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The Red Shield | May 2023

The Salvation Army of Greenville
Loving the Poor | Changing Our Community

Baby on the Way

The contractions were coming hard and fast. This baby was going to be born quickly. After having a domestic violence situation, Jessica had no place to go and nowhere to turn before arriving at The Salvation Army's Women's Shelter in Greenville just a month prior.

She quickly found the Shelter Women's Resident Managers on staff that night - one week before Thanksgiving - to let them know it was time for her to have her baby. EMS was called, but they were not going to arrive before the baby did. The staff sprang into action and helped to deliver Jessica's healthy baby girl right there in the shelter.

Jessica returned to the shelter with her baby after being discharged from the hospital following the birth. She is still there today, along with her older children, as she works with The Salvation Army social services team to follow the steps in her plan forward. Through counseling, life skills classes, and working with the shelter's partnerships with healthcare providers, the older children make it to school each day, and that Jessica is receiving the support and care she needs to take care of herself and her family.

The other women and mothers also staying in the shelter pitch in to help fold laundry, or hold the baby so Jessica can rest. It's these gestures of kindness that help Jessica know she's loved and supported.

Meeting people where they are, providing compassion, grace and light during some of their darkest times is part of what has driven The Salvation Army's mission work in Greenville for more than 130 years. With your support, we can continue to help Jessica, and others like her, when it's needed most.

Get to Know: Bryan Hayes

Take a walk through The Salvation Army's Boys & Girls Club at the Kroc Center in Greenville, and you're most likely to see dozens of school-aged children playing basketball, swimming laps, learning how to play the piano, participating in instruments and much more. Bryan Hayes, Area Director for the Boys & Girls Club in Greenville, takes great pride in helping provide quality out-of-school-time enrichment programming for children in the community.

The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club offers a safe, affordable place for young people to spend time when they're not in school. Led by well-trained, passionate professionals, children have a chance to play, laugh, learn and have fun in a nurturing, positive environment.

Bryan says he draws the most inspiration for his work at the Boys & Girls Club from his father. "I watched my father for more than 40 years serve as a teacher, administrator and missionary and touch so many lives throughout his career," said Bryan.

Read Bryan's Story

Upcoming Community Health & Wellness Programs

Join us at The Salvation Army Kroc Center in Greenville throughout May for our Community Health & Wellness seminars presented by Kelly Frazier, MS, from Furman University. Each seminar is free to attend and no registration is required. We hope to see you there!

Learn More

National Salvation Army Week May 15-21

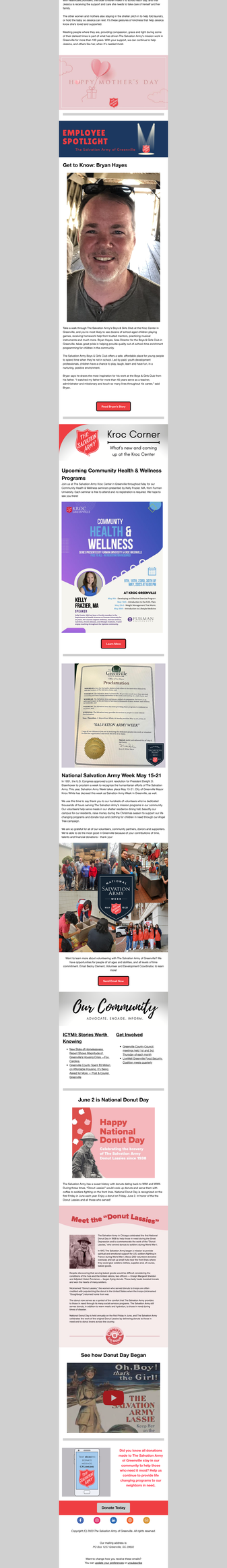
In 1981, the U.S. Congress approved a joint resolution for President Ronald Reagan's Executive to proclaim a week to recognize the humanitarian efforts of The Salvation Army. Each year, the week is proclaimed by the President. The week of The Salvation Army Army has become the week as Salvation Army Week in Greenville, as well.

We use this time to say thank you to our hundreds of volunteers who've dedicated thousands of hours serving The Salvation Army's mission programs in our community. Our volunteers help serve meals in our shelter residence dining hall, beautify our campus for our residents, raise money during the Christmas season to support our life changing programs and donate toys and clothing for children in need through our Angel Tree campaign.

We are so grateful for all of our volunteers, community partners, donors and supporters. We're able to do the most good in Greenville because of your contributions of time, talents and financial donations - thank you!

Want to learn more about volunteering with The Salvation Army of Greenville? We have opportunities of all ages and abilities, and all levels of time commitment. Email Becky Clement, Volunteer and Development Coordinator, to learn more!

Send Email Now



ICYMI: Stories Worth Knowing

- New Study of Homelessness Highlights Growing Magnitude of Greenville's Housing Crisis – Fox Carolina
- Greenville County Spent $5 Million on Affordable Housing. It's Being Asked for More. — Post & Courier Greenville

Get Involved

- Greenville County Council meetings held 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month
- Livelihood Greenville Food Security Coalition meets quarterly

June 2 is National Donut Day

The Salvation Army has a sweet history with donuts dating back to WWI and WWII. During those times, "Donut Lassies" would cook up donuts and serve them with coffee to soldiers fighting on the front lines. National Donut Day is recognized on the first Friday in June each year. Enjoy a donut on Friday, June 2, in honor of the the Donut Lassies and all those who served!

Meet the "Donut Lassies"

The Salvation Army in Chicago celebrated the first National Donut Day in 1938 to help those in need during the Great Depression and to commemorate the bravery of the "Donut Lassies," who served donuts to soldiers during World War I.

In WWI, The Salvation Army began a mission to provide spiritual and emotional support to U.S. soldiers fighting in France during World War I. About 250 volunteers traveled to France to serve the troops. Many were young women who they could give soldiers clothes, supplies and, of course, sweet goods.

Despite discovering that serving baked goods would be difficult considering the conditions of the huts and the limited rations, two officers – Ensign Margaret Sheldon and Adjutant Helen Purviance – began frying donuts. These lady hero boosted morale and won the hearts of many soldiers.

Nicknamed "Donut Lassies," the women who served donuts to troops are often credited with popularizing the donut in the United States because they brought homemade "Doughboys" returned home from war.

The Salvation Army wanted to provide comfort that The Salvation Army provides for those in need through its many social services programs. The Salvation Army still serves donuts, in addition to warm meals and hydration, to those in need during times of disaster.

National Donut Day is held annually on the first Friday in June, and The Salvation Army has continued its tradition of celebrating the bravery by delivering donuts to those in need and to donut lovers across the country.

See how Donut Day Began

Did you know all donations made to The Salvation Army of Greenville stay in our community to help those who need it most? Help us continue to provide life changing programs to our neighbors in need.

Donate Today

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