



WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS PREPARE MEALS FOR THE HOMELESS IN OUR STREET OUTREACH PROGRAM



Serving the Coastal
Bend since 1908

JUNE 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

FANS FOR FRIENDS - ANNUAL DRIVE



The Salvation Army's FANS FOR FRIENDS ANNUAL DRIVE was a resounding success in 2024, thanks to the generosity of our community. We collected 345 fans, which provided much needed relief to families in need. Our community donated new fans for others in need, demonstrating a heartwarming spirit of giving and community support. The Fans for Friends Drive was not just a collection event, but a gathering of a caring community, coming together to make a significant impact during the hot summer months.

This July 7-12 from 10 am to 5 pm we will accept donations of new fans at our Family Store located at 5042 South Padre Island Drive. This year our goal is to collect 500 fans. This effort ensures that many families will stay safe and cool during the hot summer months, enhancing their well-being and comfort. We give thanks to everyone who will be involved in helping us bring hope and relief to those who need it most in our community.

We look forward to a great event collecting 500 fans that we will give comfort to families, seniors, and anyone who does not have a fan for the summer. Distribution will be made also at our Family Store in the second part of July. If you want more information on how to support this event, please contact Jonathan Gonzalez at (361) 910-2494 or via email at Jonathan.Gonzalez@uss.salvationarmy.org - You may donate new fans, donate funds to purchase fans or volunteer on the day of distribution of these fans to assist those in need in our communities around the Coastal Bend.

THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

IN MAY, WE PROVIDED:

2,719



Nights of Lodging

35



Average of children sheltered

3,303



3,063 Shelter Meals
240 Street Outreach

249



Food boxes distributed

100



Individuals received
Rent/Utility Assistance



JUNE 1 - NOV 30
**HURRICANE
SEASON**

From its inception, The Salvation Army has relied heavily on volunteers who support its programs. Often referred to as “the army behind The Army”, volunteers play a crucial role in response efforts during a disaster by positively impacting the lives of those involved.

In times of community crisis, people frequently want to “give back” and look for ways to share their time and talents with others. Being a part of The Salvation Army’s Emergency Disaster Relief work is an opportunity to provide basic human needs to disaster survivors and first responders in the aftermath of devastating events. There are two ways to participate as a volunteer in The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services:

DAY VOLUNTEER: Want to volunteer but you’re not trained or credentialed? We recognize that many individuals have a desire to help others after a disaster. Becoming a day volunteer is a great way to give back by serving locally for a few hours or a couple of days. Opportunities will be posted here as they arise.

BECOME A CREDENTIALLED VOLUNTEER: The Salvation Army relies on trained and credentialed disaster workers to provide much needed services to those impacted by an emergency or disaster. These individuals are assigned to their local Salvation Army unit and may be contacted to serve locally and/or across the country.

SUCCESS STORIES



Antoinette moved from California to Texas seeking a fresh start for her family. With no stable housing, they stayed in a motel before finding shelter at The Salvation Army. There, they found safety, support, and warm meals. Her oldest son found a job, and her daughter started school. Now, Antoinette is focused on finding work and building a hopeful future for her family.



Valeria came to The Salvation Army after fleeing an abusive relationship and living in her car. She faced daily fear and uncertainty. Since arriving, her life has completely turned around. With support from the shelter program, she has found a job and is now working toward her own apartment. Valeria is grateful to be part of such a caring, supportive community.



After being evicted, Andres and his daughter came to The Salvation Army seeking shelter and were welcomed with open arms. With a safe place to stay, Andres focused on his new job and began saving for their future. His daughter stayed dedicated to school and is now proudly preparing for graduation. Together, they are building a brighter tomorrow.



After losing his job, Raul faced eviction with his daughters and feared homelessness. Thanks to The Salvation Army, the family made a smooth transition into shelter, giving Raul peace of mind. Now working two jobs, he's saving for a new home. His oldest daughter recently started working and looks forward to buying school clothes this summer. Their future is hopeful.



Aprena came to The Salvation Army struggling financially, mentally, and physically. Initially there was no space available. Conditions changed and she and her daughter were soon given a room. Grateful for the support, Aprena is working closely with a case manager and may soon have permanent housing. Aprena says "The Center of Hope shelter has truly been a blessing."



Displaced by a fire in May, Eduvijen and her family were left with nowhere to go after their hotel voucher expired. The Salvation Army provided safe shelter, meals, and support. Through the Rapid Rehousing Program, she now has a home. Grateful for the help, Eduvijen is thriving—able to work, attend school, and rebuild her life. She is looking forward to the future.

NATIONAL DONUT DAY



HAPPY NATIONAL DONUT DAY

Delivering smiles, comfort, and deliciousness to the front lines for over 100 years

JUNE 6

In celebration of National Donut Day, The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend sweetened the day with a special delivery! Early Friday morning on June 6th, our team set out with dozens of delicious donuts to show our appreciation to local heroes and community partners.

We made stops at local fire departments and police stations, delivering fresh donuts and warm smiles to thank the brave men and women who serve and protect our community each day. Their dedication does not go unnoticed, and we were honored to express our gratitude. In the spirit of giving, we also visited several

of our local partners and organizations who continue to support our mission throughout the year. Whether it is through shared programs, events, or ongoing support, each donut represented a token of appreciation from The Salvation Army to serve those in our community that are experiencing homelessness or the risk to become homeless.

National Donut Day has deep roots in The Salvation Army history, and we're proud to continue this tradition by spreading joy and donuts across the Coastal Bend. Thanks to all who serve, support, and share our mission.

BEACH TO BAY



The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend proudly laced up their running shoes for the annual Beach to Bay Relay Marathon, forming a spirited team made up of staff members and local supporters. With a passion for community and a heart for service, our team hit the pavement not just to run—but to represent hope, healing, and our commitment to “Doing the Most Good.”

Months of planning, training, and teamwork went into preparing for this exciting event. Staff from various departments came together, many running alongside dedicated volunteers and friends of The Salvation Army

who wanted to show their support in a unique and energetic way.

As the sun rose over Corpus Christi, our runners took off, passing the baton from one leg to the next across the scenic shoreline. Along the way, they cheered each other on, bonded as a team, and shared stories of what inspired them to run. By participating in Beach to Bay, The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend not only promoted wellness and unity, but proudly brought awareness to the life-changing work being done every day in our community.