



THE SALVATION ARMY RECEIVES A NEW TRUCK DONATED BY "ROBERT J. KLEBERG, JR. AND HELEN KLEBERG FOUNDATION"



# JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

Dick & Sara Rathgeber Center of Hope: 1804 Buford Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78404

Family Store: 5042 South Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78411

(361) 884-9497 • [www.SalvationArmyCorpusChristi.org](http://www.SalvationArmyCorpusChristi.org)

Serving the Coastal Bend since 1908

## RED KETTLE



We are excited to share the final results of our 2025 Red Kettle Campaign and thank the Coastal Bend community for its incredible generosity. With your support, we surpassed our \$150,000 goal. Our traditional Red Kettles raised \$160,976.12, and our Virtual Kettles raised \$15,135.00, for a total of \$176,111.12.

Every donation and bell ring directly supports The Salvation Army programs serving those in need across the Coastal Bend. Thank you for standing with us throughout the year. We look forward to continuing our mission together in 2026.

## A NEW YEAR OF HOPE



As we step into a new year, The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend is filled with gratitude, hope, and renewed commitment to the community we have proudly served for 117 years. Each January reminds us not only of fresh beginnings, but of the enduring mission that has guided us for more than a century—meeting human needs without discrimination and offering hope when it is needed most. This past year, we witnessed resilience in the face of hardship and strength born from compassion. From providing shelter to families experiencing homelessness, to helping prevent eviction through rental assistance, to responding during times of crisis, your support has allowed us to serve our neighbors with dignity and care.

As we look ahead, the needs in the Coastal Bend continue to grow, and so does our resolve to serve. We are seeking new donors to help us respond with our programs and services in the Coastal Bend. If you would like to donate to our programs, contact **Jonathan Gonzalez** at (361) 910-2494 or via email at [Jonathan.Gonzalez@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Jonathan.Gonzalez@uss.salvationarmy.org). Together, we can continue building hope, restoring stability, and sharing love for those who need hope and support throughout the Coastal Bend in the year ahead. Thank you for standing with us as we begin another year of service.

# THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

IN DECEMBER,  
WE PROVIDED:

2,043



Nights of Lodging

20



Average of children sheltered

2,477



2,346 Shelter Meals  
240 Street Outreach

152



Food boxes distributed

99



Individuals received  
Rent/Utility Assistance

## MORE THAN NUMBERS

**2025**

**36,505**  
MEALS SERVED

**29,063**  
NIGHTS OF SHELTER

**32**  
CHILDREN RECEIVED SHELTER EACH DAY (AVERAGE)

**514**  
FAMILIES RECEIVED RENT & UTILITY ASSISTANCE

**3,097**  
FOOD BOXES DISTRIBUTED

**1,117**  
CHILDREN RECEIVED CHRISTMAS GIFTS

As we reflect on the year 2025, we are filled with gratitude for the support of the Coastal Bend community. Every milestone reached, every life touched, and every service provided this year was made possible because of your generosity, compassion, and commitment to helping others. From volunteers who gave their time, to donors who gave selflessly, to community partners who stood beside us, your support strengthened our ability to serve those in need across the Coastal Bend.

The accomplishments and statistics from 2025 represent more than numbers—they represent families supported, individuals given hope, and lives changed for the better. None of this work could have been accomplished without the trust and dedication of our community. Together, we continue to make a lasting impact, offering help, hope, and healing to our neighbors when they need it most.

## SUCCESS STORIES



Ted entered the single men's shelter after learning he didn't qualify for other programs and immediately took steps to rebuild his life. He secured a temporary job, completed all program requirements, and began saving steadily. With guidance and support from The Salvation Army, Ted is focused on reaching his goal of moving into his own apartment.



Krystal and her three children came to The Salvation Army during a challenging transition in their lives. With compassionate support from The Salvation Army and the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living, they secured their own apartment and were able to celebrate the Holidays together in a safe, warm home—marking a hopeful new beginning.



Tiffany and her family found refuge at The Salvation Army's family shelter while working toward stability. Although Tiffany was unable to work due to her pregnancy, her husband maintained steady employment and the family saved diligently. Through their hard work and support from the Rapid Rehousing program, they secured their own apartment.



Roni and her three children found safety at The Salvation Army's family shelter during a difficult time. Roni secured full-time employment at Spohn and saved toward independence. Through Rapid Rehousing, Roni received rental assistance and moved into her own apartment. Today, her family is thriving, grateful for the support that helped them build a stable future.



Michael came to The Salvation Army seeking refuge from domestic violence with his three young children. With support from the case management team, he has applied for housing and is currently in the selection process. Grateful for the care he has received, Michael and his children now have a safe place to rest, receive daily meals, and begin rebuilding their lives.



Jennifer has shown determination and resilience since entering the shelter program. After losing her RV and navigating a recent divorce, she remained focused and motivated. She meets all program expectations, and continues setting new goals. Jennifer is working toward long-term stability, saving money, and ultimately moving into her own apartment.

## VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are the heart of The Salvation Army, and as we begin a new year, we invite the Coastal Bend community to get involved and make a lasting impact. Whether you have a few hours to give or looking for ongoing volunteer opportunities, there are many ways to serve and support neighbors in need.

Volunteers play a vital role in our Family Store by helping sort donations, organize merchandise, and support daily operations that directly fund our programs and services. Others lend a hand by packing food boxes, ensuring families and seniors receive nutritious meals when they need them most. We also welcome volunteers to serve meals, assist in outreach efforts, and support special events and seasonal programs throughout the year.

Each volunteer experience not only strengthens our programs but also builds meaningful connections within the community. Every act of service—big or small—helps bring hope, dignity, and stability to those we serve. If you are interested in volunteering this year or would like more information, please contact **Jonathan Gonzalez** at **361-910-2494**. Together, we can make a difference.

## FAMILY STORE



The Salvation Army Family Store plays a vital role in supporting the mission of The Salvation Army in the Coastal Bend. Every purchase made and every donation received directly helps fund critical services, including emergency shelter, homeless prevention, rental assistance, food pantry and street outreach for individuals and families in need.

Our Family Store offers affordable clothing, furniture, household items, and unique finds, making it a valuable resource for the community while giving donated items a second life. When you shop or donate, you are not only finding great deals—you are helping provide hope and stability to neighbors facing hardship. Community members are encouraged to donate gently used furniture, clothing, and other unique items to support this important work. Donations help keep the store stocked and allow us to continue serving those who need it most.

The Salvation Army Family Store is located at **5042 South Padre Island Drive** and is open **Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Your support truly makes a difference. Come to our Family Store today!

## WOMEN TO KNOW



The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend is proud to announce that the Women's Auxiliary is hosting the **WOMEN TO KNOW** event on **March 26, 2026**, at the Corpus Christi Country Club. This special gathering highlights the power of women working together to strengthen families, uplift neighbors, and create lasting change throughout the Coastal Bend.

The event will recognize two outstanding women leaders who will share their insights on the importance of women coming together and the meaningful impact collective efforts can have on our community. Their stories will show how powerful women's support is to our community.

**WOMEN TO KNOW** is also an opportunity to support the vital programs of The Salvation Army in the Coastal Bend through the Women's Auxiliary. Sponsorships are available for those looking to make a deeper impact. Ticket options include tables of eight for \$1,000 or individual tickets for \$125. Guests are encouraged to **RSVP by March 15, 2026**, by contacting **Polly@PollyHarrisIns.com**. We look forward to celebrating the power of women in the Coastal Bend.