Tony Thompson

Love’s Army wields boundless generosity.

In this broken world, we have always been surrounded by need. The need to feed loved ones. The need for a safe place to sleep. The need to overcome poverty, addiction, or disaster. Sadly, the need has always been there.

But in 2020, the need was greater than ever.

Thankfully, through the years, The Salvation Army has also been surrounded by something greater than need – love. Through God’s grace and provision, The Salvation Army’s mission to fight for good has continually been bolstered by those who give and serve with open hearts and open arms. We call them Love’s Army.

This year, Love’s Army marched onto a battlefield scorched by sickness and fear, discrimination and inequality, darkness and despair. As COVID-19 brought our country and our economy to its knees, Love’s Army stood tall. A battalion of partner corporations, foundations, and individuals generously blessed The Salvation Army with financial support – in addition to countless hours of volunteer time – helping us feed, shelter, and encourage the most vulnerable in their greatest hour of need.

Thanks to the support of Love’s Army, the officers and employees of The Salvation Army in nearly every ZIP code across the country found new ways to do good in a world turned upside down. Entrenched in their communities and deeply sensitive to their neighbors’ needs, these courageous and loving leaders were able to adapt and innovate, serving immediate needs while adhering to additional and expanded protocols of safety and health.

In one senior residence facility, The Salvation Army provided live music and guided exercise from the parking lot as the shut-in residents watched from their balconies. In Las Vegas, a Salvation Army Safety Dorm provided a safe place to stay for transgender homeless people who’d been rejected from other shelters. In another community, upon hearing about a racial justice march, a Salvation Army officer reached out to provide water, Gatorade, sanitizer, masks, and gloves.

As always, The Salvation Army served their communities and our nation with love, with compassion, and without discrimination.

I am constantly amazed at the boundless resilience, limitless creativity, and selfless compassion of The Salvation Army. And this year, in the face of the greatest need our country may have ever seen, I was reminded that The Salvation Army does not march alone. Love’s Army – more generous than ever – marched right by our side.

Thank you to those who gave and continue to give your time, your money, your prayers, and your hearts as The Salvation Army continues to fight for good.

Humbly,

Tony Thompson
National Advisory Board Chairman
Dear Friends,

In my years with The Salvation Army, I’ve seen a lot of battles. I’ve seen natural disasters devastate communities. I’ve seen alcohol and drug addiction ravage families. And I’ve seen rampant poverty overpower millions.

But in every battle, Love’s Army has always been there. Right by our side.

I am eternally grateful that God has provided The Salvation Army with such a heroic alliance of donors, volunteers, supporters, partners, officers, and employees. Through the years, their generous gifts of time and resources have been invaluable in helping us fight for good across the country.

And in 2020, that fight didn’t just continue. It escalated.

Hatred, wielding the weapons of discrimination and inequality, fought harder than ever to weaken America’s spirit. And then, in a completely unexpected attack, COVID-19 struck at America’s heart. But Love’s Army did not back down.

Thanks to our allies, we continued to serve and fight for all those in need. With love. With compassion. And without discrimination. We continued to provide safe shelter for impoverished and homeless souls within the LGBTQ community. We continued to lift up our brothers and sisters in minority communities across the country. And we continued to serve not only those who were already in need before the coronavirus outbreak but also the growing number of people who suddenly found themselves without food, jobs, homes, and hope.

Thankfully, Love’s Army has been in the trenches with us the entire time. The pandemic’s economic bombshell may have decimated our usual ways of raising the funds we needed to fight these battles, but Love’s Army found other ways.

As a result, The Salvation Army is doing more good than ever. In 2020, we fought for the good of all. On all fronts. And despite the odds, we continued to win amazing victories – feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and delivering God’s love, grace, and hope to those who needed it most.

Thank you for fighting by our side. We are eternally grateful.

Yours in Christ,

Commissioner Kenneth G. Hodder
National Commander