



STREET OUTREACH VOLLUNTEERS PREPARE EVERY OTHER WEEK 120 HOT MEALS FOR THE NEEDY



SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

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Serving the Coastal Bend since 1908

A TIME TO HELP



Christmas is coming and with this beautiful season, many opportunities of sharing in our community are coming as well.

In the last two Christmas we have not reached our Red Kettle Campaign goal of \$150,000 but this can be our year where we will reach our goal. We also will provide presents for approximately 1,000 children and we will visit nursing homes to provide visitation to those who are lonely during this time. Nothing is possible without our local supporters. Please plan to join The Salvation Army bringing a Merry Christmas to many.

FUN NIGHT FOR CHILDREN



Every week at The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend, children living in our shelter look forward to a special evening called Fun Night. This weekly event was created to give kids the chance to simply be kids—to laugh, play, and experience moments of joy and normalcy in the middle of their week. For families going through difficult times, days can feel heavy and uncertain. That's why Fun Night is so meaningful. It provides a safe, welcoming space where children can set their worries aside and focus on what they do best: having fun. The evening features a variety of games that spark laughter, teamwork, and energy—from classic group activities to interactive challenges that keep kids engaged.

Each night also includes a Bible lesson designed to inspire hope, kindness, and courage. Afterward, everyone gathers to share a meal, creating a sense of family and community. For many children, it's the highlight of their week and a memory they carry with them. Parents also share how grateful they are to see their children smiling, playing, and growing in confidence. More than just games or dinner, Fun Night plants seeds of joy and hope—reminding children they are loved, supported, and never alone. We look forward to have more fun nights for our shelter children.

THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

IN AUGUST, WE PROVIDED:

Street Outreach

2,708



Nights of Lodging

32



Average of children sheltered

3,801



3,441 Shelter Meals
360 Street Outreach

304

Food boxes distributed

181

Individuals received
Rent/Utility Assistance



Every other Saturday, The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend's street outreach team serves 120 hot meals while seeking out those in need across our community. The effort is about more than food—it's about connection, dignity, and hope. Volunteer Jessica Carr shared, "I loved helping package the food for those in need, because it showed me how small acts of service can make a big difference."

SUCCESS STORIES



Lori and her daughter were living in a rundown home without power or water. Moving into The Salvation Army shelter brought relief—running water, electricity, a safe bed, and nutritious meals. Her daughter received clothes and supplies through our Back-to-School program and now enjoys 5-to-7 Fun Night. Lori says her greatest joy is seeing her daughter laugh and thrive again.



Robert, a disabled veteran, came to The Salvation Army after losing everything. While staying in our shelter, he worked with Health Care for Homeless Veterans and our case manager to secure HUD-VASH housing. This week, Robert is moving into a home of his own. He is grateful for the meals, rest, and support he received while awaiting approval. Things are finally looking up.



Brandon came to The Salvation Army shelter after living in a motel, seeking stability and a fresh start. With support and resources, he secured a full-time job and is now saving to move into his own apartment. Brandon is grateful for the safe environment and guidance that helped him move forward with confidence toward lasting independence. He appreciates The Salvation Army.



Elizabeth came to The Salvation Army shelter with her young son and daughter after facing housing instability. Determined to create a better life, she is actively working toward permanent housing and employment. With the support and resources provided, Elizabeth is taking important steps to rebuild. She is grateful for the safe, welcoming environment during this time.



Jesus described life before coming to The Salvation Army shelter as “hell”—facing homelessness, poor health, PTSD, and depression. After arriving, he found stability, returned to school, and discovered his self-worth. Jesus went on to complete a Construction and Trade associate’s degree and join the National Honor Society. He says his family now has hope.



Nolan is currently staying at The Salvation Army Single Men’s Shelter while working toward stable housing. Employed as a flagger, he has been consistently saving with the goal of moving into his own apartment. Nolan is also eligible for the Rapid Rehousing Program, which will support his transition. He is deeply grateful for the guidance and assistance he has received.

THANKSGIVING



The Salvation Army continues its long-standing tradition of preparing Thanksgiving meals and spreading the joy of the holiday season. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone sending funding for this program. Your generosity enables us to prepare and distribute 1,000 hot meals to those in need, which includes turkey with gravy, green beans, corn, mashed potatoes, stuffing, bread, and pie.

Each meal serves as a reminder that kindness and compassion can make a lasting impact in the lives of others. Thanksgiving is not just about the meal but also about the joy of serving others. Volunteering with us is a rewarding way to give back. Make it a family tradition or gather a group of friends to volunteer together and share in the joy of giving this holiday season. Volunteer shifts are available from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM and 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Sign-up required.

Join us in bringing comfort and nourishment to those in need this Thanksgiving. To sign up, contact Jonathan Gonzalez at Jonathan.Gonzalez@uss.salvationarmy.org or call 361-910-2494. Thank you for making this season special for so many.

CHRISTMAS 2025 PLAN



The Salvation Army's Angel Tree program supports hundreds of children aged 12 and under each year by providing Christmas gifts. Teens 13-15 will receive a \$50 Walmart Gift Card. Angel tags are shared with the community and include one wish and a list of clothing sizes. Angel tags will be available starting Monday, November 3rd, and gift collection will begin on November 17th at The Salvation Army.



For the third year, Ed Rachal with the Ed Rachal Foundation is providing a warehouse area for the processing of the Angel Tree gifts. This program benefits nearly 400 families in our community who are going through financial difficulties and otherwise would not have presents for their children this Christmas. The Angel Tree program is looking to help 1,000 children this holiday season.



For the third consecutive year, H-E-B is generously providing food-only gift cards to every family enrolled in our Angel Tree program, with amounts based on family size. This gift empowers parents to shop for Christmas meal groceries that best fit their traditions and needs. We are profoundly thankful to H-E-B for donating \$25,000 to provide groceries for Christmas demonstrating their steadfast commitment to our community.



Christmas is the largest fundraising season for The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend, and our 2025 goal is to raise \$150,000—less than 50 cents for every resident of Corpus Christi. These vital funds not only help provide a joyful Christmas for families in need, but also sustain our programs and services in the first months of the new year, offering hope and support to our community's most vulnerable.



Get ready to ring the bell with The Salvation Army! We are aiming to fill all of the kettle locations with volunteers to achieve our goal, and we depend on you for this project. Bell ringing offers a wonderful opportunity for churches, businesses, and families to get involved. Join us in this important cause by signing up at Register to Ring or scan the QR code.