Our Year

Fighting for the Most Good Until the Job is Done

The Salvation Army served nearly 800,000 people via disaster relief services in 2018.

As 8,527 wildfires marked the deadliest disaster season in California’s history, The Salvation Army was on the front lines, assisting evacuees, first responders, and more than 300,000 displaced families. In fact, as the fires raged on, so did we. Throughout the months of peril, we staffed eight evacuation centers; provided almost 180,000 meals, drinks, and snacks; and distributed donations from our warehouse to more than 4,500 individuals. But we didn’t stop there. In other regions of the country, where volcanoes and hurricanes uprooted thousands, we delivered infant supplies, comfort kits, and meals to disaster survivors. And we’re staying the course. Thanks to our generous donors, we’re investing in continued efforts to rebuild communities still suffering from the catastrophic 2017 hurricane season.
Fighting for the Most Good Across Borders

In partnership with local churches and community centers, The Salvation Army fed more than 750 people impacted by the border crisis in El Paso per day.

Amid America’s growing humanitarian crisis, The Salvation Army is living out its mission to meet human needs in God’s name, without discrimination, by helping to feed, clothe, and shelter displaced migrant families. Because we believe it is our duty as Christians to serve suffering humanity, regardless of what has put them in our path, we’ve worked closely with partner agencies in numerous communities to provide immediate physical, emotional, and spiritual care to the thousands vetted and processed by immigration services. We’re also partnering with The Salvation Army across Central America to address the root issues of the immigration crisis as we better equip international communities to thrive.
A $5.8 million donation helped build a crucial addition to one of The Salvation Army’s most beloved children’s camps.

This year, support from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies enabled us to expand the size and scope of our camp facilities in Big Bear, California. The additional 10,000-square-foot recreational center will provide more than 1,000 at-risk children with enhanced opportunities to explore dance, soccer, karate, and gymnastics as they enjoy the beauty of nature and the freedom of childhood. The Salvation Army also celebrated major wins in the fight against homelessness with help from the Bezos Family Foundation. In Houston, Texas, we implemented a new 30-day solutions model to combat homelessness and have already witnessed a reduction in reoccurrence. Likewise, our new program in Charlotte, North Carolina, is helping homeless clients find more permanent housing and job opportunities as they work toward greater stability.
Fighting for the Most Good In Everyday Battles

We distributed 16,848,216 tangible items of clothing, furniture, and gifts to families in need in 2018.

With 15% of our country’s homeless population considered chronically homeless, 50 million Americans facing food insecurity on a daily basis, and 14% of Americans living below the poverty line, there are millions of people in need of The Salvation Army’s assistance. That’s why we continue to offer “hand-up” programs such as utility assistance, transportation services, and subsidized child care to families fighting to rise above homelessness and poverty. In 2018, that meant providing social services to more than 14 million people dedicated to moving from simply “surviving” to fully thriving as they win their battles to make ends meet.
Fighting for the Most Good for Generations to Come

The Salvation Army now operates more than 700 Pathway of Hope centers nationwide.

Formed in 2011 as a revolutionary approach to combatting the intergenerational poverty epidemic, The Salvation Army’s Pathway of Hope program reached new milestones this year by expanding its reach throughout the country. With more than 700 active locations, each now providing more than 260 services such as case management, adult education, housing assistance, child-care centers, and job training, the program is equipping families to work toward sustainable change nationwide. Because children who live in long-term poverty are 32 times more likely to remain in poverty than their peers, the success and growth of Pathway of Hope is a major victory in breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty.
Fighting for the Most Good With Passion and Purpose

Read letters from our National Commander and National Advisory Board Chairman detailing The Salvation Army’s:

- Innovative services and tactics
- 2018 victories
- Vision for the future