



EL PASO CONNECTION

JULY 2026

A Monthly Newsletter of The Salvation Army of El Paso

WELCOMING NEW OFFICERS: CAPTAINS LUIS & MARIANNE VILLANUEVA

The Salvation Army of El Paso is pleased to welcome Captains Luis and Marianne Villanueva as the new Corps Officers.

Originally from Chile, South America, the Villanuevas immigrated to the United States in 2008. After serving in youth ministry and corps leadership, they responded to God's call to officership, completed training at Evangeline Booth College, and were commissioned as Salvation Army officers in 2017.

Since then, they have served in Pasadena and most recently in Bryan-College Station where they led worship, expanded community outreach and social services, strengthened youth ministries, and helped lead a significant capital campaign.

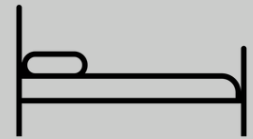
Captain Luis, who holds a degree in English-Spanish Translation, is passionate about preaching, leadership, and community engagement. Captain Marianne, who holds a degree in Early Childhood Education, is devoted to mentoring children and families through teaching, discipleship, and creative ministry.

Together with their three children, Rebecca, Lemuel, and Gael, the Villanuevas are excited to serve in El Paso. They are grateful for God's faithfulness and eager to partner with the El Paso community as they continue serving with joy, compassion, and purpose.



MONTHLY IMPACT REPORT

June 1 - June 30



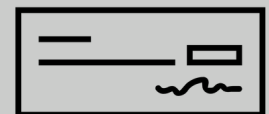
3,270

NIGHTS OF SHELTER



7,920

TOTAL MEALS



\$1,571.84

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



1,173

VOLUNTEER HOURS



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Of A Conservatory Student

Ten-year-old Gianna Nino begins her day at 8:45 a.m. at The Salvation Army Music & Arts Conservatory, starting with a morning devotional during Opening Assembly before moving into a full schedule of music, arts, and activity.

Her morning includes Brass Band where she is learning trombone for the first time under the instruction of Conservatory teachers.

She is adjusting to slide positions instead of valve fingerings and working through one of her biggest challenges—breath control.

Still, she enjoys the instrument and was surprised at how quickly she was able to produce a sound when she first tried it.

After snacks and Mass Choir, Gianna heads into her favorite class, Creative Arts, where she enjoys crafts and is even auditioning for roles in a Noah's Ark play. Lunch and recess follow, where she can often be found playing foosball with friends.

She attends the afternoon Brass Band session, followed by the Closing Assembly. At 3:00, the day comes to an end, and Gianna heads home with new skills.

While she admits she is a little nervous about performing in public, Gianna is growing in confidence each day as she learns, creates, and discovers new talents.





powered by service

The Salvation Army was grateful to welcome a team of 14 volunteers from El Paso Electric on Friday, June 5, who dedicated 56 hours of service at the Family Thrift Store.

The team helped sort donations, organize merchandise, and prepare items for the sales floor. They also volunteered on two additional days, contributing another 32 hours to move mattresses from a local warehouse to support our shelter operations.

Together, these volunteer efforts totaled 88 hours of service.

PROJECT MOVE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Volunteers play a vital role in keeping The Salvation Army Family Thrift Store running smoothly.

On Saturday, April 4, 2026, 41 students from UTEP Project MOVE generously donated 127 hours of service, helping hang and tag clothing, sort donations, organize books, and prepare merchandise for the sales floor.

UTEP Project MOVE has been a valued partner of The Salvation Army for several years, with students regularly volunteering their time and talents to support our mission of serving those in need.





1983-1990, NFL Quarterback
3x TX Sportscaster of the Year



THE LONE *Star* GALA

WITH BABE LAUFENBERG

6:00 PM SOCIAL & SILENT AUCTION | 6:30 PM DINNER
EPIC RAILYARD EVENT CENTER | 2201 E MILLS AVE, EL PASO, 79901

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026