



# The Women's Auxiliary

# MESSENGER

SA Representative: Major Candice Biggers

May - July 2025

## Immediate Past President NeeCee Lee's Message from the Spring Luncheon

As I stand before you today, my heart is filled with gratitude, reflection, and deep appreciation. Serving as president of this extraordinary Auxiliary has been an honor and brought me much joy. It has been a year of meaningful service, strong fellowship, and impactful work—all made possible by each of you.

To our incredible board: thank you. Thank you for the hours you've poured into every event, every meeting, and every initiative. Your commitment - completely voluntary-has not only lifted up this organization, but more importantly, it has helped uplift the lives of women, children, and families served by The Salvation Army.

You have shown up with ideas, energy, compassion, and grace. You've reminded me that leadership is not about doing it all - it's about walking together, with a shared purpose, and lifting each other as we go. I've seen that in your teamwork, your kindness, and your willingness to serve wherever needed.

Together, we've packed food boxes, raised vital funds, supported shelters, and shared hope with our community. But beyond the tangible things, we've offered love. And that's what makes this board so special—your service flows from the heart.

As I transition out of this role, I do so with immense pride and confidence in the future of this Auxiliary. I know you will continue to inspire, lead, and change lives in the most beautiful ways.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for allowing me to serve alongside you. It has been a joy and a privilege.

## President Debbie Veale's Message from the Spring Luncheon

We are here today in service, united by a common purpose and guided by the love and teachings of Christ. Jesus calls us to serve others, and as volunteers, we are embodying this call in the most powerful way. We are not just giving of our time; we are giving a piece of our hearts to those who need it most.

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus reminds us, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." Every act of kindness, no matter how small, reflects the love of Christ. By serving others, we are serving Him. In the world today, we are the hands and feet of Christ. Whether we are taking Thanksgiving/Angel Tree applications, food sorting, filling Thanks-giving boxes, ringing the Red Kettle Bell, filling an Angle Tree Bag/ Stocking, working at the Toy Shop, helping with distribution, volunteering with Celebrity Chefs, Jewelry Gems, Easter Baskets, Camp Bags, Kids Kloset, donating to Forgotten Coins, our monthly Auxiliary projects, taking a leadership position or maybe sharing a smile and lending an ear we are impacting lives. Praying for each other and for The Salvation Army is a vital and important way for us to help others. We can and are making a difference. God has equipped each of us with unique gifts, and by sharing those gifts, we help build His Kingdom here on Earth.

But remember we are not alone in what we do and say. Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

So when you feel tired and think I don't believe I can add one more job or project in my already full life, and you think please don't ask, phone, text or email me, Christ is with you, giving you the strength and courage to continue. Know that our efforts matter, and they have eternal significance. So let us work together with joyful hearts, knowing in everything we do, we are reflecting God's love.

Thank you for all you do and for your commitment and willingness to serve. I pray you will be encouraged and inspired to keep serving, keep loving, keep sharing God's love and keep spreading The Salvation Army's mission of "Doing the Most Good". Thank you and GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

## NeeCee Lee Ribbon Cutting Speech

Today marks more than just the unveiling of a new building. It is the opening of new doors – to provide leadership, guidance and the opportunity to guide transformation. This facility stands as a testament to what is possible when a community comes together with purpose, generosity, and compassion.

We have been waiting for this dream to come to life for a long time. With this beautiful facility the Women's Auxiliary looks forward to expanding our volunteer army striving to meet both immediate needs and aid in long-term change.

This new Area Command has already served as host for our "Spring General Meeting" the very first of many gatherings here for our auxiliary. It was our pleasure to assist in some of the furnishings you will see today throughout the building. We could not be more happy for the hard working employees who worked tirelessly to make the transition from Ocean to Monroe.

May everything that happens within these walls be done to the glory of God and the good of this community.





# Photos from Spring Luncheon



From back row: Major Candice, Diane Bailey, Deborah DeFoor, Deborah Buttner, Sheila Jackson, Carol Blodgett, Carol Hamilton, Debbie Veale, Michele Kehnert, Leyda Garcia, Debra Register, Julie Albachiaro, Susan Halil, Georgeann Roeder, Paulette Lumley, Melinda Darbee, Rita Cannon, Janet Horenstein, Esther Tomaszewski, Lolita Rogers, Belinda Gallogly, Melina Buncome and Bayou, Anna Roman, Nora Ross, Darlene Uhler-Batiste, Jennifer Roberts, NeeCee Lee, Joyce Charron and Dianne Lott, Donna Gibson and Courtney Fox.



Diane Bailey



Ike and Tina AKA  
Major Keath and Candice



Elvis AKA  
Major Keath



Joyce Charron and  
Courtney Fox



Johnny and Sandy AKA  
Major Keath and Candice



Michele Kehnert, Debbie  
Veale and NeeCee Lee



Sonny and Cher AKA  
Major Keath and Candice



Jan Horenstein, Diane Bailey,  
Donna Gibson, Sheila Jackson  
and Nora Ross



Georgeann Roeder



Melina Buncome, Bayou  
and Susan Halil



Michele Kehnert and  
Leyda Garcia



Debbie Veale and  
Carol Blodgett



# Upcoming Events

## 2025 Red Shield Ball

*Save the Date*



THE TWELFTH ANNUAL  
**RED SHIELD BALL**

*Benefiting The Salvation Army  
of Northeast Florida*

**OCTOBER**

**SATURDAY**

**25**

**AT 6 PM**

**2025**

*Adam W. Herbert University Center  
12000 Alumni Dr. Bldg 43  
Jacksonville, FL 32224*



# National Donut Day 2025





**Winner of 3rd Annual  
Celebrity Chefs People's Choice Award  
Michael Biagini**



**with Deborah DeFoor and Dianne Lott**

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**W. Perkins Bar Association  
2025 Social Justice Award**



**Congratulations Melina!**



# DOING THE MOST GOOD<sup>SM</sup>

## *I am doing the most good.*

I am hope.

I am compassion.

I am strength.

I am faith.

## *I am doing the most good.*

I serve a community.

A region.

A nation.

A world.

I serve heroes.

I serve victims.

I serve a sovereign God.

## *I am doing the most good.*

I am an Army.

Drafted by the Creator.

Commissioned by a man who defied death.

My enemies are despair and destruction.

My ammunition is grace and mercy.

My allies are generosity and benevolence.

I am an Army.

Helping others be all they can be.

## *I am doing the most good.*

I feed empty stomachs and hungry souls.

I rebuild ruined homes and shattered lives.

I am a willing listener for a veteran with stories to tell.

I am a bottled water and an encouraging smile for a weary firefighter.

I am an answered prayer.

A silver lining.

A second chance.

## *I am doing the most good.*

I am a humble steward of other people's generosity.

I am a grateful courier of a stranger's kindness.

I am the faithful executor of others' goodwill.

I take my responsibility seriously.

I am blessed.

I am a blessing.

## *I am The Salvation Army.*

## *I am doing the most good.*



## Announcing the 2025-2026 Women's Auxiliary Officers

President	Debbie Veale
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Julie Albachiaro
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Diane Bailey
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President (s)	Melinda Darbee, Deborah DeFoor, Rita Cannon, and Debbie Veale
President Elect	Paulette Lumley
Recording Secretary	Georgeann Roeder
Corresponding Secretary	Leyda Garcia
Treasurer	Melina Buncome
Assistant Treasurer	NeeCee Lee
Assistant Recording Secretary	Esther Tomaszewski
Historian	Carol Blodgett
Parliamentarian	Jennifer Roberts
Devotional Chair	Courtney Fox
Nominating Chairman	Linda Tuschinski
Philanthropic Chairman	Debra Register
Advisor (s)	Michele Kehnert, Dianne Lott and Susie O'Quinn



From Left to right: Major Candice Biggers, Darlene Uhler-Batiste, Carol Blodgett, Dianne Lott, Michele Kehnert, Leyda Garcia, Paulette Lumley, Georgeann Roeder, Rita Cannon, Esther Tomaszewski, Diane Bailey, Julie Albachiaro, Debbie Veale, Deborah DeFoor, Jennifer Roberts, NeeCee Lee, Debra Register, Melina Buncome and Bayou, Melinda Darbee and Courtney Fox..



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 26, 2025

Area Command Office Closed  
Memorial Day

June 6, 2025

Salvation Army  
Donut Day



June 19, 2025

Area Command Office Closed  
Juneteenth

July 4, 2025

Area Command Office Closed  
4th of July

July 18, 2025

10-4 PM

Stuff the Bus

Walmart—13490 Beach Blvd.

August 12, 2025

Board Meeting 10 AM

CCL Meeting 11 AM

Area Command

September 1, 2025

Area Command Office Closed  
Labor Day

**September 22, 2025 [Tentative]**

Committee Meetings 10 AM

General Meeting 11:30 AM

Location: Adult Rehabilitation Center

October 14, 2025

Board Meeting 10 AM

CCL Meeting 11 AM

Area Command

October 27, 2025

General Meeting 10:30 AM

Location: TBD

November 11, 2025

Board Meeting 10 AM

CCL Meeting 11 AM

Area Command

November 28th & 29th

Thanksgiving Holidays

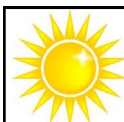
Area Command Office Closed



## School Supply Drive

The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida is collecting school supplies for the children at the Towers Center of Hope. Below is the list of supplies needed or you can purchase Walmart gift card. Any value would be appreciated.

Ticonderoga #2 pencils	Backpacks
Pens [Black, Blue, Red]	Pencil Pouches
Crayons	Index Dividers
Colored Pencils	Folders
Markers	Glue Sticks
3-Ring Binder	Notebook paper
Composition notebooks	Spiral notebooks



## Towers Center of Hope Immediate Need



The Towers Center of Hope needs your help in filling the Kids Klostet with Summer items. See list below of items needed.

Flip Flops (all sizes - male/female)

Shorts (all sizes – male/female)

Summer dresses (all sizes)

Bathing suits - (all sizes – male/females)

Hangers

**Drop off location:** Area Command - 800 West Monroe St., 32202  
(904) 301-4841 - Hours: 9-4:30 PM



The Celebrity Chefs event raised approximately \$96,584.51  
Philanthropic Report

### **PROJECT LIST 2025**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount Up to</b>
Authentic Manhood Curriculum	ARC	\$6,500.00
Plates, Utensils and Cups	ARC	\$3,000.00
Stainless Steel enclosed table for dining room	ARC	<u>\$ 850.00</u>
	<b>ARC Total</b>	<b>\$10,350.00</b>
Camp fees for Camp Keystone	AC	\$27,046.74
Christmas Remembrances for ARC men	AC	<u>\$10,125.00</u>
	<b>AC Total</b>	<b>\$37,171.74</b>
Window Replacement	COH	\$12,000.00
Renovation of Staff Bathrooms	COH	\$14,500.00
Carpet Removal and New Flooring	COH	<u>\$6,000.00</u>
	<b>COH Total</b>	<b>\$32,500.00</b>
Salvation Army Bible Conference (Aug 2-10, 2025)	Citadel	\$3,500.00
Citadel Church Supplies	Citadel	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
	<b>Citadel Total</b>	<b>\$4,500.00</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$84,521.74</b>



## **Recipe Corner**

### **Donut Bundt Cake**

#### **INGREDIENTS For the Cake:**

1 cup unsalted butter, softened  
1½ cups granulated sugar  
4 large eggs  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
3½ cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon cinnamon  
1 cup low fat buttermilk



2 teaspoons baking powder  
½ teaspoon baking soda  
½ teaspoon nutmeg  
¼ cup unsalted butter, melted, for brushing

#### **INGREDIENTS For the Glaze**

1½ cups powdered sugar  
3 tablespoons

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 12 cup Bundt pan generously baking spray. Set aside. In a large bowl beat softened butter and granulated sugar on medium high speed until smooth, pale and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Scrape down the sides of the bowl, then beat in eggs, one at a time. Beat in vanilla extract. In a separate large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt, baking soda, cinnamon and nutmeg until combined. Stir into butter mixture in three additions, alternating with buttermilk and beginning and ending with flour, until a smooth, thick batter forms. Pour and spread batter into prepared Bundt pan; tap a few times on the counter to release any air bubbles. Bake for 50 to 55 minutes or until the edges of the cake are golden-brown and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool the cake in the pan for 15 minutes, then carefully invert onto a cooling rack. Use a pastry brush to brush the melted butter over the cake. Cool completely.

#### **DIRECTIONS For the Glaze:**

In a medium bowl, whisk together the powdered sugar and milk until a smooth, drippy glaze forms. Use a pasty brush to brush icing all over the cake. Allow to cool completely before slicing, about 15 minutes.

**ENJOY!!**

## Prayer Requests

Please remember our special friends through your prayers, cards and calls. Get well wishes go out to Nora Ross and continue for Tony Lott, Doris Graham and Linda Tuschinski. We are thinking and praying for all of you. If you know of someone who is ill or needs prayer, please call Darlene at the office or me at 305-409-9980.

**Leyda Garcia**, Corresponding Secretary

## Membership Update

Don't forget to send in your membership dues this month, \$50. please send check to the Area Command office [800 West Monroe St, 32202], attention Darlene. If you have any changes to the directory or you would like to invite a friend to one of our meetings, please call Darlene at (904) 301-4841.

**Diane Bailey**, Membership Chair

## Birthdays

Please wish the following members a Happy Birthday!



### June

Helen Lane	06/01
Joyce Charron	06/02
Sheila Jackson	06/14
Susan Halil	06/23
Janet Boley	06/30

### August

Melody Schnauss	08/02
Candy Richards	08/19
Virginia Anthony	08/20
Rhonda Donovan	08/26
Laurie Mai	08/30

### July

Joan Harmon	07/03
Sharon Morgan	07/04
Marilyn Carpenter	07/12
Lynn Evans	07/14
Esther Tomaszewski	07/16
Rita Cannon	07/21
Jan Horenstein	07/21
Carol Hamilton	07/28
Corkie Gooden	07/31



## Contact Us

For more information

**The Salvation Army**  
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(904) 301-4841

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.salvationarmyfla.org](http://www.salvationarmyfla.org)



**CELEBRITY CHEFS TASTING  
LUNCHEON AND SILENT  
AUCTION 2026 DATE**  
39th Annual Celebrity Chefs  
April 8-9, 2026