



POLLY HARRIS, ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR, PRESENTS CAKE TO DONORS AT THE WILLIAM BOOTH SOCIETY DINNER



Serving the Coastal
Bend since 1908

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

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

Family Store: 5042 South Padre Island Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78411

(361) 884-9497 • www.SalvationArmyCorpusChristi.org

PROVIDING LUNCH AT A DAY SHELTER



In celebration of National Salvation Army Week, Tifanny McBroom, Shelter Operations Manager for The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend reached out to the Mother Teresa Day Shelter Staff to join forces to serve the homeless that come daily to the day shelter for lunch. We served 100 hot meals on May 13th at the kitchen of Mother Teresa Day Shelter, where volunteers from both organizations came together with one goal: to share food, kindness, and hope with the local community. The meals were prepared with care and served with compassion, offering not just nourishment, but a reminder that people are seen, valued, and supported.

“This is the heart of what National Salvation Army Week is all about,” said Jonathan Gonzalez, Public Relations Coordinator. “Coming together to serve OTHERS and meet them where they are.” The initiative showcased the power of collaboration and highlighted the importance

of extending love and service beyond the walls of our facilities. For many of the recipients, the warm meal and friendly conversation meant more than just physical sustenance—it was a moment of dignity and connection.

This partnership not only addressed an immediate need but also reinforced the long-standing commitment of both organizations to serve the most vulnerable members of our community. As we reflect on this week of service, we are reminded that small acts of kindness can make a lasting difference in the lives of OTHERS. The Salvation Army remains committed to meeting human needs without discrimination, and partnerships like this allow us to expand our reach and deepen our impact. We at The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend are grateful for the opportunities to serve and provide in the community for those in need. One act of generosity can and will inspire OTHERS to serve.

THE SALVATION ARMY OF THE COASTAL BEND

In April, we provided:

2,300



Nights of Lodging

31



Average of children sheltered

2,213



Shelter Meals
240 Street Outreach

257



Food boxes distributed

106



Individuals received
Rent/Utility Assistance

WHEN YOU DONATE
TO THE SALVATION
ARMY, 82 CENTS OF
EVERY DOLLAR GOES
DIRECTLY TO ITS
PROGRAMS THAT
HELP PEOPLE
IN NEED.



**DONATE
TODAY**



SUCCESS STORIES



After losing his mom, John spiraled into depression, ending up homeless in a car. Tired of living in fear, he sought help from The Salvation Army. Now safe in our emergency shelter, John feels hope again. “You have to believe in yourself,” he says. “I just wish Mom could see me.” He’s now focused on rebuilding his life. Each day, he feels stronger, and more energized in his life.



Marina and her three children were living in hotels and their vehicle before finding safety at The Salvation Army Center of Hope shelter. They stayed with us receiving meals, a family room, and case management support. With help from our Rapid Rehousing program, Marina secured permanent housing. Today, she and her children are safe, stable, and thriving.



After losing her home, Roni and her three children had no stable place to stay. They found refuge at The Salvation Army Center of Hope shelter, where they received all the support they needed. The staff welcomed the family with compassion and care. Now, Roni is focused on rebuilding by seeking employment to save money, and enrolling her children in school. She looks forward to their future.

WILLIAM BOOTH SOCIETY DINNER



The Salvation Army hosted its William Booth Society dinner led by Major Jimmy Parrish, General Secretary of the Texas Division. This event recognized major donors whose financial support has significantly advanced the organization’s mission.

The event served as a heartfelt “thank you” to those whose generosity powers the life-changing work of The Salvation Army in the Coastal Bend. Though a small gesture, the gathering was a meaningful opportunity to celebrate the impact these donors have made. The William Booth

Society is named after the founder of The Salvation Army and represents a distinguished circle of supporters who embody his spirit of compassion. “We can never fully express how truly grateful we are,” said Major Nathanael Doria. “These donations help us serve struggling families, care for the homeless, and uplift the most vulnerable. We couldn’t do this work without them.”

We thank everyone who attended this event of celebration and recognition of leadership, generosity and support for those in need in our community.

MEET OUR STAFF



We are thrilled to welcome Jonathan Gonzalez as the Public Relations Coordinator at The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend! At just 24, Jonathan has already reached several important milestones. A Corpus Christi native, he graduated from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi with a degree in Public Relations. He recently celebrated his marriage this past September. Now, he steps into his first professional role in the field he studied—making this an especially exciting season of life and growth.

Jonathan manages our social media and supports public outreach efforts with energy, creativity, and heart. We deeply value his passion for community and communication, and we are excited to watch him flourish in his new role.

Outside of work, Jonathan plays drums for his church's worship team and stays actively involved in his faith community. Reflecting on his journey, he shared, "God taught me patience during my job search. Looking back, I see how He was aligning everything perfectly. He knew the vision and the plan long before I did." Welcome to the team, Jonathan—We are happy to have you.

BUSINESS SUPPORT



This Mother's Day, The Salvation Army and Kendra Scott joined forces for a heartwarming event that combined generosity with style. Held on May 10th at the Kendra Scott store in La Palmera Mall, the event invited shoppers to find meaningful gifts for the mothers in their lives—while giving back to local families in need.

During the event held between the hours of 3pm to 5pm, Kendra Scott generously donated 20% of all sales to The Salvation Army. These proceeds directly supported vital community programs, including shelter, food assistance, and programs to prevent homelessness.

Guests were welcomed into a festive atmosphere filled with beautiful jewelry, light refreshments, and the joy of shopping with purpose. The celebration not only honored motherhood but also reflected the shared values of compassion and community impact held by both organizations. "We are proud to partner with a brand like Kendra Scott that values community impact," said Major Lucila Doria. "Their support helps us continue serving families with dignity and hope." Thanks to all who participated.

STORM HELP



On Monday, May 20th, staff of The Salvation Army of the Coastal Bend visited Petronila Elementary School to distribute emergency food boxes to those affected by the severe weather.

Many residents were left without power and faced property damage, making access to food and basic necessities a challenge. Each food box contained non-perishable staples such as canned goods, pasta, rice, peanut butter, and bottled water—providing immediate relief for families beginning the recovery process. Seventy food boxes were given on that day. "We understand that even a short storm can leave lasting challenges," said Jonathan Gonzalez, Public Relations Coordinator for The Salvation Army. "Our goal is to make sure no family feels forgotten during tough times."

Petronila Elementary staff helped coordinate the event, ensuring supplies reached those who needed them most. The collaboration between school staff and The Salvation Army staff demonstrated the power of community support. The Salvation Army remains committed to helping disaster impacted communities recover and rebuild.