



EL PASO CONNECTION

AUGUST 2026

A Monthly Newsletter of The Salvation Army of El Paso

A MOTHER AND DAUGHTER'S NEW BEGINNING STARTED AT THE FAMILY CENTER

Cynthia Vasquez and her daughter, Natalia Soto, came to The Salvation Army on May 4 after Cynthia lost her job, her car broke down, and she faced eviction. Without family support, she needed a safe place to stay while caring for Natalia and finishing her degree at Southwest University.

Cynthia had experienced significant challenges throughout her life, including an abusive relationship. Despite these difficulties, she remained committed to creating a better future for her daughter. When she arrived at The Salvation Army, she was only three months away from completing her degree.

The Salvation Army encouraged Cynthia to focus on finishing school before pursuing employment. During her stay, she received assistance applying for TANF and housing while continuing her education and completing her internship.

After completing her internship in August, Cynthia was offered a job with El Paso Immunization. She also saved enough to purchase a vehicle and secured housing for herself and Natalia.

Through one of The Salvation Army's community partnerships at UCF, Cynthia received additional assistance, including a bed for Natalia, basic household items, and cleaning supplies.

Cynthia and Natalia left The Salvation Army on August 10, 2026, with stable housing, employment, transportation, and a plan for their future. The support she received helped Cynthia complete her education and take the next step toward independence.

Nearly 3 in 10 people experiencing homelessness are children and parents.

A safe place to stay can be the first step toward a stable future.



MONTHLY IMPACT REPORT

July 1 - July 31



3,255

NIGHTS OF SHELTER



3,807

TOTAL MEALS



\$1,347.29

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



995

VOLUNTEER HOURS

A LEGACY OF MUSIC MINISTRY



El Paso Delegates Shine at Territorial Music Institute

The Salvation Army of El Paso was proudly represented at this year's Territorial Music Institute (TMI), The Salvation Army's premier music and arts training camp in the south. Three delegates from El Paso—Rebecca Villanueva, Christopher Martinez, and Isaac Martinez—joined 28 delegates and staff from across the Texas Division for a week of learning, worship, fellowship, and leadership development.

Throughout the week, participants received specialized instruction in their chosen areas of study while taking part in Bible teaching, performances, and opportunities to grow as musicians and leaders.

El Paso delegates were recognized during the week, with Rebecca Villanueva receiving a Class Award for Theater 1. Christopher Martinez received the Major Charles Trask Outstanding Instrumentalist Award for the Hall Band, which includes a scholarship to attend TMI again next year.

The Salvation Army continues to support music ministry as a way to develop talent, strengthen faith, and provide opportunities for people to use their gifts in service to God.

*"EVERY GIFT CAN BE USED
FOR GOD'S GLORY!"*

Music ministry
provides opportunities
for people of all ages
to grow as musicians,
leaders, and servants.



Stuff the Bus: Volunteers Help Kids Start School Ready

The Salvation Army of El Paso partnered with Walmart for its annual Stuff the Bus campaign, collecting backpacks and school supplies for children staying at The Salvation Army's family shelter.

For children experiencing homelessness, having the supplies they need can provide a sense of normalcy and confidence while helping remove barriers to learning.

Volunteers from The Salvation Army's El Paso Citadel Corps served on Friday, helping collect donations at Walmart. On Saturday, four volunteers from Progressive Learning gave their time to support the effort. Together, volunteers contributed 18 hours to Stuff the Bus over the

two days, helping ensure children at the shelter can begin the school year feeling prepared and supported.

In 2025, more than 1.5 million people volunteered with The Salvation Army across the United States, showing the tremendous impact volunteers have on the organization's mission.

Volunteers are a vital part of The Salvation Army's work. Whether collecting school supplies, serving meals or supporting shelter programs, every volunteer hour helps The Salvation Army meet needs and change lives.

Visit salvationarmyelpaso.org for more information on how to volunteer.



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