



Serving the Coastal
Bend since 1908

MAY 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

SHARING HOPE WITH OTHERS



We are thankful for our partnership with Sister Rency and the Mother Teresa Day Shelter, and grateful for the opportunity to prepare and serve meals during National Salvation Army Week for the third year in a row. We recently had the privilege of visiting the shelter, putting our mission into action in a hands-on and meaningful way. Our team prepared 120 meals for homeless individuals in their shelter, but the experience went far beyond serving food. We were able to sit with guests, share conversations, listen to their stories, and offer encouragement—small moments that carried deep meaning for both them and our team.

The visit was a powerful reminder of what The Salvation Army stands for: meeting human needs without discrimination and showing up consistently for those going through some of life's hardest seasons. It's one thing to talk about service, but it's another to be present in it, to look people in the eye, and remind them they are not forgotten. While this one day of service reflected a daily commitment to love and serve our community in practical, tangible ways. These moments continue to strengthen our resolve to serve with compassion and humility. We encourage the community of the Coastal Bend to support our neighbors in need through The Salvation Army.

NSAW



National Salvation Army Week observed May 11–17, highlights the reality of both hope and hardship in our communities. Serving the Coastal Bend since 1908, we recognize the good being done through food, shelter, and support, while also acknowledging the difficult challenges many individuals and families still face, including poverty and homelessness.

While lives are being changed for the better, the need remains great. This week challenges us to reflect, serve, and respond with compassion. Thank you for supporting The Salvation Army.

HOPE CENTER REPORT

Services provided in April, 2026

2,035



Nights of Lodging

20



Average of children sheltered

2,388



2,148 Shelter Meals
240 Street Outreach

147



Food boxes distributed

135



Individuals received
Rent/Utility Assistance

REHOUSING SUCCESS

8

families
and

4

singles
received rental
assistant through our
programs to secure
housing.

1

family
was able
to save enough
money during
their stay at the
Hope Center Shelter
to secure housing on
thier own.

1

single
was able to be
reunited with
their family

14

families and singles
have overcome
homelessness because
of your support!

GIVE GOODS



The Salvation Army Family Store is currently in urgent need of clothing donations, with a special need for men's clothing in all sizes. Every donated item helps to generate funding to support individuals and families throughout the Coastal Bend who are facing financial hardship, homelessness, or unexpected life challenges. For many people in our community, clothing is more than just something to wear — it provides dignity, confidence, warmth, and comfort during difficult times.

Community members are encouraged to donate gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories at our Family Store located at 5042 South Padre Island Drive. Donations are accepted Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, making it easy for supporters to give back and help neighbors in need. Every donation truly makes an impact. As you donate or shop at our store you provide meals, emergency shelter, utility assistance, and other life-changing services for local individuals and families. By donating clothing, you are not only clearing out your closet, you are helping restore hope and changing lives.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT OF THE SALVATION ARMY
The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

SUCCESS STORIES



Dexter, a veteran, came to The Salvation Army after a breakup left him without housing. We have provided safe shelter, meals, and consistent support as he works to rebuild his life. He is actively seeking employment and planning his return to Washington. We are also helping him with Endeavors for travel assistance, giving him hope for housing and work.



Dorothy lost her mother and soon after her apartment in October 2025, leading to homelessness. After brief stays at two other programs, she came to The Salvation Army in November 2025, where she received support and stability. She secured two jobs allowing her to save, and is now being assisted with our Rapid Rehousing program to obtain her own apartment.



Veteran Juan came to The Salvation Army shelter after incarceration and a cancer diagnosis. While in our program, he attended VA appointments, secured housing eligibility and learned his cancer is in remission. With support and guidance from our case workers, he has now moved into his own home and begin a new chapter, grateful for the stability and help received.



Darrell arrived at The Salvation Army unemployed, separated from his wife, and living in his van with his two children. Struggling to enroll them in school, he came seeking shelter. Now, his children are thriving in school, sleeping in beds, and eating hot meals. Darrell is awaiting a job background check and rebuilding their lives with hope and support for a fresh start.



Faustino, a veteran, left California due to the high cost of living and moved to Texas for a fresh start. After staying in a motel in Corpus Christi, he was referred to The Salvation Army for shelter. He now works full-time at Stripes, has Naval Base job applications pending, and is moving into his own apartment with TVC rent assistance while working toward a forklift certification.



Robert's journey reflects hardship, resilience, and renewed hope. After health challenges, including gout and type 2 diabetes that led to the loss of two toes, he lost his job and home, living for two years in a dilapidated camper. At The Salvation Army, he found shelter, support, and faith. Now receiving disability benefits, Robert is rebuilding his life with gratitude and confidence.

Lives Touched

IN OUR COMMUNITY

2025 Fiscal Year | October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025



33,177 MEALS SERVED



26,850 NIGHTS OF SHELTER



32 CHILDREN SHELTERED DAILY



798 CLOTHING VOUCHERS



2,836 FOOD BOXES DISTRIBUTED



463 RENT & UTILITY ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES



956 CHILDREN RECEIVED CHRISTMAS GIFTS ²⁰²⁴

SCHOLARSHIPS



The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend is proud to offer the Cain Scholarship, funded by the J. Kelly & Nell Cain Trust, to support students from Nueces County as they pursue higher education and work toward a brighter future. The scholarship provides up to \$2,000 per year to help ease the financial burden of college, university, and vocational programs.

This year, the Cain Scholarship Fund awarded scholarships to 10 deserving students from Nueces County. One recipient, Brooklyn Hale, shared, "This scholarship has taken a huge weight off my shoulders and reminded me that my community believes in me and my future." Her story reflects the meaningful impact this support has on local students striving to achieve their goals. These scholarships provide financial relief and encourage students to pursue their dreams. Education has the power to change lives, and The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend is honored to support the next generation through the generosity of the J. Kelly & Nell Cain Trust. Together with our donors and supporters, we continue opening doors of opportunity and investing in a stronger future.

GIVING

The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend has served Corpus Christi and surrounding communities since 1908— almost 118 years of dedicated service!

Our work is only possible through community support. Every dollar raised directly supports the Center of Hope shelter and programs at 1804 Buford Street.

Thousands of lives have been impacted through our services, as shown in the 2025 statistics above. From providing meals and shelter to offering financial assistance and support during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Every program is

designed to uplift those in crisis.

With a one-time or monthly donation, your help ensure we continue providing hope and assistance to those in need in 2026.

Your generosity makes a difference. Thank you for helping us to serve the most vulnerable in our community!

**BECOME A DONOR
TODAY!**

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