



# EL PASO CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 2026

A Newsletter of The Salvation Army of El Paso

## SOUP KITCHEN OPEN EVERY EVENING: A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR ALL

More than 2,500 meals are served each month at The Salvation Army Family Center. Many people are familiar with the shelter program, where residents receive three nutritious meals each day. What some may not realize, however, is that the soup kitchen also opens its doors every evening.

Supper is available to anyone in the community who needs a meal—not just those staying at the shelter.

Offering a hot, welcoming place to eat is vital for individuals and families facing food insecurity in many different forms. Some may be living on the streets or temporarily staying with friends. Others may be working hard but struggling to keep up with rent, utilities, or rising grocery costs.

Food insecurity doesn't look the same for everyone, which is why the soup kitchen plays such an important role in caring for the community.

"About six months ago a friend told me that I could get dinner at The Salvation Army," said Scott, who works nearby. "I've been coming ever since. The food is great and the people are so nice. I've been working the same job for almost a year but I still live pay check to pay check. I'm so pleased to be able to get a hot meal here."



Many guests are employed but still struggle with rising costs.

A single hot meal can improve health and stability—especially for those facing chronic food insecurity.

478 meals were served through the Soup Kitchen program in January 2026.



## MONTHLY IMPACT REPORT

January 1 - January 31



1,155

NIGHTS OF SHELTER



2,626

TOTAL MEALS



\$5,343

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



272

VOLUNTEER HOURS



## *Showing Up to Serve: Alfredo Ruiz*

Alfredo Ruiz has supported The Salvation Army for many years as a donor. Inspired by the impact of his giving and encouraged by several thank-you letters, he chose to become even more involved by volunteering.

Alfredo grew up with a strong spirit of service, often volunteering alongside his mother at the Boy Scouts of America soup kitchen. That commitment to helping others continued into adulthood, both through his 25-year career as a bilingual elementary teacher and his service as a veteran.

In 2025 alone, he completed more than 224 volunteer hours. He's become a consistent and dependable presence at the thrift store—sorting donations, hanging clothes, and keeping shelves

organized.

As a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, he loves supporting his local chapter's year-round events like Easter egg hunts and other initiatives.

Alfredo continues to stay active in local outreach through community events, retirement home cleanups, and community closets for women. He also volunteers during the Red Kettle Campaign every Christmas season.

"Volunteering at The Salvation Army has provided me the opportunity to give back a little, serve my community, and grow spiritually," said Alfredo. "I enjoy helping others and meeting people at the thrift store. It means a lot to know I'm making a difference wherever I can."



## Corps Cadets: Where Service Shapes Leaders

The Corps Cadets of The Salvation Army—a leadership and spiritual development program for young people growing in faith and service—recently put their training into action through teamwork and hands-on care.

They rolled up their sleeves to wash and deep clean both the church van and the bus, sharing plenty of laughter along the way and enjoying a well-earned rest afterward. Their efforts reflect a heart for service and a commitment to caring for the ministry resources that help support others in the community.

## CONNECTING HEARTS THROUGH PRAYER & ENCOURAGEMENT

The Corps Cadets also unveiled a brand-new prayer board titled Faith in Action, designed to help people connect with one another and draw closer to God through prayer.

The board provides a place to share prayer requests, celebrate answered prayers, and find encouragement through God's Word.

Serving as both a visual reminder of God's faithfulness and an invitation to lift one another up, this new resource reflects the cadets' desire to strengthen faith, build community, and share hope with all who encounter it.





**YOU can make a difference!**

Bring your energy, your smile, and your heart— help us make a difference in the community.

**We Need Volunteers!** Join the team, and celebrate the mission.

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