Double Fun at Summer Camp

Julian and Jiovani were full of excitement when their parents told them they could go to summer camp for an entire week at The Salvation Army’s Camp Hoblitzelle in Midlothian. While there, the 11-year-old twins from Irving were exposed to 14 different activity areas – from the swimming pool to the ropes course, archery range, fishing in the lake, horseback riding, playing capture the flag, and an array of other activities.

“I really wanted to make some new friends and learn about God,” Julian said.

The program helped him overcome a special weakness that had troubled him for years.

“My greatest fear is heights. When I took one step on the zip landing, I believed that I would lose my fear, and that God will protect me so I would not fall, and by the time I got to the middle I felt happy for myself,” Julian said.

Jiovani said it was an exciting first-time experience for him. He demonstrated a special skill in dealing with horses, which stems from his love for animals.

“Two important things that I learned from the summer camp are that I should never be afraid to do anything, and that learning about God is really good,” Jiovani said. “You should never trust how the world makes you act, you should act like God wants you to act.”

Their mother, Yelitza said, that when her sons returned home they were more consistent with accomplishing their responsibilities, like making up their beds, cleaning up after themselves, and working as a team with other kids from different backgrounds and ethnicities.

Salvation Army summer camp provides an opportunity for taking the gospel message and combining it with outdoor activities to illuminate the message of hope, love, and salvation to each child who goes through the gates of Camp Hoblitzelle.
Our Women’s Auxiliaries in Fort Worth and Dallas are comprised of dedicated volunteers who give their time to advance the work of The Salvation Army in the community. Both had major fundraisers in the spring.

The Women’s Auxiliary of Tarrant County held its annual garage sale in March selling thousands of donated items. The event was held at our massive Christmas Center in Fort Worth. As an encore, the group also had a “Second Chance” sale in April to liquidate the remaining items.

The Women’s Auxiliary of Dallas conducted its annual fashion show at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in May. The event included a New York-style runway show where attendees could bid on and purchase items worn by models, as well as shop at an on-site store called the Chic Boutique. After the event, there was a three-day after sale at our Christmas Center in Dallas.

Women’s Auxiliary Spring Fundraisers

Last year was Nate’s fourth time to attend our summer day camp program in Waxahachie. Held at nine DFW locations, our day camps enrich the lives of children in an atmosphere of Christian values.

“It has everything a kid would want to do,” Nate said. “It has a gym, a computer lab, art room, game room – I mean, I don’t know what kid who wouldn’t want to do all those things.”

While at The Salvation Army, Nate participated in wholesome activities, went on field trips, and received spiritual and character mentoring from caring adults. He also received meals and snacks.

“My mother made the right choice to bring me here. She’s a working mom. She’s single. There’s things that she can go buy, but instead she spends it on me,” Nate said.

“It’s always just been me and him,” said Nate’s mom, Brandy. “We’ve been through a lot together and I have had to sacrifice, but I wouldn’t change anything in the world. The Salvation Army has not only shown my son but it has shown me that there is hope.”

Nineteen-year-old boy donates $250 to help people in Fort Worth

Alex Parsons’ grandparents gave him and his sisters $250 each for Christmas so they could shop for their own gifts. Instead, the nineteen-year-old Fort Worth boy decided to donate the money to The Salvation Army.

“I chose to donate mine to The Salvation Army because they have been helping people for a really long time, and I like the Dallas Cowboys,” Alex said. “I see that they help The Salvation Army a lot too. I’m inspired by their work, and I think more people should do the same to make Fort Worth a better place.”

Alex said he hopes to do charity work, learn more about history, and also play football when he gets older.

All My Sons Moving & Storage brands truck with Salvation Army Shield

This summer you’ll see one more truck around town with a Salvation Army logo on it. All My Sons Moving & Storage has branded one of their moving trucks with our red shield along with the Dallas Cowboys star. It’s a privilege to be honored in this way along with our Signature Partner, the Dallas Cowboys.

One of the first jobs the new truck was dispatched for was to make pickups at the homes of Dallas Cowboys players who donated things for a big garage sale at The Star, the Cowboys’ world headquarters. The sale benefited The Salvation Army.

Thank you Dallas Cowboys and All My Sons Moving & Storage!

Dallas Cowboys/Reliant Home Run Derby Raises $50,000

Dallas Cowboys players, including Dak Prescott, Ezekiel Elliot and Jason Witten, stepped up to the plate for The Salvation Army on May 8 as they attempted to hit as many home runs as possible to raise funds for our Youth Education Town in Arlington.

The Dallas Cowboys/Reliant Home Run Derby raised $50,000, at Dr Pepper Ballpark, home of the Frisco Rough Riders.

Children from our after-school programs in Arlington, Irving, and Plano attended the event. Each child received a t-shirt and a ballpark meal.
**FIRST CHOICE PROGRAM WINS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

One Salvation Army program was selected out of all programs within our Southern Territory, encompassing 15 states, to receive the Award of Excellence this year. That program was the First Choice program at our Mabee Social Services Center in Fort Worth.

The award was presented to Beckie Wach, executive director of the center, at The Salvation Army’s National Social Services Conference held in Philadelphia in April.

First Choice is a voluntary, long-term residential rehab program uniquely designed for chemically dependent mothers and their children. Participants receive a wide range of services for up to 12 months, including a private room with bath, transportation, off-site day care, group therapy, 12-step meetings, substance abuse counseling, experiential learning activities, life skills, parental training, family counseling, money management, and individual counseling.

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**NATIONAL DOUGHNUT DAY**

Love doughnuts? Then thank The Salvation Army.

During World War I, Salvation Army workers used wine bottles as rolling pins to roll out dough for doughnuts, which they fried in soldiers’ steel helmets.

When thousands of soldiers returned from the war, they went to bakeries asking for doughnuts, which were all but unknown in the U.S. in those days.

The demand resulted in countless bakeries adding doughnuts to their menu. As a result, National Doughnut Day was established in 1938 to pay tribute to The Salvation Army. The special date occurs annually on the first Friday in June.

To say thanks, make a monetary donation at salvationarmydfw.org on National Doughnut Day, Friday, June 2.

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Thank you to our signature partners

To donate to The Salvation Army DFW Metroplex Command, visit SalvationArmyDFWGive.org.
To donate gently used furniture, clothing, household goods, or vehicles, call 1-800-SA-TRUCK or go to satruck.org.