



2025 RED KETTLE KICKOFF AT HICKS FAMILY SUBARU



NOVEMBER 2025 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

Serving the Coastal Bend since 1908

RED KETTLE KICKOFF



Our 2025 Red Kettle Kickoff was a joyful and inspiring start to the Christmas season at Hicks Family Subaru, launching our annual Red Kettle Campaign. Community partners, supporters, and friends joined us, as music from The Salvation Army McAllen Brass Band and the Roy Miller High School Boys Quartet set a festive tone. We extend heartfelt thanks to all who attended.

Special thanks to Hicks Family Subaru for hosting our event and for loaning three vehicles to support our transportation needs during our Christmas season. Charlie Hicks shared uplifting words, encouraging the community to give generously this season.

Councilman Roland Barrera highlighted the campaign's impact, saying, "The Salvation Army brings hope where it's needed most. Every dollar placed in a kettle strengthens the community we call home."

We thank H-E-B for donating \$25,000 in gift cards to provide groceries for a Christmas dinner for the 399 families registered in our program.

We thank our generous community for supporting The Salvation Army. As the kettles roll out, we encourage everyone to give and help change lives this Christmas - a season of giving to those who are in need around us.

NEW FURNITURE



Women's Auxiliary supports shelter residents

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary provided the funding to purchase new furniture for the living areas for the Center of Hope shelter. Polly Harris worked hard on this project by seeking potential donors and selecting the furniture pieces that were needed to give these living areas a new update for children and adults residing at our shelter.

The Women's Auxiliary seeks funding to support programs and services offered by The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend. Join this women's group and make a difference in our community through The Salvation Army.

THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

IN OCTOBER,
WE PROVIDED:

2,378



Nights of Lodging

24



Average of children sheltered

3,011



2,771 Shelter Meals
240 Street Outreach

199



Food boxes distributed

101



Individuals received
Rent/Utility Assistance

DOING THE
MOST GOOD



one
THANKS
GIVING
meal to-go

DRIVE-THRU

at 1802 Buford Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78404

Thursday, 11/27/2025
Pick up time: 10:00 AM



The Salvation Army continues its long-standing tradition of preparing Thanksgiving meals and spreading the joy of the holiday season. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone sending funding for this program. Your generosity enables us to prepare and distribute 1,000 hot meals to those in need, which includes turkey with gravy, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes, stuffing, bread, and pie.

500

*meals to go for families in need
in our community*

250

*meals to go to homeless individuals to
be served at Mother Teresa shelter*

250

*meals to serve at our shelter on
Thanksgiving Day*

Happy Thanksgiving Day

GIFTS OF HOPE



We are very thankful for the community's support of our Angel Tree Program. This year, 1,080 angels were registered, and 70% of the Angel Tree tags have been taken by generous individuals and organizations. Your kindness ensures children and families in need will experience the joy of Christmas.

We anticipate gifts will begin arriving at our warehouse during the last week of November, with distribution of Christmas presents starting the first week of December. Each chosen gift reminds families that they are not alone and that their community cares deeply. Angel Tree tags are still available for those who wish to participate. They are available at Walmart and Sam's Club, La Palmera Mall, The Salvation Army Family Store located at 5042 South Padre Island Drive and The Salvation Army at 1804 Buford St. The last day to bring gifts to the Center of Hope or Family Store is Thursday, December 12th.

Your generous contributions go beyond gifts—they bring hope, love, and happiness to families facing difficult times during the holiday season. For more information on how to support this program, please call us at (361) 910-2494.

RED KETTLE

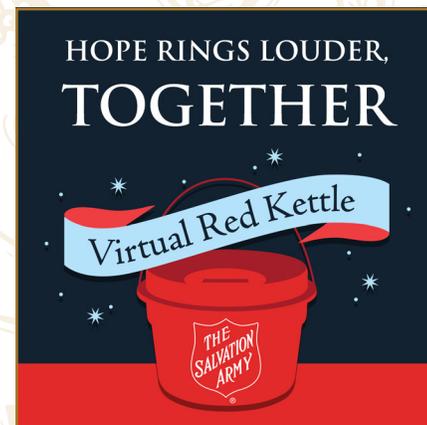


The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign is happening now, and we are seeking volunteers to ring the bell! The campaign runs from now until December 24 and the funds you raise as a bell ringer will make a year-round impact in the community. You can choose a day, Tuesday through Saturday, and a convenient location to lend your time and compassion. Two-hour shifts, four-hour shifts and eight-hour shifts are available and signing up is quick and easy. Call or text JonathanGonzalez at (361) 910-2494 or visit www.registertoring.com.

By volunteering to ring the bell, you become an integral part of a tradition that has brought help and hope to millions for 117 years in the Corpus Christi community. Your smile and enthusiasm can inspire others to give, creating a ripple effect of generosity in our community. Every dollar dropped into a Red Kettle stays local, providing essential services to those in need. Your efforts as a bell ringer will help shelter people in crisis, offer housing support to struggling families and veterans, and bring hope to children in need.

Together, we can create brighter futures and stronger communities this Christmas season.

VIRTUAL GIVING



There are many reasons to give hope—whether in person or online! Scan the QR code below or visit our Virtual Red Kettle to make a secure, tax-deductible donation. The Virtual Kettle makes it easy to support The Salvation Army from anywhere, helping families and individuals who rely on us daily.

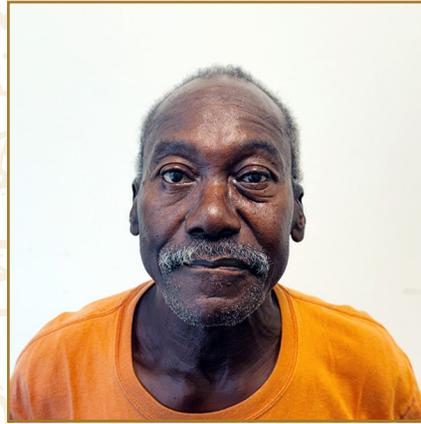


Each month, The Salvation Army provides about 3,000 meals and distributes 300 food boxes. Your support strengthens programs such as family shelter, rapid rehousing, food pantry services, street outreach, and veteran assistance—offering stability and hope to those facing difficult times. Become a fundraiser sponsoring your Virtual Kettle with your friends or family and set a fundraising goal through our Virtual Kettle. Contact Jonathan Gonzalez at 361-910-2494 or jonathan.gonzalez@uss.salvationarmy.org to request to setup your virtual kettle and start fundraising to help people in need this Christmas.

SUCCESS STORIES



After losing his job, housing, and transportation due to domestic violence and alcoholism, Sid found stability through treatment and a referral from the VA to The Salvation Army. With support and safe shelter, he secured a job with MV Transportation, bought a scooter with his first paycheck, and regained independence. Now employed, he's preparing to move into his own apartment.



Facing eviction due to financial hardship, Douglas entered The Salvation Army's Emergency Shelter Program determined to rebuild his life. Since then, he has made remarkable progress, working two jobs and saving steadily while also receiving Social Security benefits. Focused on securing stable housing, he is actively searching for an affordable place to call home.



Adelaida was recently evicted from her apartment and turned to The Salvation Army for shelter and safety. With meals and housing provided, she has been able to save money while relying on her Social Security benefits. Grateful for the support during this difficult time, she is focused on securing an apartment and creating a safe home for herself and her son.



Rocky has embarked on a journey to live a clean and sober life after years of struggling on the streets. With guidance from God and support from The Salvation Army, he is building a brighter future. Previously unable to save while paying for hotels, Rocky now has hope, determined to turn his life around. He is forever grateful for help received from The Salvation Army.



Ruben is staying at the Center of Hope shelter after eviction from his home. Supported by Social Security and retirement benefits, he remains devoted to caring for his elderly mother. Determined to regain stability, Ruben is actively exploring housing options and hopes to secure his own apartment soon, creating a safe, independent, and comfortable home for his mother.



Pablo moved to Corpus Christi after being disowned by his own family following a hospital stay. He has found refuge at The Salvation Army, where he is grateful for the bed, meals, and services provided without expectation of payment. With renewed hope, Pablo looks forward to saving money and working toward independent living once again. He now has hope for his future.