



# EL PASO CONNECTION

MAY 2026

A Monthly Newsletter of The Salvation Army of El Paso

## THE SALVATION ARMY IS "MARCHING ON" IN THE SUN CITY!

Under the theme "Marching On," Salvationists and friends of The Salvation Army gathered in El Paso to celebrate faithful service and the next generation of ministry.

Commissioners Kelly and Donna Igleheart joined the special weekend of events honoring Majors Floiran and Eloisa Estrada as they prepare for retirement after nearly a decade of ministry in the Borderland.

During the retirement celebration, Commissioners Kelly and Donna Igleheart presented the Estradas with their retirement certificate, honoring their 34 years of officership. Fellow officers from the "Followers of Jesus" session, the Commissioners joined officers, soldiers, advisory board members, community partners, and friends in celebrating the continuing mission of The Salvation Army.

The celebrations also looked to the future. During Sunday worship, Commissioners Kelly and Donna Igleheart dedicated baby River Madison Estrada, the Estradas' first grandchild, and presented Chris Martinez with the 2026 Youth of the Year award. In recognition of his outstanding service and musical excellence, Chris was also surprised with a full scholarship to attend the Territorial Music Institute for the first time.

For Salvationists in El Paso, "Marching On," based on Philippians 3:14, reflects a shared commitment to press forward in Christ—honoring those who have served faithfully while encouraging the rising generation of ministry.



### MONTHLY IMPACT REPORT

April 1 - April 30



2,400

NIGHTS OF SHELTER



6,056

TOTAL MEALS



\$6,050

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



869

VOLUNTEER HOURS



## From Our Kitchen to Our Community

Every day, The Salvation Army ensures that no one facing food insecurity goes hungry. Families staying in the shelter receive a hot breakfast each morning, a sack lunch to take with them during the day, and a hot dinner each evening.

In addition, the Soup Kitchen serves a nutritious hot dinner every night to individuals and families in the community who need a warm meal. In 2025 alone, The Salvation Army provided 54,814 meals, offering not only nourishment but also comfort, dignity, and hope to neighbors facing difficult circumstances.

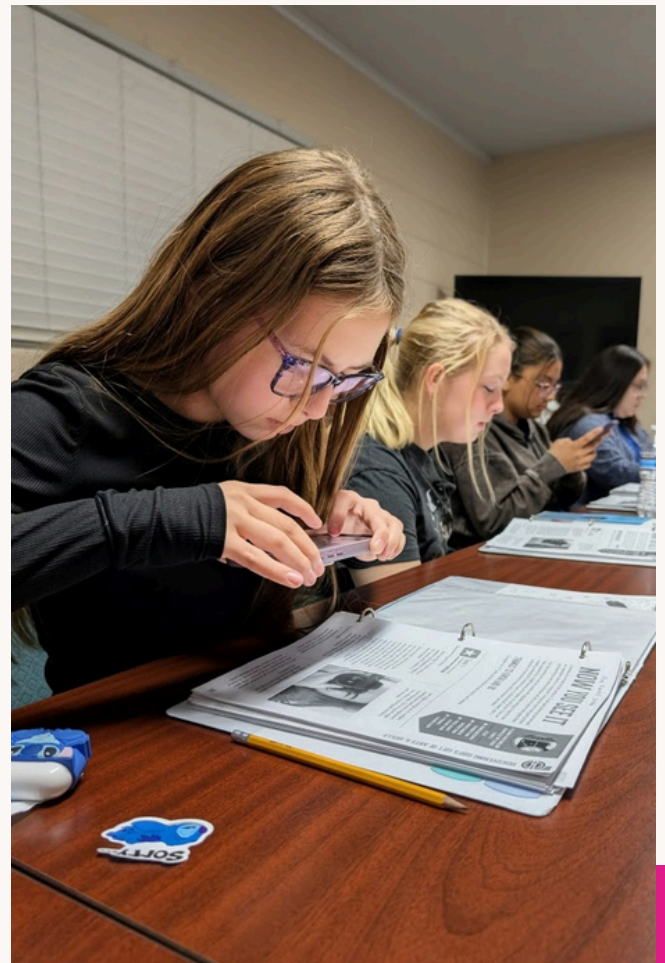
These meals provide more than nourishment—they offer comfort, dignity, and hope to neighbors facing difficult circumstances.

## GIRL GUARDS: BUILDING CHARACTER, ONE BADGE AT A TIME

Girl Guards is The Salvation Army's character-building program for girls, helping them grow spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially in a Christ-centered environment.

Through Bible lessons, service projects, leadership opportunities, and hands-on activities, girls build confidence and character while earning merit badges in areas such as Bible knowledge, music, cooking, first aid, physical fitness, and community service.

Each badge celebrates new skills and encourages girls to use their God-given talents to serve others.



## 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.



## The Salvation Army Family Thrift Store Needs Your Donations

The Salvation Army Family Thrift Store is asking the community to consider giving gently used items a second life by donating them to the store. Every donation helps support The Salvation Army's mission of serving individuals and families in need throughout the El Paso community.

The store relies on donations of clothing, shoes, household goods, small appliances, furniture, books, toys, and other reusable items. Revenue generated through thrift store sales helps fund local programs that provide meals, shelter, youth activities, emergency assistance, and other vital services.

"If you've been meaning to clean out a closet, garage, or storage room, now is the perfect time to donate," says Major Floiran Estrada. "Your unwanted items can become a blessing to someone else while helping The Salvation Army continue meeting the needs of our neighbors."

Donations can be dropped off during regular business hours at The Salvation Army Family Thrift Store. Larger donations may also qualify for a scheduled pickup.

For more information about donating items or arranging a pickup, please contact The Salvation Army Family Thrift Store at [\(915\) 544-9811](tel:9155449811).



# COMMUNITY HONORS MAJORS FLOIRAN & ELOISA ESTRADA



On Monday, May 18, El Paso County Commissioners Court recognized Majors Floiran Estrada and Eloisa Estrada with a County Resolution honoring their years of service to the El Paso community through The Salvation Army.

The resolution was presented by Judge Ricardo Samaniego, who recognized the Estradas for their leadership during some of the community's most difficult moments, including the Walmart mass shooting, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the migrant humanitarian crisis.

Since serving as commanding officers in El Paso beginning in 2017, the Estradas have directed emergency relief efforts providing meals, shelter support, hygiene services, counseling, prayer, and humanitarian care to thousands of people in need. They also launched the local Angel Tree program and founded the Music & Arts Conservatory, a free summer music program for children now entering its eighth year.

During the presentation, Irene Gutierrez spoke about working alongside the Estradas during the migrant crisis and thanked them for their service to the community. At a separate event, Alfonso Chacon also shared remarks about partnering with the Estradas and their team at the County Migrant Support Services Center. The resolution honored nearly a decade of their service to the El Paso community.