



The Women's Auxiliary MESSENGER

SA Representative: Major Candice Biggers

January 2026

Auxiliary Message

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2026, we reflect on the incredible work our Women's Auxiliary has done in the past year and look ahead to the exciting opportunities to serve our community in the year to come. Thanks to your support, our efforts have made a real difference, and we're thrilled to kick off another year of service with our biggest fundraising event yet! We're excited to share some highlights from December and give you a sneak peek into what's ahead! Are your ears still ringing from the sound of the bells? Thank you for all your **Kettle Drive** participation! Thank you for making the holidays bright for local families. The annual **Toy Shop Angel Tree** event in December was a resounding success, thanks to all of you who donated toys, volunteered your time, and spread the holiday cheer. Through your generosity, we were able to provide gifts to countless children in need, ensuring that they had a memorable and joyful holiday season. This event wouldn't have been possible without the heartwarming spirit of our members and volunteers. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make it happen!

We are thrilled to announce that our **40th Annual Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon & Silent Auction** is just around the corner! This milestone event will take place on April 9th at The Prime Osborn Convention Center. Over the years, this event has been the cornerstone of our fundraising efforts, and this year promises to be extra special as we celebrate four decades of service and community impact.

We're lining up some incredible celebrity chefs, a delicious menu, and a silent auction featuring exclusive items that you won't want to miss. Funds raised will support local Salvation Army's programs.

Volunteers Needed! We're calling on all members and friends of the Auxiliary to lend a hand. Whether you're interested in helping with event planning, auction coordination, or setup day, we welcome your involvement. This is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the success of an event that makes a huge difference in our community. If you're interested in learning more or becoming a member, please reach out to us at 904-301-4841. Together, we can continue to support the mission of The Salvation Army and help those who need it most. The year ahead is filled with exciting opportunities to serve and make a difference. Here are just a few things we're looking forward to in the next few months:

- **January 26th General Auxiliary Meeting @ Epping Forrest:** Guest speaker "Celebrity Chef," Mary Daniel.
10:00 AM to Noon
- **February 5th Recipe Tasting:** Aspire Church San Marco. Contact Darlene to secure a recipe to prepare and join us to taste and critique the recipes for our 40th annual event.

Silent Auction items solicitation: Take your part in the success of the Auction by making a "themed" basket and solicit for auction items and gift certificates. Set an individual goal for a set number of items and let's set a new record of over 300 items!

As we enter this new year, we're filled with hope and excitement about all that we can achieve together. The work we do as a Women's Auxiliary is vital, and each of you plays a key role in making it all possible. Thank you for your continued dedication and support. Stay tuned for more updates as we prepare for the 40th Annual Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon and Silent Auction, and remember, there's always room for more volunteers and new members! Let's make 2026 a year of growth, service, and community impact.

With gratitude, NeeCee Lee



Ladies,

All of us at The Salvation Army are so grateful for your continued support. We thank you for Doing the Most Good with us in helping to make families on the First Coast joyous this Thanksgiving and Christmas Season. We couldn't do it without **YOU!**

Thank You and may God bless you and your family in the new year!

shutterstock.com - 2640452241

Kettle Kick Off



Pattie Lamell, Susan Halil, Melinda Darbee, Sally Bell, Connie Frank, Diane Bailey, NeeCee Lee, Georgeanne Roeder, Leyda Garcia, Susie O'Quinn, Debbie Veale, Jennifer Roberts, Rita Cannon, Darlene Uhler-Batiste, Dianne Lott, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, Linda Tuschinski and Major Candice Biggers

Kettle Telethon



Susan Nolan, Deborah DeFoor, Debbie Veale, Darlene Uhler-Batiste, Kathy Tuerk, Georgeann Roeder and Courtney Fox

Toy Shop



NeeCee Lee, Jennifer Roberts, Deborah DeFoor, Debra Register, Kristi Cannon, Darlene Uhler-Batiste, Sharon Morgan, Debbie Wilson-Lee, Jack Roeder, Major Candice Biggers, Rita Cannon, Susie O'Quinn, Michele Kehner, Debbie Veale, Mimi Kelly, Carol Blodgett, Diane Bailey, Georgeann Roeder, Carol Hamilton, Kathy Tuerk and friends

Ringling the Bell



Betsy Obrien and Carla Gangone



Britt Aubley and Rex



Dave, Joycelon and Cheers Koehler



John Isaaca with Murphy and Lucille



Santiago, Leyda and Lulu Garcia with Sally Bell



Jeanne Johnson, Louie, Alyn Airaghi and Nick



Kathy Tuerk, Hemlock and Susan Halil,



Jo and John Oetjen



Patty Powl, River and Cora Hunt



Robert and Jack O'Quinn



Diane Nevison and Bill Stewart



Craig and Mimi Kelly



Melina Buncome with Rafiki and Mocha



Doug, Karen and Brooks Zambetti



Linda Tuschinski and Pat Schneider



Robert and Jane Upton

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 13, 2026
Board Meeting 10 AM
Celebrity Chefs 11 AM
Area Command

January 19, 2026
Martin Luther King Day observed
Area Command Office Closed

January 26, 2026
General Meeting 10 AM
Epping Forest Yacht & County Club
1830 Epping Forest Dr., 32217
Nominating (immediately following) 12 PM

February 5, 2026 6 PM
Auxiliary Tasting
Aspire Church San Marco

February 10, 2026
Wrapping Silverware 9 AM
Board Meeting 10 AM
Celebrity Chefs 11 AM
Philanthropic (Tentative) 12 PM
Area Command

February 23, 2026
General Meeting 10:30 AM
Jacksonville Humane Society
8464 Beach Blvd., 32216

March 10, 2026
Board Meeting 10 AM
Celebrity Chefs 11 AM
Area Command

March 23, 2026
General Meeting 10:30 AM
Area Command
Delores Barr Weaver Community Room
800 West Monroe St., 32202

April 8, 2026
Celebrity Chefs Set-Up 9AM-Until
Prime Osborn Convention Center

April 9, 2026
Celebrity Chefs Luncheon 10:30-1 PM
Prime Osborn Convention Center

April 3, 2026
Area Command Office Closed
Good Friday

April 21, 2026
Board Meeting 10 AM
Celebrity Chefs 11 AM
Area Command

Shirley's Kitchen, Inc.

A charity that was recently formed in memory of Mary Daniel's friend Shirley. The charity provides food and clothing for Jacksonville low income families.

Items needed:

Perishable and Non-perishable food items
Hygiene products Blankets
Men/Women Socks Men/Women Coats
Men/Women Sweaters Men/Women Jackets



Forgotten Coins

Don't forget to bring your forgotten coin can to our January meeting hosted by Marilyn Carpenter on January 26th. The **Red** and **Blue** teams are competing to see who can raise the most money. Proceeds go to purchasing "welcome kits" for the Towers Center of Hope.



2025-2026 Fundraiser



“Celebrity” Chefs Spotlight

I'm honored to be chosen as a 2026 Celebrity Chefs but must confess being called a chef is certainly a new title for me. Most that know me would tell you that being called a cook might be a stretch, but boy do I love good food so it was easy for me to choose a few recipes to submit.

My mother was a very simple cook but everything she ever prepared was delicious. My sister and I still use her recipes and meals to feed our families. The three recipes I submitted are not hers directly, they are recipes she prepared but they're actually from other family members. Two recipes from my Great Aunt Libby - her Hamburger Soup and Spinach Cornbread have been a staple for our family as the ultimate comfort food on a cold night and now serves as our annual meal after we all return home from the Georgia-Florida game after a long day of tailgating. Go Dawgs! My godmother Jackie's Cheesecake is a light and delicious variation of a traditional cheesecake that is always a hit and reminds me of her every time I make it.

I can't wait for the luncheon in April and am excited to share my favorite recipes to help the Salvation Army with their mission in Jacksonville.

Mary Daniel

Georgia Bulldog Club of Jacksonville

Past President 2013

Past President 1995

Jacksonville Bulldog Alumni Scholarships, Inc.

Board Chairman

Past President 2000-2021

904-502-9776



Recipe Corner

Aunt Libby's Hamburger Soup

1 lb lean ground beef	1 lg. chopped onion
1 (16 oz) can of cream style corn	1 (10 oz) can Rotel diced tomatoes
1 (16 oz) can of stewed tomatoes	1 (11 oz) can of V8 juice
1 (15 oz) box of Spanish rice (or cooked Spanish rice)	
1 can diced tomatoes for Spanish rice	

Brown ground beef and onion together. Add rest of ingredients. Simmer on low for 30-40 minutes. Hearty meal we always serve after GA-FL game. Especially good with spinach cornbread recipe also submitted.

Aunt Libby's Spinach Cornbread

1 box Jiffy corn muffin mix	1 onion, chopped
6 oz. cottage cheese	1 stick margarine, melted
½ teaspoon salt	6 eggs, beaten
1 pkg. chopped spinach, thawed and drained	

Grease 10" pyrex dish. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes. Delicious cornbread everyone loves, especially served with butter. Perfectly compliments my hamburger soup recipe.

Jackie's Cheesecake

1 graham cracker pie crust

Cheesecake:

2 lg. (16 oz) cream cheese
½ cup sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla

Icing:

1 cup sour cream
5 Tablespoons sugar
½ teaspoon vanilla

Cheesecake:

Soften cream cheese, blend with sugar. Add beaten eggs and vanilla. Beat with mixer until creamy smooth. Pour into pie crust. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool for a few minutes.

Icing: Mix ingredients. Pour over cake spreading smoothly. Return cake to oven at 350 degrees to cook for another 10 minutes. Refrigerate at least 5 hours. A family favorite that's a delicious but different cheesecake.

Mary Daniel



Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon and Silent Auction
April 9, 2026
Prime Osborn Convention Center

Here's how you can help with our annual fundraiser:

Silent Auction: We need each auxiliary member to provide at least one item, so please contact your favorite business for a donation. For donation pick-ups contact NeeCee Lee at 904-612-5316, neeceelee@aol.com. Don't forget to complete the donor forms (see inside) and include value of item! Call Darlene for additional forms.



Contributions: If you have a contact you would like to share, please email Darlene at darlene.uhler-batiste@uss.salvationarmy.org

Sponsors: If you have a contact that you would like to submit as a sponsor, please contact Michele Kehnert at 904-923-7299, mkehrert@aol.com or Karen Zambetti at (904) 537-4744, zambettisellsjax@gmail.com.

Tickets: Tickets for Celebrity Chefs are now available. As you are aware, each member is asked to buy or sell five (5) tickets (\$40.00 each). If you purchase ten (10) or more tickets the price is \$35.00 each and you will become a "Ruby Participant". So BUY...BUY...SELL...SELL!!! Contact Darlene at 904-301-4841 for more information.

Volunteer: We need your help! If you haven't completed a staffing card letting us know how you will help, please email Darlene where you'd like to serve. If you have questions, please contact Esther Tomaszewski at 760-835-6544 or Kathy Tuerk at 904-923-2235. We need additional volunteers to help set up the day before.



***Salvation Army Celebrity Chefs Luncheon
& Silent Auction***

Silent Auction Contribution Form

Please print all information exactly as it should appear in publications. Use a separate form for each item donated.

Donor's Name: _____

Business Affiliation, if any: _____

Donor's Address: _____
(street) (city, state) (zip)

Donor's Phone: (w) _____ (h) _____ (c) _____

Contact Person, if different from Donor: _____

(address) (phone)

Item, Gift Certificate or Service Donated: _____
(detailed description as it will appear at auction)

Value (Set by Donor): _____ Will item be delivered* _____ or does it need to be picked up***? _____

[*Must be delivered no later than three weeks prior to the event to The Salvation Army office located at 800 West Monroe St., 2nd floor]

***Date item is available: _____ Pick up Location: _____

Special Instructions: _____

Do you want your name listed in the program? ☐ Yes ☐ No [Note: If yes, please fill in line below.]

Please print name(s) and/or company name as you would like it to appear in the program; or, if you desire, you may put "Anonymous."

Do you want item(s) returned to you should it not be sold or used for the auction? ☐ Yes ☐ No
[Note: Items will otherwise be donated to The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center]

YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION WILL BE USED TO BENEFIT SALVATION ARMY PROGRAMS

Office Use Only:

Date Item Received at Salvation Army Office: _____ By: _____

Submitted by committee member: _____

Date Thank You acknowledgement sent: _____ By: _____

**THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE SALVATION ARMY
"CELEBRITY CHEFS TASTING AND SILENT AUCTION"**

THURSDAY, April 9, 2026
10:30 A.M. - Auction Opens
11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. - Luncheon

BENEFACTOR		\$500.00+
	Name displayed on show cards at event Name/business listed on special acknowledgment page in program Benefactor badges for the event Up to two complimentary tickets to event	
PATRON		\$250.00+
	Name listed in program as Patron Patron badges for the event One complimentary ticket to event	
FRIEND		\$100.00+
	Name listed in program as Friend	
CONTRIBUTOR		\$ 50.00+
	Name listed in program as Contributor	
DONOR		\$ 25.00+
	Name listed in program as Donor	

***** RESPONSE *****

We are glad to participate as:

BENEFACTOR	at	\$500.00	_____
Number of Complimentary tickets requesting [Value of Ticket is \$40]			_____
PATRON	at	\$250.00	_____
Number of Complimentary tickets requesting [Value of Ticket is \$40]			_____
FRIEND	at	\$100.00	_____
CONTRIBUTOR	at	\$ 50.00	_____
DONOR	at	\$ 25.00	_____

MY CHECK IS ENCLOSED _____ BILL ME IN 2026 _____

Please make check payable to "The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary." Thank you for your support.

Please print name(s) and/or company name as you would like it to appear in the program; or, if you desire, you may put "Anonymous."

Phone **Email**

Authorized Signature



40TH ANNUAL CELEBRITY CHEFS TASTING LUNCHEON & SILENT AUCTION

April 9, 2026 | 10:30 am – 1:00 pm
The Prime Osborn Convention Center



★ BECOME A CELEBRITY CHEF SPONSOR! ★

All proceeds benefit The Salvation Army programs in Northeast Florida

BRANDING OPPORTUNITIES
MEDIA PUBLICITY | PROGRAM INCLUSION
SOCIAL MEDIA RECOGNITION
ON-SITE SIGNAGE | VIP TABLES
EVENT TICKETS & MORE!

Presenting
\$15,000 +

Gold
\$10,000

Silver
\$7,500

Blue Ribbon
\$5,000

Red Ribbon
\$2,500

Yellow Ribbon
\$1,000

Adult Rehabilitation Center:

- Cooler and walk-in freezers
- Kitchen gas stove
- Kitchen flat top grill
- Celebrate recovery materials
- Dining room chairs
- Washer/dryer units for dorms
- Convection ovens
- Maintenance pickup truck
- New mattresses for dorms
- Home care products

Social Services Center:

- Replacement bunk beds
- Lobby refurbishment
- Water filling stations
- New washers/dryers
- Dining room renovations
- Filtering system for fryer
- Bed bug machine
- Microwave
- Portable defibrillators
- Angel Tree bags & stockings



Sponsorship Opportunities

darlene.uhler-batiste@uss.salvationarmy.org
(904) 301-4841

Ticket Information

jacksonville.salvationarmyflorida.org/nefl/
Scan the QR code to purchase



40TH ANNUAL CELEBRITY CHEFS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY



PRESENTING SPONSOR \$15,000+	GOLD SPONSOR \$10,000	SILVER SPONSOR \$7,500	BLUE RIBBON SPONSOR \$5,000	RED RIBBON SPONSOR \$2,500	YELLOW RIBBON SPONSOR \$1,000
One (1) reserved VIP table	One (1) reserved VIP table	One (1) reserved VIP table	☐	☐	☐
Up to 16 tickets to event	Up to 8 event tickets	Up to 6 event tickets	Up to 5 event tickets	Up to 4 event tickets	Up to 3 event tickets
Reserved VIP Parking for eight (8) guests	Reserved VIP Parking for four (4) guests	Reserved VIP Parking for four (4) guests	Reserved VIP Parking for two (2) guests	Reserved VIP Parking for two (2) guests	Reserved VIP Parking for two (2) guests
Full-page profile in program	Full-page profile in program	Full-page profile in program	Half-page profile in program	Profile in program	Profile in program
Recognition on event sponsor board	Recognition on event sponsor board	Recognition on event sponsor board	Recognition on event sponsor board	Recognition on event sponsor board	Recognition on event sponsor board
Social media & print media	Social media & print media	Social media & print media	Social media recognition	Social media recognition	Social media recognition
Purchase additional event tickets @ \$35/each	Purchase additional event tickets @ \$35/each	Purchase additional event tickets @ \$35/each	Purchase additional event tickets @ \$35/each	Purchase additional event tickets @ \$35/each	Purchase additional event tickets @ \$35/each
Acknowledgement at event by Master of Ceremonies	Acknowledgement at event by Master of Ceremonies	Acknowledgement at event by Master of Ceremonies	Acknowledgement at event by Master of Ceremonies	☐	☐
Exclusive Membership William Booth Society	Exclusive Membership William Booth Society	Exclusive Membership William Booth Society	Exclusive Membership William Booth Society	☐	☐
Publicity on radio, newsletters & email blasts	Publicity on radio, newsletters & email blasts	Publicity on radio, newsletters & email blasts	Publicity on radio, newsletters & email blasts	☐	☐
Commemorative Gift	Commemorative Gift	Commemorative Gift	☐	☐	☐



Making a Difference...One Life at a Time
800 West Monroe Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202
904-301-4841

Email: darlene.uhler-batiste@uss.salvationarmy.org
<https://jacksonville.salvationarmyflorida.org/nefl/>



Here's a look at our **2026 celebrity chefs** roster:

Anthony Austin - First Coast News

Garrett Bedenbaugh - CBS 47/Fox 30 Action News Jax

Darren Dailey - Jacksonville Children's Chorus

Mary Daniel - Founder or Caregivers...

R. Ward Lariscy - The Wardroom LTD

Melanie Lawson - News4Jax

Greg McGarity - Gator Bowl Sports

Patty & Ed Nimnicht - Nimnicht Chevrolet

Seth and Pamela Williams, The Resident

Sponsors to-date:

\$25,000 Presenting Sponsor



\$10,000 Gold Sponsors

R. Noble and Emily Beckwith

Rita and Carl Cannon

\$5,000 Blue Ribbon Sponsors

A friend of the Auxiliary

\$2,500 Red Ribbon Sponsors

A friend of the Auxiliary

Marilyn Carpenter



\$1,000 Yellow Ribbon Sponsors

A Friend of the Auxiliary

Heritage Financial Advisory

John and Leyda Cooksey



Date: _____

Celebrity Chefs Staffing

Name: _____
Last First

Address: _____
Street

City Zip Code

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I prefer to assist from (Circle one):

- A. 10:30 - Noon
- B. 12 to 1 PM
- C. Either time is OK

I would like to (Circle one):

- A. Assist a celebrity chef
- B. Assist in silent auction
- C. Cashier
- D. Drink Station
- E. Other
- F. People's Choice Award
- G. Photo Booth
- H. Plate Station
- I. Wherever needed



"Ruby Participant" Order Form

The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon & Silent Auction

April 9, 2026 -10:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Prime Osborn Convention Center

Donor Information (please print or type)

Name _____
Billing address _____
City, State Zip Code _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Number of Ticket(s) _____ Total Amount: \$ _____

Ten (10) tickets Cost \$350.00 A service fee per transaction is accessed for all charges online

Please charge to my:

Credit Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Credit card number _____
Expiration Date _____
Required Verification code _____

Visa/MC 3-digit number on back of card
AMEX 4-digit number on front of card

Signature _____

*Please note: No refunds for no show

IMPORTANT

**To best utilize your contribution, please advise # of tickets
you are using by March 13, 2026.**

☐ Please mail my ticket(s) to me at above address
"Deadline to order & receive by mail is March 20, 2026"
(For cash or check purchases only)

☐ Please leave my ticket(s) at event "will-call" table
(Your card will be charged the week of **April 6, 2026**)

To purchase tickets online go to [https:// bit.ly/3Ume2xA](https://bit.ly/3Ume2xA)

Call to place order (904) 301-4841.





40th Annual Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon & Silent Auction

April 9, 2026 | 10:30 am- 1:00 pm
Prime Osborn Convention Center

“Ruby Participant” Invitation

The ruby is used in various Salvation Army insignia as it represents the values of service and dedication.

To become a Ruby Participant please complete the attached form or scan the QR Code below.



Event Tickets

Ten (10+) tickets to the event at \$35 each. *Discount applies to any purchase of 10+ increments.



Event Recognition

Recognition on sign



Program Inclusion

Name listed in Event Program



800 West Monroe St, Jacksonville, FL 32202

For more Information contact

📞 904-301-4841

✉️ darlene.uhler-batiste@uss.salvationarmy.org

🌐 <https://jacksonville.salvationarmyflorida.org/nefl/>

Upcoming Events

Tee Off for Hope

JOIN US FOR THE SALVATION ARMY'S

TEE-OFF FOR HOPE GOLF TOURNAMENT

2026



Queens Harbor Yacht & Country Club

1131 Queens Harbor Boulevard

**Monday
March 2, 2026**



Upcoming Events

Clay County Empty Bowls

Save the Date

EMPTY BOWLS 2026

& help feed Clay County



Lunch • Silent Auction • Bake Sale

**United
Methodist
Church
Family
Life Center**

2042 Reed St • Orange Park

**Tuesday,
April 28**

11am • 1pm

Sponsorship opportunities available



The Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary of Clay County • (904) 276-6677 • SAWAClayCounty@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

Please remember our special friends through your prayers, cards and calls. Get well wishes go out to Pat Schneider, Major Bert Tanner, Melina Buncome and continue for Tony Lott, and Linda Tuschinski. We are thinking and praying for you. If you know of someone who is ill or needs prayer, please call Darlene at the office or me at (305)409-9980; LSGarcia1949@gmail.com.

Leyda Gracia, Corresponding Secretary

Membership Update

If you have a correction to the directory or would like to invite a friend to one of our meetings, please contact Darlene.


New Members:

Kathleen Kelley 03/26
10620 Palmetto Ave
Jacksonville, FL 32226
(C) 904-226-4581
Email: kathleen@jrichardmoore.com

Waynette Traub 08/19
10448 Salt Marsh Trail
Jacksonville, FL 32226
(C) 501-352-1425
Email: waynettetraub@me.com

Diane Bailey, Membership Chair

Birthdays

Please wish the following members a 

February

Donna Gibson 02/06
Jackie Nichols 02/17
Susan Nolan 02/19
Carol Blodgett 02/25

Contact Us

For more information

**The Salvation Army
Northeast Florida
Area Command**

800 West Monroe Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 301-4841

darlene.uhler-batiste
@uss.salvationarmy.org

Visit us on the web at
www.salvationarmynefl.org

Prayer for 2026

Heavenly Father, as we enter 2026, teach us to love one another with patience, humility, and grace. Help us to listen with compassion, act with kindness, and reflect Your love in all we do. As we serve others, may our service praise and honor You, because we love only because You first loved us. Let our lives bring glory to Your name. Amen.

Scripture:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” — John 3:16