



THE SAWA GAZETTE

Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary of Hood County

Women Doing the Most
Good for our Community

The Salvation Army
Mission

To preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ , and to meet human needs
in His name without discrimination.

SEPTEMBER 2025

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What You Do Is Important!

Volunteering is now essential since many charities no longer receive Federal support. When you help SAWA, a school, church, or Meals-on-Wheels, etc., your volunteering time is important! So keep a record and turn the hours in at one of the SAWA meetings or send them by email to Genie Cass, Treasurer at gmcass@att.net.



SAWA Meeting & Luncheon

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Acton Methodist Church—Youth Building
3433 Fall Creek Hwy in Acton

Meet & Greet: 10:00—10:30 am
Business Meeting & Program—10:30 am

Installation of Officers

Program

- ◆ Sharon Grindstaff will speak briefly on the importance of volunteering.
- ◆ SAWA council leaders will hold breakout sessions for members and guests to interact in topics of interest.

Lunch



Kick-Off Fare includes: Sliders, Chips, Dips, Potato Salad, and Dessert, of course.
We also offer Tea, Coffee, and Water.

\$15 (cash preferred) - no credit cards; checks accepted

Reservations are due no later than noon, Monday, September 1, 2025

Email us: reservationsawahoodcounty@gmail.com

Please list your complete name and Y or N (for lunch) on the subject line of your email.

Our SAWA Volunteers Shine at Operation Back to School!



Distributing Much Needed Socks

Hydrate. It's Hot! Need Ice?

Sorting, Folding,
and Packing
SOCKS!



It's great when the
guys pitch in.



NEECA'S NOTE

Hello Ladies!

I am excited to start a new year! The opportunities we all have to serve our community is a blessing, and the needs are great. Each of you contribute so much to this organization, you are a blessing to the residents of Hood County. Our goal this year is to grow our ability to serve, to welcome new members to that mission, and to expand our connections within the community.

Please look into the many opportunities to volunteer and be involved. Invite a friend (or friends) to join us. **Welcome back!**

Neeca Leitao, President

MEMBERSHIP

**SO EXCITED TO BE
COMING BACK
TOGETHER!**

We welcome any new members who have signed up since last May. We currently have 170 members.

Let's celebrate our birthdays each month by meeting for lunch at a local restaurant. We'll probably switch it up to spread the love, and each of us will go Dutch. No gift or card necessary, just your precious self. We will have our first "birthday" lunch this month. The date is yet to be determined, so we'll be in touch.

We look forward to getting to spend time with you!

Mendy Stevens, VP—Membership

Email: mendy.stevens@yahoo.com

September



September

Date	Birthday Girl	Date	Birthday Girl
2	Karen Potts	20	Donna Wright
5	Lori Collinsworth	21	Sally Walther
9	Betty Pickard	22	Rhaegen Frey
9	Dona Thorstenson	23	Carol DuBane
12	Cynthia Hawkins	26	Debra Abeyta
13	Pete Key	28	Neeca Leitao
16	Kathy Flatt	28	Elizabeth Ware
19	Eva Basinger		



**"I'm in the
Lord's Army.
Yes Sir!"**

INSPIRATION

That simple line from a Vacation Bible School song still echoes our calling—women on a mission, enlisted in God's rescue plan. As a friend reminded me, we're sent to where the spiritual "POWs" are, to pierce the darkness, and bring them home under the Commander's care.

**You are *chosen, called, and equipped*
to shine His light.**

Take time with *1 Peter 2:9*—let it remind you who you are and what you're here to do. So how will you answer today?

Yes Sir! I'm in the Lord's army—because eternity might shift when you say yes.

Can't wait to gather again this next month!

Anita Absher, Chaplain



Don't forget to bring your completed SAWA Membership Form (if you have any changes—address, email, etc.) to the September Meeting or email it to mendy.stevens@yahoo.com.

How Did We Do?

April 2025

- Emergency Assistance 74
- Program Assistance 7
- RRU Outreach 140
- Total number served 221**

*Welcome
Back!!*

Total Emergency Assistance: \$ 7,531.81

Total of Reported Volunteer Hours: 1,201

May 2025

- Emergency Assistance 66
- Program Assistance 78
- Total number served 144**

Total Emergency Assistance: \$ 5,558.78

Note: Volunteer hours are at least a month behind because SAWA members record them at the monthly meeting, which goes to Genie Cass on the 1st of the month after the next newsletter comes out.

PROJECTS

Operation Back-to-School Was A Great Success!

Operation Back-to-School happened this year at the **United Way** building on August 5th and August 9th. Once again, our SAWA volunteers went above and beyond expectation. In the days leading up to the event, they generously donated, bagged, and sorted socks for local children. When the doors opened, our RRU Truck was on-site with Diane Mayda to offer cold water to families waiting in line. SAWA volunteers distributed **680 bottles of water!**

Despite the heat and working in a hallway without air conditioning, our volunteers served with joy. The smiles on their faces as they handed out socks were truly inspiring, a reminder of the power of compassion in action. Thanks to their efforts, **6,535 pairs of socks** were distributed to families over the two days—making a real impact for students in need.

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary is deeply grateful for the dedication, resilience, and kindness of our members. Together, you brought comfort and encouragement to families as they prepared for the new school year.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for a new school year with our **Hope Tote Project** and also continuing to work with **Oak Trail Shores** to provide snacks for their after-school tutoring program and **Brazos Community Center** to provide diapers and baby hygiene.

If you would like to become a volunteer on one or more of our Projects committees, please email Janet Brown (janetnealbrown@aol.com) or Debbie Abeyta (dskushura@hotmail.com).

Janet Brown, VP Projects (703)-217-2805
Debbie Abeyta, Assistant (817) 845-4142



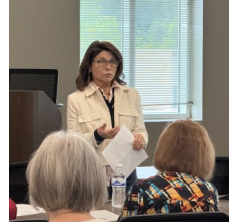
Have you met **Rhaegan Frey**, SA Service Unit Manager? She is in charge of the office and also is scheduling the office volunteers. So, if you want some easy, yet fulfilling, volunteer shifts at the Office, check with her. Call her at the SA Office (682-936-2264). Office Hours: M—Th, 10am—1pm. **THANK YOU, Linda Silver** for handling this for many years! You Rock!



GAP PROGRAM

The GAP Program had training before summer break. Our two wonderful speakers shared helpful information for our mentors.

The 1st Speaker was **Kent Barnes**, a Crime Scene Technician. His topic was Marijuana.



Mel Bridwell was our 2nd speaker. She shared with us her experience in Mentorship.



Our next mentor meeting will be October 6, 2025, at 10 AM. The location is Granbury Police Department, 2050 NE Loop 567, Granbury, Texas 76048

Our Speaker is **Chad Taylor** with **Interbank**. The topic is:

- How to open a checking account and savings account,
- Direct deposit information,
- What information will they need to bring, and
- Anything else concerning a teen or young adult.

Mary Flores
Crime Victim Liaison
Hood County Sheriff's Office

A Thank You from Our Scholarship Recipient
Maecy Underwood

Dear Salvation Army,
Thank you so much for awarding me with a huge scholarship to help pay for me to further my education at Tarleton State University for the 2025-26 school year. This scholarship is a huge blessing that I am so grateful for. If there is any way that I can give back to this amazing organization, please let me know! Thank you so much! -Maecy Underwood