



# EL PASO CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2024

*A Monthly Newsletter of The Salvation Army of El Paso*

## MEETING THE GROWING NEED: A CALL FOR SUPPORT FOR THE SALVATION ARMY'S FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM

The inflation crisis following the pandemic has put immense pressure on low-income households, increasing the demand for The Salvation Army's food and shelter programs.

The Salvation Army shelter supports vulnerable populations facing barriers to breaking the cycle of poverty, including lack of nutrition, vocational training, employment, professional clothing, hygiene supplies, birth certificates or other documentation, a permanent address, and knowledge about assistance programs.

The Salvation Army addresses these barriers by providing balanced meals, a safe environment, quick-access employment connections, clothing and hygiene kits, assistance with documents, referrals to partner agencies, and expert case management to guide clients toward self-sufficiency.

"2024 trends show that families are now the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population," says Major Floiran Estrada. "This, combined with a widespread decline in charitable giving, makes our efforts even more critical and urgent."

The Salvation Army relies on generous partners to support its food and shelter programs. Here are ways you can help:

- **Donate Money:** Your financial contributions directly support the food and shelter programs in El Paso.
- **Donate Goods:** Donated goods can be sold at the Family Thrift Store, and proceeds will benefit the food and shelter programs.
- **Volunteer:** Offer your time and skills to make a difference.



The Salvation Army  
provided  
**24,386**  
nights of shelter in  
2023.



### MONTHLY IMPACT REPORT

August 1 - August 31



1,973

NIGHTS OF SHELTER



6,835

TOTAL MEALS



\$30,727

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



406

VOLUNTEER HOURS

# *No GOODERS*



## **POWERING GOOD: EL PASO ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES VOLUNTEER AT THE SALVATION ARMY THRIFT STORE**

On September 5, a group of 25 volunteers from El Paso Electric spent their morning helping at The Salvation Army Family Thrift Store in El Paso. From 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM, the volunteers sorted donations, organized merchandise, and assisted with various tasks.

“El Paso Electric volunteers are frequent flyers here at the Family Thrift Store,” said Martha Barron, store manager. “We are incredibly grateful for their hard work. Their time and energy mean so much to us and the people we serve.”

## **CENTENNIAL LIONS CLUB DONATES PURSES AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR WOMEN IN SHELTERS**

The Centennial Lions Club held their 6th Annual “A Purse of Her Own” donation drive on Saturday, September 14.

Donations of hygiene products and gently used purses offer dignity, comfort, and practicality to those who are displaced or escaping difficult situations.

All donations were presented to The Salvation Army, the Center Against Sexual and Family Violence, and the Reynold’s Home.





# Here are just a few reasons why partnering with The Salvation Army is a wonderful thing to do:

- ✓ All donations stay in the community where they are raised, supporting essential programs such as food and shelter.
- ✓ The need is more significant now than ever before.
- ✓ Your support will help to fund programs year-round, not just at the holidays.
- ✓ You can start or continue a meaningful tradition for your company or organization.
- ✓ You are letting the community know your company is there for them in a very visible way.
- ✓ You'll be part of an iconic organization that helps millions of people each year across the county.



## Veteran Services Supported by \$250,000 Grant from Texas Veterans Commission

The Salvation Army of El Paso was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) to enhance its support for veterans. The Salvation Army provides food, shelter, and case management to veterans. The funds will be used to offer rental and utility assistance, helping veterans secure stable housing and prevent homelessness.

"Our program focuses on helping veterans discover permanent housing solutions, find employment, and research their VA benefits," said Daniel Garcia, a caseworker specializing in veteran services. "It's our goal to ensure veterans have the resources they need to rebuild their lives."

Service barriers such as a lack of awareness about available benefits present significant challenges for veterans. A recent case highlights the importance of The Salvation Army's veteran services. One veteran, still serving in the active reserves, was unaware that his overseas deployment made him eligible for a Veteran Health Identification Card. He met with his caseworker and learned he qualified for short-term rental assistance as well as the VA card.

Another critical barrier is limited transportation options. To address this, The Salvation Army provides bus tokens to help veterans access necessary services and support.

By tackling these key needs and challenges, The Salvation Army continues its commitment to serving veterans, ensuring they receive the care and resources they deserve.



WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN PARTNER  
WITH THE SALVATION ARMY?

## Let's Connect

◆  
*Your giving hands  
make grateful hearts.*



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[salvationarmypaso.org](http://salvationarmypaso.org)



[facebook.com/salarmypasotx](https://facebook.com/salarmypasotx)

## SERVICE

*that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing  
in many expressions of thanks to God. - 2 Corinthians 9:12*