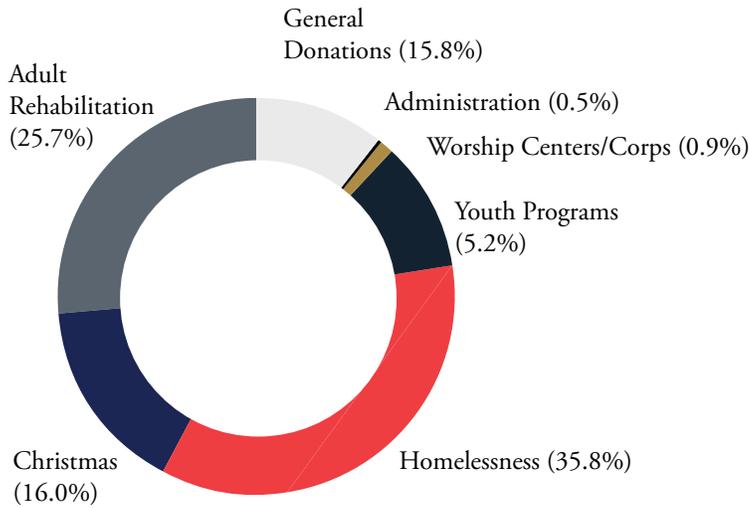
of Hope, with scheduled completion in summer of 2026. This new addition will allow The Salvation Army to better serve not only those residing at the shelter, but to provide additional space for those who are unsheltered during cold winter nights or extreme weather events.

For the hotel project, renovation costs have drastically increased. An additional \$3 million (as of press time) in funding is needed to begin the renovation. The organization remains hopeful for beginning this project in calendar year 2026, should funding be secured.

For more updates on the campaign, including photos of the progress of construction, scan the QR code below:

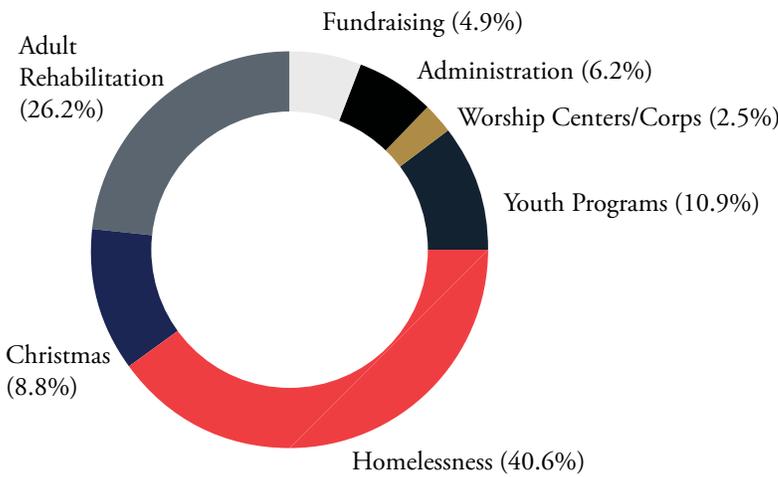


FINANCIALS



Income

\$2,688,856	General Donations (15.8%)
\$82,071	Administration (0.5%)
\$161,589	Worship Centers/Corps (0.9%)
\$884,583	Youth Programs (5.2%)
\$6,097,902	Homelessness Services (35.8%)
\$2,721,283	Christmas (16.0%)
\$4,375,250	Adult Rehabilitation Center (25.7%)
\$17,011,534	Total Support & Revenue



Expenses

\$951,021	Fundraising (4.9%)
\$1,198,992	Administration (6.2%)
\$495,845	Worship Centers/Corps (2.5%)
\$2,121,192	Youth Programs (10.9%)
\$7,892,940	Homelessness Services (40.6%)
\$1,707,784	Christmas (8.8%)
\$5,111,323	Adult Rehabilitation Center (26.2%)
\$19,479,098	Total Expenses

*Audited financials were unavailable at press time. For audited financials for fiscal year 2025, please contact us at 704.334.4731.

\$.89

of every dollar donated goes directly to critical programs supporting people in need in our community.





THRIFT
STORES

With every
dollar we
make change.

When you shop at a local thrift store or donate goods, you are helping men in our community battling substance abuse.

To schedule a free pickup, call 1-800-SA-Truck or visit www.satruck.org.

The Salvation Army Opens New Charlotte Thrift Store

When you donate or shop at a local, Charlotte-area thrift store, you are directly supporting our Adult Rehabilitation Center helping men battling substance abuse. In 2025, we opened a new thrift store location on Freedom Drive, as well as a new donation center in Indian Land, and the community support has been overwhelming. Please consider donating any furniture, clothing or unused household items to one of our locations, or schedule a free pickup by calling 1-800-SA-TRUCK. Your support is changing lives.

Locations and Hours:

Charlotte Thrift Store & Donation Center
1011 Central Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28204
Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Closed Sunday

NEW

Charlotte Thrift Store & Donation Center
2917 Freedom Drive, Suite 6
Charlotte, NC 28208
Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Closed Sunday

NEW

Indian Land Donation Center
7580 Charlotte Hwy.
Fort Mill, SC 29707
Monday & Wednesday - Saturday:
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Tuesday & Sunday

Kannapolis Thrift Store & Donation Center
2901 Cloverleaf Pkwy.
Kannapolis, NC 28083
Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Closed Sunday

SCAN TO SCHEDULE A
DONATION PICK-UP OR
FIND A DROP BOX:



Leaving a Legacy

Some people's legacies are written on monuments. Yours can be written on lives.

The Salvation Army has many financial planning options to help you plan your estate. Salvation Army planned giving advisors are professionals with many years of experience in estate and gift planning who care about your goals and plans. They will work with your attorney or accountant to explain the many gift opportunities available to you and the financial advantages of each. Contact The Salvation Army to learn how confidential, personal financial planning can help you achieve your goals while helping to

sustain our life-changing mission.

Planned Gifts

The principal benefits of planned gifts accrue to The Salvation Army at a later time — after your death, or the death of your last named beneficiary. Planned gifts take many forms and provide many benefits, helping to fulfill your personal, humanitarian, and charitable objectives. Planned gifts can be made in cash, real estate, stocks, bonds, personal property, or life insurance.

One of the simplest planned gifts is a bequest through your will, in which you designate either a specific dollar

amount or a percentage of your estate after other disbursements. In addition to supporting The Salvation Army, it serves as an example to your heirs of the values and ideals you hold dear.

There are many ways you can leave a lasting impact and legacy of service. Contact Lisa Huffman, Associate Director of Planned Giving (803.309.0436) to learn how confidential, personal planning can help you achieve your goals while helping to sustain our life-changing mission.

Scan the QR code below for more information or to watch of video of firsthand testimonies:





**The Salvation Army
of Greater Charlotte**

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Charlotte, NC 28217
(704) 334-4731

[SalvationArmyCharlotte.org](https://www.SalvationArmyCharlotte.org)

