

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS



AS WE APPROACH the one-year anniversary of the devastating Central Texas floods, we find ourselves reflecting on the heartbreak of the tragedy and the ways God’s love was made visible in its aftermath.

Last July, the catastrophic floods brought unimaginable loss for communities across Central Texas. Homes were destroyed, families were upended, and lives were tragically lost. In response, The Salvation Army’s officers and staff from across the state, including North Texas, answered the call to serve.

Because of your ongoing support, The Salvation Army was able to respond swiftly and faithfully. In the first 24 hours, nearly 1,000 meals and snacks were served to those in need, in addition to the distribution of blankets, cleanup kits, food boxes, and towels.

In the weeks that followed, we provided 24-hour support, standing alongside individuals and families as they began the road to recovery. To this day, The Salvation Army remains a steady presence in the Kerrville



community. Standing alongside families, community members, and emergency personnel, offering hope and support.

While the anniversary of the floods will bring renewed grief for all of us, especially the North Texas community that was so deeply affected, it can also offer an opportunity to reflect on resilience, restoration, and strength.

We have witnessed firsthand how God brings light into even the darkest circumstances. Thank you for standing, praying, and serving alongside us. Your support makes it possible to respond not only in moments of crisis, but in the days, months, and years that follow.

God bless you,

Carolynn & Rob Webb
Majors Carolyn and Rob Webb
Area Commanders — The Salvation Army of North Texas

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to provide transformational services to North Texans who need to secure food, reestablish homes, and stabilize following the impacts of inflation, rising costs, and the pandemic.

With your help, The Salvation Army is providing aid at a time when North Texans are facing continued hardship:

- Our six shelters and senior living centers are housing **1,300 people** per night, operating at and well above capacity.
- Our 12 food pantries are feeding **10,000 people** per week.
- Our three recovery programs are treating **500 people** per week.

To make a donation, visit SalvationArmyNorthTexas.org or use the enclosed envelope.

THANK YOU TO OUR SIGNATURE PARTNERS

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SUMMER CAMP: A SAFE SPACE FOR SELF-DISCOVERY

OLYVIA'S STORY

EVERY TIME A CHILD WALKS THROUGH THE DOORS of one of The Salvation Army’s Red Shield Youth Centers, it’s our hope that we make a long-term impact — building their confidence, bringing them comfort, and shaping their bright futures.

Our programs are dedicated to breaking the poverty cycle, providing opportunities to enrich the lives of children who need it most under the umbrella of Christian values.

her counselors and started participating in activities that once seemed too intimidating.

Her transformation didn’t happen overnight, but no one expected it to. Olyvia’s transformation was at her pace: steady, beautiful, and deeply inspiring.

By Week 7 of the program, Olyvia really blossomed, and something incredible happened. During a camp performance, Olyvia grabbed the mic and, without being asked, sang her heart out in front of an entire group of campers. She held her head high. Her voice was loud, confident, and full of joy. It was a shining moment of courage and expression.

Olyvia’s story reminds us at The Salvation Army why we do what we do. Our youth programs in North Texas provide spaces for children to discover themselves, build relationships, and truly shine.

When we met Olyvia last summer, she was shy and often hesitant to open up. Her parents hoped camp would give their oldest daughter an opportunity to grow socially and emotionally, wanting her to excel past her timid, cautious, and often uncomfortable demeanor.

And day by day throughout camp, Olyvia’s shift was visible. She started connecting with her group. She began to smile more. She made friends; their laughter filled the room. She connected with

To learn more and support children like Olyvia this summer, scan the QR code or visit SalvationArmyNTX.org



HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS FIND RELIEF FROM THE NORTH TEXAS HEAT

Texas is known for its sweltering summer heat. But while our summers are often uncomfortable, they can also become deadly. For many in our community, specifically seniors, children, those with chronic health conditions, and individuals experiencing homelessness or poverty, each spike in temperature brings a very real threat to their health and safety.

In 2023, Texas recorded the highest number of heat-related deaths in state history. This is a heartbreaking reminder of the dangerous reality the heat brings with it each summer. As temperatures and costs rise, our most vulnerable neighbors, including seniors and struggling families, are being forced to make heartbreaking choices between keeping the lights on, feeding their children, and paying for essential care.

No one should have to make a choice as impossible as this. That's why The Salvation Army of North Texas, the largest social services provider in the region, mobilizes quickly each summer to deliver urgent relief where it's needed most.

Across six counties, our dedicated network of staff and volunteers ensures that no one is left to suffer in the heat, providing critical services to bring comfort and respite to those who need it most.

We are always here to serve the community and remind our neighbors that they are not alone. No matter how high the temperature climbs, there is always a place to turn for relief, kindness, and love at The Salvation Army.

HEAT RELIEF PRESENTING SPONSOR: **reliant**

Right now, The Salvation Army of North Texas has activated its multipronged heat relief activation plan to bring help as long as it's needed. This includes:



Indoor **cooling and hydration stations** that offer shelter, snacks, and drinks



Mobile feeding units that deliver support directly to those in need



Financial assistance and fan distribution to families and individuals at risk of losing electricity

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit SalvationArmyNTX.org



NATIONAL DONUT DAY

FRIDAY, JUNE 5



Each year, the first Friday in June marks a sweet holiday: National Donut Day! For many, it is a time to celebrate with a discounted treat, but for The Salvation Army, this holiday holds a deeper meaning.

In 1917, The Salvation Army answered a call from General John J. Pershing to serve alongside American troops. Our volunteers set up small huts near the battlefields in France, offering clothing, supplies, spiritual support, and sweet treats to lift spirits. These women, later affectionately called "Donut Lassies," served up to 9,000 donuts a day to troops on the front lines.



In 1938, during the Great Depression, The Salvation Army established National Donut Day to raise funds for those in need and to honor the brave volunteers who brought light to the darkness of war. On the first Friday in June each year, we celebrate Donut Day and honor those who served us.

Today, as the largest shelter provider for veterans in North Texas, our Carr P. Collins Social Service Center and J.E. & L.E. Mabee Social Service Center provide extensive programming and support for homeless and disabled veterans through temporary housing, assistance securing stable housing, and comprehensive support services.

We serve veterans facing mental health conditions, substance use disorders, social isolation, and financial instability. We have a dedicated and comprehensive case management team that can address specific needs through an approach that is designed to overcome the distinct barriers faced by veterans and support their path to independence and improved quality of life.

At The Salvation Army of North Texas, we believe those who have bravely served our country deserve more than just our thanks — they deserve our unwavering support. On June 5, join us in celebrating Donut Day by grabbing a sweet treat and donating to our veterans services.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Donut Day and how to **support our veterans**



CORPORATE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Southwest

This spring, volunteering was in the air as Southwest Airlines, longtime partner of The Salvation Army of North Texas, brought more than 100 corporate office employees to participate in spring cleaning at the Arlington Youth Education Town, preparing the facilities for what's to come with summer youth programs. The volunteers spruced up the shared spaces, assisted with landscaping, assembled blessing bags, and prepared family apartments. For the families currently living in The Salvation Army's Arlington Family Life Center, volunteers donated and created Easter baskets for the children.

For more than 20 years, Southwest team members have brought hope and joy to families during the Christmas season through their incredible generosity and service. Last year alone, they volunteered more than **1,400 hours**, adopted over **5,000 Angels**, and shared **hundreds of heartfelt letters of encouragement** with our clients. Their compassion continues to make a lasting difference, and we are deeply grateful for their unwavering partnership and support.

