



Serving the Coastal
Bend since 1908

SALVATION ARMY STAFF, AND VOLUNTEERS PREPARE TO DISTRIBUTE FANS AND CASES OF BOTTLE WATER

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

Dick & Sara Rathgeber Center of Hope: 1804 Buford Street, Corpus Christi, TX 78404

Family Store: 5042 South Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78411

(361) 884-9497 • www.SalvationArmyCorpusChristi.org

FANS FOR FRIENDS DISTRIBUTION



On Friday, August 1st, The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend hosted its annual “Fans for Friends” distribution event at 1804 Buford Street, providing much-needed relief from the extreme summer heat. With temperatures soaring across the region, the event aimed to support individuals and families in need of cooling resources. Thanks to generous community donations, 370 fans were collected in the weeks leading up to the event, and were given away to local residents. Everyone who showed up received this gift of our community. Operated as a drive-

thru for safety and speed, volunteers lifted, loaded, and greeted each vehicle with care and compassion. The high turnout reflects the ongoing need for assistance during Texas’ hottest months.

The Salvation Army remains committed to serving the Coastal Bend with practical help and hope. Together with community support—including Port of Corpus Christi volunteers and Officer Miller—we’re keeping our neighbors safe, cool, and cared for. Thank you, Coastal Bend residents!

THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

IN JULY, WE PROVIDED:

2,602



Nights of Lodging

33



Average of children sheltered

3,229



2,989 Shelter Meals
240 Street Outreach

283



Food boxes distributed

135



Individuals received
Rent/Utility Assistance

Frost Bank Volunteers



The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend is grateful to the Frost Bank volunteers who recently dedicated 18 hours of their time at our Family Store in Corpus Christi. Their hard work sorting clothing and organizing the store shelves is more than just a behind-the-scenes task—it directly supports the mission of helping those in need.

Sales from the Family Store provide critical funding for programs that serve our community, including our emergency family shelter, daily meals, and a safe place for individuals and families to regroup and rebuild their lives. Volunteers like those from Frost Bank play a vital role in making this possible.

“The Salvation Army depends on the generosity of volunteers all year long,” said Major Nathanael Doria, “Their time and effort help stretch our resources further and touch countless lives in the Coastal Bend.”

We welcome volunteers from all walks of life to join us in making a difference. Whether it's at the Family Store, serving meals, or supporting seasonal programs, every hour given has a lasting impact. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Jonathan Gonzalez at 361-910-2494 or Jonathan.Gonzalez@uss.salvationarmy.org.

SUCCESS STORIES



Finding safety and support at The Salvation Army, Christella and her two children began a new chapter after fleeing domestic violence. Help came their way fast. In just one month, she secured a better-paying job, saved money, and moved into a home of their own. Today, her children are thriving free from fear, filled with hope, and rediscovering the joy and confidence they deserve.



After being evicted, Diane and her family lived in a tent on the beach—uncertain and afraid. When she found The Salvation Army, everything changed. Now, they have a safe place to stay, warm meals, clean clothes, and hope. Her children are enjoying Vacation Bible School and have made new friends through our summer programs. Their smiles say it all.



Determined to create a better life for her three children, Ivy turned to The Salvation Army after leaving her previous shelter. She's now working closely with the housing authority and taking steady steps toward permanent housing. Through every challenge, Ivy remains focused, strong, and full of hope for a brighter, more stable future. She is putting it in God's hands.



After losing her mother, Madelynne was left without a home or job and feared for her family's future. She turned to The Salvation Army, where she found safety, support, and renewed hope. Now employed, she's received clothing, enjoys nutritious meals, and rests peacefully. She's deeply grateful for The Salvation Army and the donors who made her fresh start possible.



With nowhere to go after losing temporary housing due to a broken AC, Roxanne, her husband, and young son turned to The Salvation Army. They were welcomed with open arms, offered safety and comfort. Now focused on finding a job, Roxanne is determined to build stability. She's grateful for the support and resources during this critical time of transition.



After losing their home, Julio and his wife spent weeks searching for a safe place. They found it at The Salvation Army, where they were welcomed with compassion and care. With warm meals, a safe place to rest, and vital resources, they're now actively job hunting and focused on rebuilding their lives—one hopeful step at a time. Julio is confident in finding new stability for himself and his wife.

BACK TO SCHOOL



BACK TO SCHOOL season can be stressful for any family—but for those in crisis, it's especially overwhelming. At The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend, we made it a priority to help children in our shelter start the school year with confidence. This year, 19 school-aged children received brand-new clothing, including shoes, pants, shirts, undergarments, and socks—essentials that boost both comfort and self-esteem.

Several toddlers, though not yet in school, also received fresh, seasonally appropriate clothing to help them feel

cared for. “Even something as simple as new socks or shoes can make a big difference in a child’s day,” said Jonathan Gonzalez, Public Relations Coordinator. “It’s about more than just clothing—it’s about hope.” Thanks to our donors and community partners, these children are starting the year prepared, proud, and supported.

A big recognition to Advisory Board chair Polly Harris for leading the fundraising effort with other advisory board members to make possible this so needed provision to the children of the Center of Hope shelter.

CAIN SCHOLARSHIPS



THE SALVATION ARMY of the Coastal Bend, in partnership with the Cain Foundation, has awarded 10 college scholarships totaling \$20,000 to students pursuing higher education. These scholarships help reduce the financial strain of college expenses and empower students to focus on their studies without the pressure of full-time work.

Recipients were selected based on financial need and academic potential. Each student received \$2,000 to assist with tuition, books, and other college-related costs. For many, this support makes the difference between

struggling financially and being able to concentrate on their education. Jennifer Carr, a scholarship recipient, shared: “Receiving this scholarship has truly changed my college experience. I can now cut back on work hours and focus more on my studies. It’s a relief knowing I have support behind me—I’m very thankful for the peace of mind this brings.”

Through this initiative, The Salvation Army and the Cain Foundation continue their commitment to strengthening futures by investing in education and hope.