



WHAT
IT
TAKES
TO
**SAVE
LIVES**



125 YEARS IN
SACRAMENTO
1885-2010

CHANGING TO MEET THE NEED

by **Anna Barela**

Sacramento was a rough mining outpost when Major Alfred Wells arrived in 1885 to start a church.

Salvation Army founder General William Booth had sent Wells from England to bring the Army to the West. According to Salvation Army history writer Gordon Damant, Wells prayed for a place to start a church, or “corps,” in Sacramento. “Major Wells’ prayer was answered when upon arrival in Sacramento, he was offered a property on Third Street rent free for the first month.” Formerly a warehouse for animal hides, the stench was overwhelming, so Wells borrowed a hose from the saloon keeper next door and washed down the building. Wells and his helpers then installed a canvas ceiling over the rafters and painted the walls white.

Once the building, or “barracks,” was ready, Wells left for the Bay Area. His wife, M.J. Wells, stayed with a few other women “warriors” to conduct services. According to Damant, “The work of the women was so effective in reforming some of the more incorrigible men of the city that the local police, magistrates and city officials took off their hats to these Salvation Army ‘lassies.’”

Wells’ opening of the first Salvation Army Corps was met with controversy. Many tough miners, gamblers and pioneers—mostly men—attended services and were converted. Others accosted the congregation, beating them and throwing stones. A city ordinance was passed prohibiting The Salvation Army to gather outdoors, as was its custom.

Not to be dissuaded from an “open air meeting,” the Army kept its gathering on the move, marching its way to the barracks to continue services. Along the way they banged drums, blared horns and raised their voices in song. A new ordinance was soon passed, granting permission to hold outdoor meetings in the lower end of town only.

By 1894, The Salvation Army was well-established and able to provide community services. It launched the Workingman’s Hotel to provide shelter for working poor at a cost of 5 cents a night. The day after Christmas that year, the Sacramento Corps garnered the attention and a visit from Salvation Army founder William Booth. By Christmas of 1907, The Salvation Army provided 100 holiday dinners for the poor.

“The programs have expanded over the years incredibly, particularly the social work aspect of the Army,” said Damant. “More and more programs have gradually been developed to help people. It was a real challenge during the Depression years. They had enormous feeding programs trying to keep people alive.”

feeding more than 1,000 people every weekend. Finally, ground was broken for the Ray Robinson Oak Park Community Center in 1990.

Recent years have brought a proliferation of community partnerships to expand services. In 2005, The Salvation Army began partnering with hospitals and government to

ON CHRISTMAS IN 1928, THE ARMY SERVED A BOUNTIFUL FEAST TO 200 FAMILIES IN SACRAMENTO. BY 1975, THE SALVATION ARMY OPENED AN EMERGENCY LODGE ON 12TH AND NORTH B STREETS, HOUSING SINGLE MEN AND FAMILIES.

Early 20th-century services included a ramshackle hut erected at the corner of 10th and L streets, where coffee and doughnuts were served free to all men in uniform. By 1922, the Army was feeding 500 men twice daily at the OK Restaurant on Second Street. Then, on Christmas in 1928, the Army served a bountiful feast to 200 families in Sacramento, and partnered with the city to feed the unemployed and transient workers.

Over the decades, family-relief services multiplied. By 1975, The Salvation Army opened an Emergency Lodge on 12th and North B streets, housing single men and families. The Day Care Center opened in 1980, serving children of working families. The Army’s disaster vehicle was called into service as a mobile soup kitchen in 1982,

open the respite care shelter to help homeless patients discharged from hospitals. Last year, CaliforniaVolunteers sponsored a KaBoom playground on The Salvation Army Oak Park campus, and Toyota Project Rebound learning center opened at the Ray Robinson Oak Park Community Center. Also in 2009, The Salvation Army joined with Enough Is Enough to protect kids online through the Internet Safety 101 program.

As community needs have changed in the last 125 years, The Salvation Army has adapted to serve. From reforming rough miners and serving hungry soldiers doughnuts to high-tech services to protect kids online and help them in school, The Salvation Army keeps Well’s mission of relevant service alive in Sacramento.



COVER PHOTO BY
ANNE STOKES

SOCIAL SERVICES OFFER HOPE

by Anna Barela

DONNA DIVENS' STORY

All Donna Divens wants is the ability to maintain her own home so her 2-year-old grandson can visit. Last year, difficulty finding employment left Donna and her longtime boyfriend Anthony without a home. Thanks to The Salvation Army social services, Donna and Anthony have an apartment today.

Donna worked for In-Home Supportive Services for years. She lived in the home of the client she cared for, but when that client moved in with family, the company was unable to place her with another, leaving her without an income or a place to live. For most of 2009, Donna lived in and out of various homeless shelters in Sacramento, including two stays at The Salvation Army Center of Hope Shelter.

Donna admits she was afraid to go to The Salvation Army's shelter. "I was judging from the outside. I always thought it was just drug people there. But once I got there, that was not the situation at all. It was clean, and a lot of the people there had lost their jobs or just hit rock bottom. I met some awesome ladies in The Salvation Army. It's just hard times out there today."

When she and Anthony entered the Center of Hope Shelter for the second time in August, Donna realized The Salvation Army was there to help, but she had to do her part to improve her life. "You got to want it," Donna said. "The caseworkers can do so much, but we have to do our part also."

During this second stay, Donna worked hard around the shelter. "We worked in the kitchen and in the dorms. It was up to us to keep our facility clean."

She also took advantage of The Salvation Army's employment help. They posted job leads, provided access to a computer lab and helped with résumés. "The resources were there, we just had to get out and do the work ourselves."

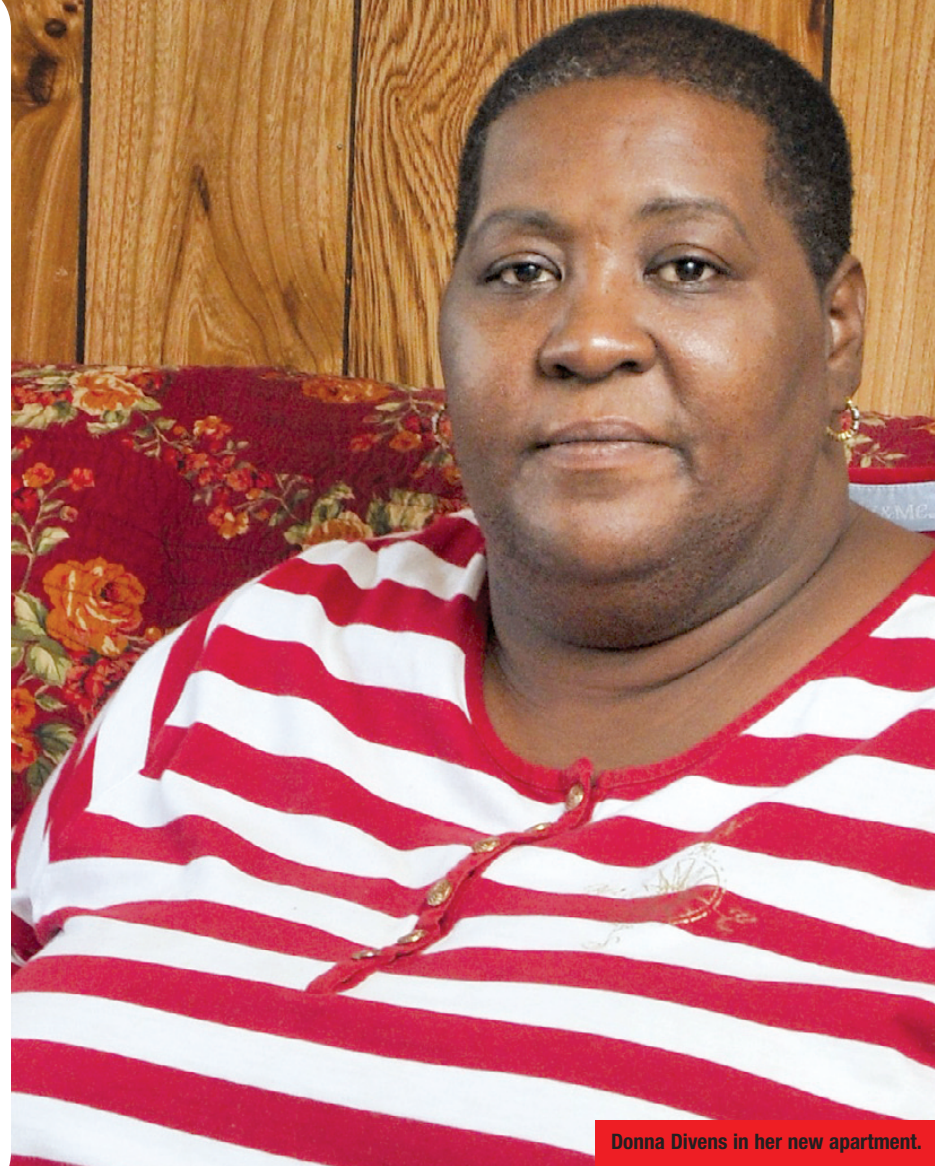
Despite her efforts, Donna was not successful in finding a job—she was turned away frequently due to a felony on her record. By October, she and Anthony reached the maximum time allowed in the shelter. "I don't want to jump from this shelter to that shelter," said Donna.

"THE RESOURCES WERE THERE, WE JUST HAD TO GET OUT AND DO THE WORK OURSELVES."

// DONNA DIVENS

The Friday of their last weekend in the shelter, Donna's caseworker told her about a Salvation Army program that could help. They placed Donna and Anthony in an apartment, paid utility deposits, provided furniture and are paying the rent for several months.

The help Donna received from The Salvation Army gave her hope. She is desperate to find a job so she can keep her new apartment. She enjoys her grandson staying with her a couple of nights a week and having family over for dinner. "They started me on my way," Donna said. "I have to finish it."



Donna Divens in her new apartment.

PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

*SALVATION ARMY SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Salvation Army combats hunger; homelessness; and emotional, physical and financial distress with a variety of social-service programs. From help as basic as a bed on a cold night to assistance with food and utility payments or emotional support, wherever someone is hurting, The Salvation Army strives to be there.

The Center of Hope men's and women's shelter on 12th and North B streets in Sacramento provides emergency homeless relief with 30- to 60-day stays in a 132-bed facility. Clients receive food, lodging, case management, linkage to temporary and permanent housing, and other supportive social services needed to overcome homelessness. While at the shelter, clients must go out between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to look for work and housing. Forty to 60

WHEREVER SOMEONE IS HURTING, THE SALVATION ARMY STRIVES TO BE THERE.

percent of clients are helped into some form of successful housing arrangement each month.

In a wing at Center of Hope, and in partnership with local hospitals and The Effort, The Salvation Army also operates a 18-bed interim-care shelter program for patients with nowhere to go upon hospital discharge who still need care. Patients generally come into this facility after

hospitalization for injuries needing at least 30 days of continued care, and can stay up to 60 days.

The Salvation Army also assists local needy families with a goal of strengthening and unifying the family unit. They provide food boxes through donations from Raley's and the Sacramento Association of Realtors, utility assistance in



partnership with SMUD and PG&E/REACH, rental assistance, emergency lodging, and emergency travel assistance in the form of bus tickets and gasoline vouchers. As needed, families receive counseling for child-parent relationships, marital problems, adolescent problems, single mothers' situations and unemployment.

Family services are constantly expanding to meet community needs. This program has seen the largest increase in need in today's economic environment—2009 saw a 118 percent increase in the need for food boxes. The Salvation Army seeks to provide help for everyday family life.

For thousands like Donna, a social-service program provided by The Salvation Army offers hope. —A.B.

GROWING UP WITH THE SALVATION ARMY

by Anna Barela

REGINA WILLIAMS

Progressing from an angry child stuck in day care to a dynamic young woman with everything going for her, Regina Williams embraced The Salvation Army children's services from the moment her mother enrolled her in its after-school tutoring program in third grade. Now entering high school, she participates in every opportunity the Army offers.

As a young child, Regina was bored in day care without much structure or discipline while her mother, Patricia, worked to support her child as a single mother. Regina had trouble managing her anger, hitting other children at day care and fighting with her mother at home. Patricia heard about The Salvation Army's after-school program through her adult daughter and enrolled Regina.

"I had a lot of anger issues before I started," Regina recalled. "They taught me to control that. When I got angry, they would tell me to go punch a pillow if I felt like I needed to hit someone, or if I needed to scream, scream into the pillow. They would let me go sit in a corner to calm myself down. I still have anger issues, but I can control them now."

Regina enjoyed the structure at The Salvation Army. "They did a lot more activities," she said. "They had field trips. They had a schedule." She also appreciated help with homework.

"I HAD A LOT OF ANGER ISSUES BEFORE I STARTED, THEY TAUGHT ME TO CONTROL THAT."

// REGINA WILLIAMS

Her mother appreciated the discipline at Salvation Army. Of other day cares, she said, "They didn't understand how to discipline. When [Regina] had an excess amount of energy, right away they think she needs to be on Ritalin instead of dealing with it. You don't just put a child on medication because they're active. The Salvation Army knew how to deal with it better. Their Christian values made a big difference. They discipline children

in a calm manner instead of just calling me and throwing her out for the day. I appreciated it. I love the staff. Regina is part of The Salvation Army still."

"I'm a Girl Guard now," said Regina. "It's kind of like Girl Scouts, but different. They have a camp that we go to and earn badges."

In addition to Girl Guards, Regina attends summer camps and vacation Bible school every year, attends teen night on Fridays and attends The Salvation Army church on Sundays. She enjoys the camps the most because they keep her busy, and she likes going to the movies and Christian concerts on teen night. She even joined the basketball team and the music program, until she got too busy with homework.

Activities with The Salvation Army are a fun part of Regina's life. She is close with several Army staff who stick by Regina and her mother whenever they face life challenges. Regina is excelling in junior high school and has many friends. She wants to be a teacher when she grows up.



Regina Williams is grateful to be involved with The Salvation Army.

PHOTO BY ANNE STOKES

*PROGRAMS EMPOWER CHILDREN



The Salvation Army improves life for local children like Regina Williams with a myriad of programs. From preschool through high school, Salvation Army children's programs provide safe and positive environments empowering young lives to flourish.

Help starts early with the Little Lambs Growing Place, for children ages 3 to 5. This year-round hub of activity enables low-income parents to have a high-quality environment for their preschool children while they work. Children build cognitive, social, emotional, physical and language development.

The Salvation Army's Ray Robinson Oak Park Community Center also works wonders with school-age children like Regina. The center features basketball leagues for all ages, after-school tutoring, health and nutrition programs, and summer camp programs. Funded by families who pay fees based on their income, area youth can attend after-school and

full-day educational and recreational programs. The highly successful after-school tutoring program and computer lab enables youth to access the latest computer equipment and software.

For older youth, The Salvation Army offers Sunday school, Army Adventure Corps for boys, and Sunbeams and Girl Guards. These character-building programs provide foundations needed for developing a healthy self-esteem and much-needed life skills. Music, athletics, arts and crafts, and camping offers opportunities for developing talents and skills.

The Salvation Army's goal is to make a difference in the lives of today's youth. The staff works closely with parents to develop healthy children and strong parenting relationships. Through these programs, children develop into well-rounded, responsible adults. —A.B.

THE SALVATION ARMY'S GOAL IS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF TODAY'S YOUTH.



THRIFT STORES FUND ADULT REHABILITATION

by Anna Barela

SAVED TO SERVE: VICTOR VERDUGO

When Victor Verdugo turned to The Salvation Army for help, he was incarcerated and addicted to methamphetamines. He joined its adult rehabilitation program and turned his life around.

Drinking and drugs were a normal part of life for Victor as a child. At age 15, he was using drugs and getting into trouble, so his mother sent him to live with his grandmother in California. "It didn't help me," Victor said. His addiction worsened and he became involved with gangs.

"THEY BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO HELP ME—TO MAKE ME REALIZE I COULD OVERCOME MY ADDICTION AND GET A BETTER LIFE."

// VICTOR VERDUGO

His addiction eventually landed him behind bars, where he was surrounded by violence and more drugs than on the streets. "You're sleeping with one eye open," Victor recalled. "When I was locked up, I said a prayer, 'God, I need help. Get me out of this situation.'"

In April of 1997, mere weeks after Victor's prayer, an attorney came to see Victor with news of a way out of prison. Unbeknownst to Victor, the attorney he had not seen since the onset of his incarceration four years earlier was fighting for him on the outside. He got him into The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center.

When he arrived at the center, Victor was apprehensive. "When I saw freedom, my old behavior started coming back. When I walked in the doors and saw 90 men around me, I thought, this isn't me—I'm not addicted. But for some reason, I stuck around.

"In the first 30 days, I started seeing that the counselors there were really caring," Victor recalled. "They bent over backwards to help me—to make me realize I could overcome my addiction and get a better life."

Through group meetings and one-on-one counseling, Victor began to feel comfortable sharing his experiences with others at the Army Adult Rehabilitation Center. "The program helped me find my inner self. Once I started opening up, I started working on what I had to do to better myself."

While in the program, Victor met his current wife, Regina. At the time, she was involved with gangs and drugs just like Victor. They met in Old Sacramento while Victor was out on free time, and Victor invited her to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for their first date. They helped each other stay clean.

In October 1997, Victor graduated The Salvation Army adult rehabilitation program. He has been clean and sober for 13 years. "The program taught me not to let temptation affect me," Victor said. "I have come all this way and am not going to throw away all these years. I owe The Salvation Army a lot. They saved my life."

Today, Victor and Regina have four beautiful children and both work for The Salvation Army. They serve in youth programs, Hispanic outreach and teach sermons at The Salvation Army in Chico. Victor feels he was "saved to serve." He said, "God brought me to The Salvation Army. God got me out of the penitentiary. God has a plan for me. I'm happier than I've ever been."



Ex-gang member, Victor Verdugo, leads worship at The Salvation Army church.

*CHANGING MANY LIVES

Each day in Sacramento, The Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) helps addicts like Victor Verdugo overcome addictions and transition to productive lives. They are individuals with identifiable, treatable needs who can no longer cope. ARC saves lives by helping participants work through a six-month program of recovery built on a work-therapy model.

The center operates 365 days a year at no cost to participants, housing 86 men. ARC provides nourishing meals and necessary medical care, in addition to group therapy, spiritual guidance, and skilled counseling in clean and wholesome surroundings where clients actually live for the duration of the program.

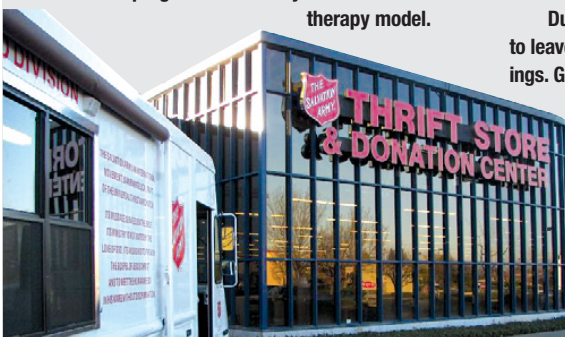
During the first 30 days, clients are only allowed to leave the center to attend recovery support meetings. Groups are open to the public and include Narcotics Anonymous group "Making a Difference" on Mondays at 7 p.m., AA group "Pass It On" on Fridays at 7 p.m., CASA (Christians Against Substance Abuse) on Saturdays and Sundays at 6 p.m., housing workshops, parole support group "Never Going Back," life-skills education, and men and women discussion groups.

ARC also incorporates a work program to help clients get back on the right path to success. Clients assist with cleaning and cooking in the center and volunteer for The Salvation Army thrift stores. They work in stores, at the warehouse or on collection trucks during their stay.

All of the costs of ARC's services are raised through the sale of donated goods at thrift stores. This support is dependent on community members when they donate goods—which The Salvation Army will pick up—or shop at the stores. Community supporters also benefit by receiving tax deductions for donations and by great deals when they shop for everything from clothes, furniture and appliances to computers, televisions, video game systems and music.

The Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center has a higher success rate than the Betty Ford Center. The spiritual aspect gives clients a sense of foundation. Therapy and work programs provide life skills, and clients leave with hope for the future. —A.B.

THE SALVATION ARMY'S ADULT REHABILITATION CENTER HAS A HIGHER SUCCESS RATE THAN THE BETTY FORD CENTER.



RED KETTLE RINGS IN HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE

by
Anna Barela



Tatyana Siniy and her children were grateful for the holiday gifts from The Salvation Army.

TATYANA SINIY'S STORY

When Tatyana Siniy came to America in April 1999 as a refugee from Ukraine, she had nothing. She and six children left their home to escape religious persecution. Because of The Salvation Army's Holiday Assistance, she was able to give her children a Christmas their first year in America.

Christianity is prohibited in communist Ukraine. Because of her beliefs, Tatyana's home was taken and her grades were lowered as she tried to pursue education. Her parents and siblings already escaped to America. Finally, Tatyana packed up her children—Svetlana, Paul, Irina, Dmitriy, Yelena and Julie—aged 8 to 15, and left everything behind to join her family in Sacramento.

"I'm happy to be here," Tatyana said. She described her desire to fit in to the new culture, including traditions like Christmas presents. But Tatyana could not afford presents for her children.

"We didn't have anything," she recalled. When a friend told her about Holiday Assistance with The Salvation Army, she asked the friend for a ride to the church to apply, as she had no car. On the day the Christmas help was distributed at Cal Expo, her friend drove her early in the morning to line up with other recipients.

When her turn came, she was allowed to pick out two toys for each child under the age of 12. She didn't speak much English yet, but knew enough to communicate. "They were patient and caring," she said of Salvation Army staff. "They asked the age of my children and what they were interested in."

Then Tatyana got a surprise—Holiday Assistance included a box of food! It was filled with two fresh chickens and canned food. She was grateful to be able to provide a holiday dinner for her children.

**"WE DIDN'T
HAVE
ANYTHING"**

// TATYANA SINIY

The children were excited when she brought the toys home. Tatyana didn't realize Christmas presents were supposed to be wrapped, but they didn't care whether it was wrapped or who it was for—all the children shared the toys.

After that first Christmas, Tatyana completed her education at American River

College. She got her degree in child development and now works as an infant-toddler teacher at American River College's day care. As her children grew up, they all went to college for professions from business and accounting to nursing. Her eldest, Svetlana, now works in accounting for The Salvation Army.

Svetlana, Paul, Irina and Yelena have done volunteer work with The Salvation Army to help with Coats for Kids, and Paul and Dmitriy have volunteered to collect toy donations. The whole family wanted to say "Thank you" and feels it's important to help people who are trying to start over.

"I always remember our first experience of Christmas in this country," said Tatyana. "We got the idea, if we're here, we have to help people, and we can help. I remember it was really nice to get [Holiday Assistance]. It's so hard to come to another country. It was different—new culture, new customs, new people. I got the feeling someone cares about needy families."

The first red kettle appeared in 1891, when Captain Joseph McFee resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner to the poor of San Francisco. To raise funds, he placed a crab pot near the Ferry Building Marketplace. His request to "Keep the pot boiling!" drew a lot of attention.



*HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Salvation Army red kettles and bells ring every holiday season. It's a seasonal icon as recognizable as the Christmas tree, yet few people realize the important services red kettle donations support. No other season is more special to The Salvation Army than Christmas, and the Army gives back to the community in a big way.

The first red kettle appeared in 1891, when Captain Joseph McFee resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner to the poor of San Francisco. In an effort to raise funds for the food, he placed a crab pot and tripod at the Oakland ferry landing near San Francisco's Ferry Building Marketplace. The kettle—and McFee's request to "Keep the pot boiling!"—drew a lot of attention. So began a tradition that spread throughout the world, enabling The Salvation Army to bring the spirit of Christmas to the needy.

Each year, Salvation Army Holiday Assistance brings Christmas to thousands of needy families like Tatyana Siniy's that may otherwise not have a Christmas. Sign-ups occur at several community locations, and qualifying families receive holiday food and toys for their children on distribution day at Cal Expo. Some of the community's neediest families are "adopted" by volunteers who provide them with special food, toys and household gifts.

Volunteers are essential to Holiday Assistance provided by The Salvation Army, helping with sign-ups, food-box assembly, sorting toys, distributing toys and food, and with translation for non-English-speaking families. Businesses and churches help by hosting Angel Trees to collect toy donations. The Salvation Army also depends on volunteers to help as they partner with News10 Coats for Kids around the holiday season.

Holiday Assistance starts with the drop of a coin in a red kettle. It ends with families like Tatyana, Svetlana, Paul, Irina, Dmitriy, Yelena and Julie—who had nothing—enjoying a special meal and toys on Christmas. —A.B.

DISASTER RELIEF *

by Anna Barela

When disaster strikes, The Salvation Army is there to help. And it sticks around until victims' lives return to normal. Long after other relief agencies have gone home and the crisis fades from news headlines and public memories, The Salvation Army remains, coordinating long-term cleanup and restoration efforts, and providing financial and social services support to survivors. The Salvation Army is still in Haiti today as it has been since the earthquake in January and before. It's been in New Orleans every day since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

THE SALVATION ARMY IS STILL IN HAITI TODAY AS THEY HAVE BEEN SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE IN JANUARY AND BEFORE. THEY'VE BEEN IN NEW ORLEANS EVERY DAY SINCE HURRICANE KATRINA IN 2005.

The Salvation Army already had a presence in Haiti when the quake struck, so it was able to begin relief quickly. In the aftermath of a disaster like the quake in Haiti, the first aim is to meet the basic needs of those who have been affected—both survivors and first responders. The Salvation Army immediately opened a camp next to its compound to house and care for displaced quake victims. Next, it partnered with Numana to distribute more than 8 million packaged meals. Meals are still being sent—at the last event to pack meals in San Francisco, the Sacramento division, including 230 youth, helped pack 1 million meals in 15 hours for immediate shipment to Haiti.

Ken Cavallero, disaster director for Northern California and Nevada, worked on the front lines arranging shipment of relief supplies into Haiti. With preparedness

programs constantly in place to maintain its own response ability and to educate the public about emergency preparedness, the Army acts immediately when disaster strikes to deliver food, water and shelter to victims and emergency workers. Cavallero recalls the challenges of getting supplies in with port closures, and the feeling of relief when planes and trucks finally made it.

"Even though I was at our national headquarters in Washington, it was like being there," he said.

With a 30-year background in firefighting and 16 years with The Salvation Army, Cavallero knows a thing or two about

being there. On 9/11, he worked as operations chief in the pit serving rescue workers. The Army was the first relief agency to reach ground zero.

"The dedication from people that were part of the [9/11] rescue operation changed my outlook on how we respond to things," he said. With its mobile canteens, counselors and thousands of volunteers, the Army continued providing support to rescue and recovery workers for nine months.

As in Haiti and New York, The Salvation Army will continue working in New Orleans as long as it takes for disaster recovery. It continues to serve individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, coordinating volunteer rebuilding teams and establishing warehouses to distribute reconstruction supplies. It also provides financial assistance, social services and distribution of donated goods.



Locally, The Salvation Army responds to several wildfires and structural fires each year. Sacramento's mobile kitchen is capable of delivering 1,500 meals twice a day without resupplying. In the recent Butte County fire, The Salvation Army provided additional lodging support to evacuees after Red Cross' shelter assistance ran out.

Often areas affected by fire lose power and communication. If phone lines in any disaster area are down, The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network steps in to provide emergency communication. It relays critical information about the disaster and enables victims to send and receive messages to their loved ones.

According to Cavallero, "We're still working with some folks affected by the Angora fire in Tahoe. As they get into their new homes, we still have funds available to help them if they're still in need. We have crisis counselors that can talk with them anytime."

Cavallero emphasizes The Salvation Army's commitment to long-term disaster recovery. "We don't just get in and get out. We stay and work with folks as long as they need be."

As one of the nation's major emergency relief organizations officially recognized by federal, state and local governments across the country, The Salvation Army's primary goals in time of crisis are offering material comfort, physical comfort, and spiritual and emotional support. Most importantly, these services are free, funded entirely by donations.



*THE SALVATION ARMY DEPENDS ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT



by
Anna Barela

The Salvation Army depends on the community to help provide so much to so many, as it has for 125 years. None of the services offered would be possible without the generous contributions of community members, as well as partnerships with Raley's, the Sacramento Association of Realtors, Swansons Cleaners and News10. Community support enables community services.

Services are continually changing to respond to community needs. Five years ago, assessors identified the need for expansion in areas of transitional housing, day care, adult rehabilitation and the camp facility in Nevada City. The recent economic environment amplified these needs—The Salvation Army has seen previous donors become clients in need of help.

ALL OF THE SALVATION ARMY'S SERVICES ARE RUNNING AT MAXIMUM CAPACITY, WITH WAITING LISTS FOR MOST SERVICES. WITH MORE RESOURCES, MORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN NEED COULD BE SERVED.

Plans to expand these services include replacing the antiquated, modular building on Alhambra Boulevard in order to double the day-care and after-school care facility. According to David Bentley, Salvation Army Sacramento County coordinator, "It is important to have facilities available—computer labs, tutors, etc.—so that young people have an opportunity to be successful in school. We want to prepare them for the future."

The adult rehabilitation program is slated for expansion as well. "The center currently only houses men, but the future plan is to add 50 beds for women," said Bentley. "We're able to teach them life skills as well as take them through the program. It's a very critical program for our community."

Expanding programs to meet community needs increases funding needs for The Salvation Army. However, for the last two years, donations have been flat. All of The Salvation Army's services are running at maximum capacity, with waiting lists for most services. With more resources, more community members in need could be served.

"We really feel there's a need for these programs to increase in size and add that family component with transitional housing to help families get back on their feet. We feel good about this, even in this difficult economy. We've been here for 125 years and we anticipate being here another 125 years."

Although the Center of Hope shelter is not being expanded or replaced, Bentley acknowledged concern for future funding for the shelter, which receives part of its funding from government grants. "It's an expensive program to operate, and with all the different funding cuts, it's becoming difficult."

The Salvation Army is proficient at stretching a dollar. A \$25 donation will provide a senior with food for a week. A \$75 can feed a family of five for a week. A mere 4 percent of donations are used for fundraising, and only 13 percent go to support management, while 33 percent go directly to social services, 20 percent fund the community center, 19 percent are used for rehabilitation, and 11 percent provide residential and institutional services.

In addition to monetary donations, volunteer time is a critical contribution to many of The Salvation Army services. In 2009, local community members donated over 36,000 hours. The Army also needs equipment and furniture for all their facilities, and businesses can provide fully tax-deductible services.



To potential donors to The Salvation Army, Bentley said, "Come and ask for a tour. We would love to give a tour so people can see where their money goes. We're very proud of our programs. We couldn't do this on our own. We exist because of our community."

**Donations to
The Salvation Army
are accepted by phone
at (800) SAL-ARMY
and online at
www.salarmysacto.org**