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Serving the Coastal Bend since 1908

APRIL 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

FANS FOR FRIENDS



In Corpus Christi, summer heat can be more than uncomfortable—it can be dangerous. That’s why The Salvation Army of Corpus Christi is launching its 2026 Fans for Friends Fan Drive, a community effort focused on protecting our most vulnerable neighbors. Through the months of May and June, residents are encouraged to donate new 20-inch box fans to help bring relief to senior citizens, low-income families and young children. The goal is to collect and distribute 500 fans to those who need them most in the month of July.

Donations can be dropped off at The Salvation Army Family Store, located at 5042 South Padre Island Drive, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., or shipped directly to us at 1804 Buford St., from your online store of choice, such as Walmart or The Home Depot. “This drive is helping to keep our neighbors cool and safe during the upcoming summer months,” said Major Nathanael Doria. “Please consider donating to make a difference for someone in need.” Every fan donated is relief, safety, and compassion in action. Join us in making a meaningful impact and helping our community beat the heat this summer. For more information on how to get involved with this year’s Fan Drive, contact Jonathan Gonzalez at (361) 910-2494 or Jonathan.Gonzalez@uss.SalvationArmy.org.

VOLUNTEERING



The Salvation Army of Corpus Christi is always in need of volunteers throughout the year to support community events and assist at the Family Store.

Volunteer efforts help provide essential services to individuals and families in need, while also supporting programs that work to prevent homelessness and promote stability. Getting involved is a meaningful way to give back and make a lasting impact in the community. Those interested in volunteering contact Jonathan Gonzalez at (361) 910-2494 or Jonathan.Gonzalez@uss.SalvationArmy.org.

HOPE CENTER REPORT

IN MARCH,
WE PROVIDED:

2,555



Nights of Lodging

33



Average of children sheltered

2,547



2,307 Shelter Meals
240 Street Outreach

119



Food boxes distributed

119



Individuals received
Rent/Utility Assistance

When night falls and most people retreat to a place they call home—a space to rest, recharge, and feel safe—there are still those who have nowhere to go.

The Salvation Army Hope Center serves as a beacon of hope, providing shelter and support for single men, single women, and families. Through structured programs and guidance, individuals are empowered to rebuild their lives, regain stability, and turn the dream of having a home into a reality.

In the month of March, the dedication of our case management team led to meaningful progress. Three families received rental assistance through our program, while one was able to save enough to secure housing on their own and one family reunited with loved ones. Among single residents, three individuals achieved housing stability by saving funds and independently securing housing during their stay. Additionally, two individuals utilized program assistance to successfully transition into permanent housing.

Your donations to The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend help people change their situation and have hope of better days. Thank you for making the work of The Salvation Army possible allowing us to be a source of hope and brighter future for so many.

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WOMEN TO KNOW

Presented by
The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary of the Coastal Bend

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary hosted its annual Women to Know event. The gathering brought together community members, supporters, and local leaders to celebrate service, leadership, and giving back across the Coastal Bend. An event that highlights two women that play a role in making our Corpus Christi community better. This year's event honored two outstanding women making a difference in the region: Kylie Cooper, Editor in Chief of The Bend Magazine and Barbi Leo, Co-Anchor 3News First Edition. Both honorees were recognized for their dedication, passion, and lasting impact within the community through their professional work and civic involvement.

Attendees experienced an inspiring evening of connection, purpose, and a shared commitment to strengthening the community. Through this impactful event, the Women's Auxiliary raised \$20,000, directly supporting the life-changing programs of The Salvation Army in the Coastal Bend. These programs provide critical services, including shelter, food assistance, and supportive resources for individuals and families in need throughout the Coastal Bend. Guests also gained a deeper understanding of the transformative work being done—hearing how individuals and families have overcome homelessness and are now thriving in stable, independent housing. The purpose of The Salvation Army Corpus Christi Women's Auxiliary is to raise public awareness of The Salvation Army in the Coastal Bend, to facilitate services to the needy, and to strengthen the financial base of the local Salvation Army. Support doesn't end with one event—ongoing donations help sustain these programs and create lasting change. If you would like to become a member or learn more about The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, please email Polly Harris at Polly@PollyHarrisIns.com.

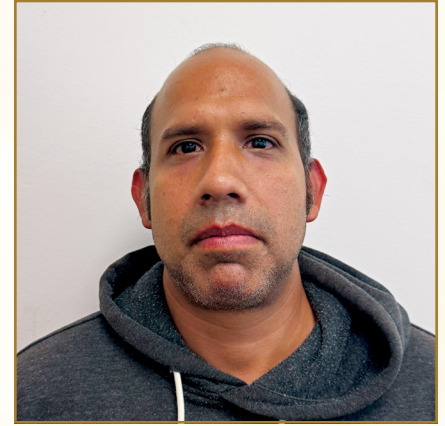
SUCCESS STORIES



Kris entered The Salvation Army Emergency Shelter after legal challenges left him without support or housing in Corpus Christi. In one month at the shelter, he secured two jobs and began saving for his own place. He has found peace in his Bible, embracing humility and personal growth. He now has a goal to attend vocational school for plumbing to build a stable future.



Tracy came to The Salvation Army fleeing domestic violence, seeking safety for herself and her three children. While in the shelter, she regained her confidence, returned to work, and began saving money. Now participating in the Rapid Re-Housing Program, Tracy is on the path to her own home and is deeply grateful for the continued support she has received.



Christopher entered the shelter in February after losing housing for himself and his son. With support from his case manager, he updated his housing plan and has since been approved, now selecting a unit. Grateful for the safe, stable environment provided, Christopher is focused on securing permanent housing and building a better future for his family.



Arturo is a veteran currently staying at The Salvation Army veteran shelter after being evicted from his apartment. With support from the Texas Veterans Commission and shelter staff, he is actively working toward securing new housing. He is preparing for upcoming surgery and focused on having a stable home for recovery. He is focused on having future independence.



Sandra arrived at The Salvation Army Center of Hope after years of homelessness and surviving domestic violence while caring for her daughter. Since March, she secured a housekeeping job at the Marriott Residence Inn and is preparing to move into her own apartment. Grateful for the support she received, Sandra's journey reflects resilience and is on her way to life after shelter.



Andrew arrived at The Salvation Army after experiencing homelessness and hardships. Since entering the shelter, he has been provided safe housing and daily meals while working closely with staff to rebuild stability. He has been assisted with retrieving his ID so he can pursue employment. His next goals are to work, save money, and secure his own place.