Veteran Receives Thanksgiving Assistance

Anthony was a helicopter crew chief in the U.S. Army 101st Airborne serving in the Middle East. He returned to the U.S. with a blood disorder called ITP, which can cause easy or excessive bleeding. Although willing to work, the Texas Worker’s Compensation office told him that he would be a liability on a company’s payroll because the medical risk would be too great.

The VA considers Anthony 100-percent disabled, but offers him no disability pay. As a result, last Thanksgiving he was trying to survive as a single parent raising a two-year-old daughter on $828 a month from Social Security disability.

“I was worried about how I was going to make her have a good holiday, or show her something worthwhile to be thankful for,” Anthony said.

So he went to The Salvation Army in Denton for assistance. There he received a Thanksgiving food box containing a frozen turkey, dressing, gravy, cranberry sauce, peas, mashed potatoes, bread, and dessert.

“I don’t have words to describe how much I appreciate it and how positive of an effect that it actually going to have for me and my daughter,” Anthony said when he picked up his food box. “It is truly a blessing. It is truly the biggest help that I could actually have during this holiday season.”
Lucia had to stop working when she was expecting her first child, and then her husband lost his job. After their daughter was born, the couple was just starting to get back on their feet when birth control backfired and Lucia unexpectedly got pregnant again. Once again, she had to stop working. The loss of income created a financial strain as the holidays neared last year. Lucia knew there would not be enough money for Christmas gifts. Her mother-in-law suggested she go to The Salvation Army, so Lucia applied for assistance with Angel Tree.

Lucia’s two children were among 51,918 other individuals on our Angel Trees last Christmas. Donors “adopted” the children at area shopping malls and companies and provided Christmas gifts for them.

Lucia knew her newborn would be too young to remember the experience, but she was excited that her daughter would have Christmas gifts like other children. The previous year, all they gave her was an outfit in a little bag.

“I’m going to be so excited that she’s going to open a present and she’s going to be like, “Oh, this is what happens on Christmas,”” Lucia said when she came to pick up her children’s gifts. “That’s going to make my whole day. My whole year!”

**A Young Family Needs Christmas Assistance**

We’re in the process of collecting more than 250,000 donated Christmas gifts for more than 50,000 children and special needs adults in the DFW area through our annual Angel Tree program.

Compassionate donors wishing to help a child this Christmas have been adopting Angels at 11 shopping malls since November 4. Each Angel tag displayed on the Angel Trees lists a child’s first name, age, gender, clothing sizes, a wish item, and a need item. Special code numbers ensure the gifts go to the families who requested them.

**Last Year’s Angel Tree Results**

- **16,372** Families Assisted
- **51,918** Individuals Assisted
- **290,739** Christmas Gifts Distributed
- **3,176** Holiday Volunteers

Doing the Most Good® | Angel Tree
Martha Anthony has been a part of The Salvation Army Pleasant Grove Corps in Dallas since the early 1960's. She has faithfully spent over 50 years volunteering at The Salvation Army and for the last 10 years has made it her mission to make sure that every child in our After-School Program can read.

She attends every day and spends time with children on a one-on-one basis to make sure that they are reading at the appropriate level.

In her honor, The Salvation Army has established “Martha’s Library,” where children will have the opportunity to enjoy the gift of reading for many years to come.

Martha is relocating to be closer to her family and will be a great miss. However, her legacy will last forever. Thank you, Martha, for your many years of service and truly Doing The Most Good!

A 50-Year Commitment to Pleasant Grove Children

Martha reads to the children.

Kids cozy up with books in Martha’s Library.

12 Days of Giving

Our 12 Days of Giving trees at area malls are decorated with giving tags containing pictures and stories of real people who have been helped right here in the DFW Metroplex.

Each tag lists giving options at different monetary levels to support our year-round programs and services, such as shelter, meals, domestic violence therapy, and youth programs like after-school care and free music lessons.

Donations can be made by credit card, check, or cash from December 9 through Christmas Eve. This is a great way to put your compassion into action, not only at Christmas time but throughout the year.

LOCATIONS:
NorthPark Center • Collin Creek Mall • Hulen Mall
Northeast Mall • The Shops at Willow Bend

Doing the Most Good®

Care Cart

Now there’s a new way to give to help cover the expenses of specific Salvation Army services right here in DFW. It’s called CareCart. The online giving catalog offers ways to provide support in the following categories: children, homeless, hunger, families, domestic violence, and addiction recovery.

Donations can be made for as little as $2.30 to help provide one meal, or $5 to help provide a bag of groceries. Moderately priced opportunities include $25 to help cover one night of shelter, or $50 to support a week of after-school care for one child. Of course, we also need bigger donations for things like helping provide a family with a week of shelter for $780.

To peruse the options, go to CareCart.org.
Emmitt Smith Hosts Prospective Donors at YET

Twenty-five guests attended a special Behind the Red Shield event at our Gene and Jerry Jones Family Youth Education Town (YET) in Arlington. The event was hosted by YET chairman, Emmitt Smith. The purpose was to mobilize support for our YET endowment fund, which has a $10 million goal. The interest from the endowment fund will be used to provide operational sustainability for the program. YET provides a safe and secure environment for disadvantaged youth to learn better communication skills and envision a bright future through careers in technology and the creative arts. Caring adults model the strength of character that comes from the positive reinforcement of Christian values. Just a few of the center’s benefits include better grades and test scores, an improved attitude toward learning, and enhanced social skills and emotional intelligence.

Start Your Own Online Red Kettle

Raise money from your friends to support The Salvation Army this holiday season. Set up your own donation page at onlineredkettle.org. You can add your photo and a personal message. Then, send emails to your contacts asking them to donate. What a quick and easy way to Do The Most Good!

Thank you to our signature partners

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

To donate to The Salvation Army DFW Metroplex Command, visit SalvationArmyDFWGive.org.