



STAFF OF THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND



# OCTOBER 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](http://www.SalvationArmyCorpusChristi.org)

Serving the Coastal Bend since 1908

## RING THE BELL THIS CHRISTMAS

GIVE WITH **J**

VIRTUAL RED KETTLE

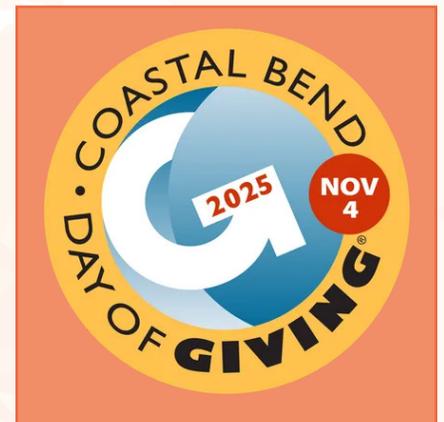
\$0 Raised      \$150,000 Goal

DONATE NOW

Red Kettle season is here! You can sponsor your own Virtual Red Kettle from your organization, business or friends & family circle. The Salvation Army's Virtual Red Kettle is your chance to make a real difference this Christmas. Every gift collected brings a little bit of joy back into the holiday season as it provides meals for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, and support for families who are struggling. When you give, you're helping meet urgent needs in your community and reminding people that they are not alone. Since 1891, the Red Kettle has stood as a symbol of compassion, and today it continues to support programs like the Angel Tree, bringing gifts and joy to children on Christmas morning, and now the Virtual Red Kettle carries that tradition online! Your donation ensures that children wake up to Christmas joy, parents find relief, and lives are touched with dignity and care.

Together, we can transform generosity into hope this holiday season. For information to adopt your own Virtual Red Kettle, contact Jonathan. [Gonzalez@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Gonzalez@uss.salvationarmy.org) or call at (361) 910-2494. You may also sign up to ring the bell from one of our 23 locations in Corpus Christi. Help us reach our goal to support people in need this Christmas and in the beginning of the New Year.

## DAY OF GIVING



We are proud to once again participate in the 2025 Coastal Bend Day of Giving presented by the Coastal Bend Community Foundation. Write down the dates! Early Giving will be open from October 27 to November 3 and the Day of Giving will happen on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4**. All donations will be made at [CoastalBendDayofGiving.org](http://CoastalBendDayofGiving.org). Simply click The Salvation Army to support our organization.

With your support, every day of the year The Salvation Army supports men, women and children with programs that provide stability in times of crisis.

# THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

IN SEPTEMBER,  
WE PROVIDED:

2,409



Nights of Lodging

25



Average of children sheltered

3,011



2,771 Shelter Meals  
240 Street Outreach

211



Food boxes distributed

109



Individuals received  
Rent/Utility Assistance

## Red Kettle Campaign starts on November 15th



Join us at any of these locations, starting on November 15th, to contribute towards our 2025 Red Kettle Goal of \$150,000. The funds raised from our Red Kettle Campaign go directly towards our programs that serve the Coastal Bend Community.

Reach out to Jonathan at [Jonathan.Gonzalez@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Jonathan.Gonzalez@uss.salvationarmy.org) for more information on how to contribute monetarily or through volunteering to ring with us.

Thank you for helping us to serve our community.

- 1 Dillard's Garage North Entrance
- 2 Dillard's South Entrance
- 3 Dillard's West Entrance
- 4 JC Penney S Staples
- 5 La Palmera Mall Food Court Main Entrance
- 6 La Palmera Mall Main Entrance (Grimaldis)
- 7 La Palmera Mall PF Chang Entrance
- 8 Hobby Lobby (Door 1) Calallen
- 9 Hobby Lobby (Door 2) Calallen
- 10 Hobby Lobby (Door 1) Corpus Christi
- 11 Hobby Lobby (Door 2) Corpus Christi
- 12 Mardel Christian Store
- 13 Sam's Club
- 14 Walmart Calallen, Pharmacy Entrance
- 15 Walmart Calallen, Grocery Entrance
- 16 Walmart Flour Bluff, Grocery Entrance
- 17 Walmart Flour Bluff, Pharmacy Entrance
- 18 Walmart Greenwood, Grocery Entrance
- 19 Walmart Greenwood, Pharmacy Entrance
- 20 Walmart Saratoga, Grocery Entrance
- 21 Walmart Saratoga, Pharmacy Entrance
- 22 Walmart Staples, Grocery Entrance
- 23 Walmart Staples, Pharmacy Entrance

# ANGEL TREE PROGRAM



398 | 1,080 | 1,628

The Salvation Army recently completed its Angel Tree registration, and we are thrilled to share that it was a great success! Over several days, **398** families from across the Coastal Bend came to sign up for this year's Angel Tree program. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and staff, over **1,080** children from these families are now registered to receive gifts, clothing, and an H-E-B gift card to buy groceries for their Christmas dinner. In total, **1,628** household members will be blessed through this effort, ensuring families can enjoy the holiday season with hope, comfort, and the warmth of community support. Each child's name on the Angel Tree represents a local family facing difficult times, and now our focus turns to finding sponsors for those angels.

By selecting an angel from one of our Angel Trees, you can make a lasting difference in a child's life. Your generosity ensures that every child wakes up on Christmas morning with joy, excitement, and the assurance that they are cared for and loved by their community. Together, we can make sure every angel is adopted, every family experiences the love of God, and the true spirit of Christmas shines bright across the Coastal Bend—spreading kindness, hope, and compassion to all who need it most.

*In 1979, The Salvation Army in a small Virginia town, had the idea to sponsor families providing Christmas presents for their children. For over 45 years the Angel Tree program has become a tangible way for people to share the meaning of Christmas in communities across the United States and even around the world.*

*The Angel Tree program allows people to provide Christmas presents and clothing for children of families that are struggling to pay their housing expenses or food and would not be able to provide Christmas presents for their children.*

*Our "angels" are tags with the wish and clothing information of children 0-12 years of age. We also have teen angels 13-15 years of age on our trees. Anyone can help since the wishes are \$30-\$50 value.*

*This Christmas you can be part of our program sponsoring our "Angels" located in Walmart and Sam's Club entrances. We hope you will be part of us sharing what you can for these children.*



## SUCCESS STORIES



Christopher lost his apartment leaving him and his son with nowhere to go. They found refuge at The Salvation Army, where they received shelter and support while Christopher saved for a new home. With encouragement from our case management team, his son returned to school, earning straight A's and joining the robotics team. Their lives have been truly transformed.



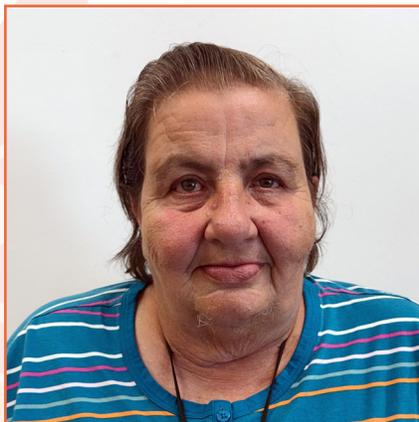
After facing eviction while pregnant and caring for five children, Crystal turned to The Salvation Army for help. With limited work hours and no support, she found shelter, meals, and help restoring vital documents. Now, with guidance from our case management team and Rapid Re-Housing Program, Crystal and her children are moving into a stable home.



Jesse experienced over two years of homelessness before connecting with The Salvation Army. With stable shelter and support, he's now focused on saving money and achieving financial independence. His goal is to move into his own home and regain stability. Grateful for the help he's received—including bus passes that keep him connected—Jesse is building a brighter future.



Joe struggled in unsafe, unwelcoming living conditions, feeling isolated and constantly threatened. After connecting with The Salvation Army, he met a compassionate case manager and qualified for the PSH Program. Now moving into his own apartment, grateful for the support he received, he dreams of volunteering to give back and help others in need.



Finding herself without a home, Donna turned to The Salvation Army for help. With shelter, support, and guidance, her mental health, faith, and outlook on life have improved. She's now working toward her own home and financial independence. Deeply moved by the kindness, Donna is grateful, saying The Salvation Army has truly transformed her life.



Ramon, a veteran, faced a difficult year after an accident, moving between nursing homes and becoming wheelchair-bound. Turning to The Salvation Army changed his life. He received shelter, daily nutritious meals, and support to save money. Ramon now has his own apartment. Grateful for care and friendships he made, he praises the staff for helping those in need.