



LOCAL CHURCH SERVING HOT MEALS TO SHELTER CLIENTS



# MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

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

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Serving the Coastal Bend since 1908

## 160 YEARS OF SERVICE



On March 10 this year, communities around the world reflect on more than 160 years of service from The Salvation Army, a movement rooted in caring for both physical and spiritual needs. In 1865, William Booth and Catherine Booth stepped into the streets of London, determined to bring hope to those often overlooked. They believed faith had to be lived out, recognizing that to reach someone spiritually, you must first meet their physical needs.

William Booth's philosophy of "soup, soap, and salvation" captured their mission—meeting immediate needs while pointing people to lasting hope in Jesus Christ. He was deeply committed to reaching those society had cast aside, while Catherine Booth boldly preached about love, dignity, and the value of every soul. Together, they challenged the idea that ministry belonged only inside church walls, bringing both practical help and the message of salvation directly to the people. Their work laid the foundation for a movement built on compassion in action and unwavering faith. Today, The Salvation Army serves communities in more than 130 countries, offering meals, housing, disaster relief, spiritual support among many other programs. More than a century later, their legacy lives on through every act of service, reminding us that meeting immediate needs can open the door to lasting hope.

## JACKETS OF HOPE



Thanks to a generous partnership with Subaru, The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend distributed 204 coats to children and teens in need this season. Many went directly to youth in our shelter, while others were shared with local schools, helping even more children stay warm during colder days.

"Many of our children come to school without warm clothing, and these coats will make a real difference," said one teacher. We are grateful to Subaru for their support in helping bring warmth, hope, and care to children throughout our community.

# THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

IN FEBRUARY,  
WE PROVIDED:

2,128



Nights of Lodging

29



Average of children sheltered

2,368



2,128 Shelter Meals  
240 Street Outreach

134



Food boxes distributed

121



Individuals received  
Rent/Utility Assistance

When you support The Salvation Army  
of the Coastal Bend  
you support all these program  
for those in need

## 365 DAYS/YEAR PROGRAMS

**Family Shelter** ■ The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend uniquely caters to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of individuals and families seeking shelter, including veterans. We are the only shelter in the region equipped to house entire families, committed to preserving family unity by avoiding any separations.

**Rapid Re-Housing** ■ Designed to quickly transition individuals and families experiencing homelessness into permanent housing, this program provides financial assistance for rent and, at times, support services aimed at fostering stability and averting future homelessness.

**Veterans Services** ■ Our partnership with the Texas Veterans Commission helps us to provide rental and utility assistance for Veterans, their dependents, and surviving spouses. We help with homeless prevention services for those who have an eviction or disconnect notice and have been homeless within the last two years.

**Homeless Prevention** ■ Utility/Rental Assistance programs aim to prevent homelessness by offering financial aid for rent and utility bills, stabilizing individuals and families facing eviction or utility shutoff, and ultimately averting homelessness.

**Food Pantry Services** ■ Our Food Pantry offers groceries to individuals and families in need, operating Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9AM to 12 PM and 1 to 4 PM.

**Street Outreach** ■ The program addresses the immediate needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations by providing connections to emergency shelter, housing, or critical services. The Salvation Army staff deliver and average of 240 meals every month to individuals who are homeless and hungry.

## SEASONAL PROGRAMS

**Angel Tree** ■ The Salvation Army Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of children in our community. Once a child has been registered and accepted as an Angel, their Christmas wish list is shared with the community who purchase gifts of new clothing and toys. The gifts are distributed to the family to place under their family Christmas tree.

**Red Kettle Campaign** ■ When you hear the bells ringing beside Salvation Army red kettles, it's a sound that calls people to spread joy and hope to those in need. With inflation impacting so many families near you, hope is needed more than ever. Every year from November through Christmas Eve, the iconic red buckets can be found outside local storefronts. When you drop a donation into a kettle or give online, you are joining more than a century-long tradition of generosity!

**Emergency Disaster Services** ■ When disaster strikes, The Salvation Army staff and volunteers respond with help, hope, and healing, providing core services tailored to meet the unique needs of survivors and rescue workers, always ready to adapt based on the disaster's magnitude. For more information, visit [disaster.salvationarmyusa.org](https://disaster.salvationarmyusa.org).

## SUCCESS STORIES



Marshaun arrived at The Salvation Army's single men's shelter after being evicted from a friend's apartment but remained determined to move forward. While working at McDonald's, he entered Rapid Rehousing and is now preparing to sign a lease on his own apartment with help for his deposit and rent, taking an important step toward stability and independence.



Barbara, a client in our Permanent Supportive Housing program, experienced homelessness after being evicted from her apartment. While struggling to find places to stay, she pawned many of her belongings to afford motel rooms. With assistance for her security deposit and ongoing rent support, Barbara was able to secure a new apartment and is now working to slowly furnish her home.



Jamie traveled to Corpus Christi from Memphis, Tennessee with little support and was forced onto the streets after just one night with his mother. For two months he faced homelessness without access to showers or clean clothing. After entering the shelter, he found stability, secured a job with a security company, and is now pursuing additional licenses to build a stronger future.



Cristina faced uncertainty after her mother passed, leaving her unable to afford their home. She and her children moved from place to place, unsure where to stay. At The Salvation Army, Cristina found stability, daily meals, and peace of mind. She welcomed a healthy baby boy, and her children now attend the after-school program as she works toward a fresh start.



Demetrius refused to let hardship define his future. After his family was evicted, they found shelter at The Salvation Army. Determined to help his family recover, Demetrius secured a job at Taco Bell and began saving. With housing assistance and support for their security deposit, his family is now preparing to move into their own apartment and begin a new chapter together.



Avelina came to The Salvation Army from San Antonio with her children, seeking safety and a fresh start. Unemployed, she quickly enrolled her children in school—two for the first time—secured housing through the Corpus Christi Housing Authority, and accessed essentials like glasses. With support, Avelina is building a stronger future as an independent parent.

# SPRING FESTIVAL



## FUN FOR OUR SHELTER AND COMMUNITY

The Salvation Army recently hosted a lively Spring Festival that brought smiles, laughter, and a sense of community to families staying in our shelter and those from the surrounding area. The event featured a variety of activities for children and adults alike, including fun games, exciting moon jumps, and plenty of opportunities to relax and enjoy the evening together. Guests were also treated to classic festival favorites like freshly grilled burgers and delicious nachos, which quickly became a crowd favorite. The festival provided families with a chance to take a break from daily challenges and simply enjoy time together. Children laughed as they bounced in the moon jumps and played games, while parents connected with others and shared in the joy of the evening.

Volunteers played a key role in making the event possible. One volunteer shared, "Helping at the Spring Festival was an incredible experience. Seeing families who are facing difficult life obstacles laughing, playing, and enjoying themselves was truly inspiring. It reminded me how important it is to come together and create moments of happiness for those who need it most." Events like the Spring Festival highlight the importance of community support and the impact it can have on families in need. By creating a welcoming and uplifting environment, The Salvation Army continues to provide not only essential services, but also meaningful experiences that bring hope and encouragement. These moments of connection remind families that they are not alone and that there is a community standing beside them ready to support them on their journey forward.