



# GOOD NEWS

THE SALVATION ARMY DFW METROPLEX COMMAND | FALL 2017

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## MUSIC AND ARTS TRAINING OPENS NEW DOORS FOR MICHELLE

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**I**t was only two years ago that Michelle, then a second grader, tried a musical instrument for the first time. Through music and arts training at our community center in Plano, she developed into an outstanding dance student and she can now play the piano and recorder.

"I'm going to stick with them until high school and see what happens," Michelle says.

She hopes to become a pediatrician one day, but now she believes music and arts have special meanings for her. But music and arts weren't the most important things she learned.

"It has also helped me learn more about God and some great people in the Bible," Michelle said. "That's important to me because my mom works a night shift, and she gets a little tired sometimes to take us to church on Sundays."

Michelle's mom, Agnes, said The Salvation Army made a positive impact on Michelle's life and helped her family economically by providing music instruction that would have been expensive elsewhere.

"Here at The Salvation Army it's free, and they are teaching them the same things as in those expensive institutions," Agnes said. "For my husband and I who are still struggling to balance our family budget, that basically helps us to save money and utilize it to take care of other things in the home."

As for Michelle's progress in the program, Agnes said, "I'm extremely proud of her, and I can't express how happy I feel about this opportunity provided by The Salvation Army."

## SYLVIA FOUND DIGNITY, LOVE AND RESPECT



Sylvia had four heart attacks, two heart surgeries, and a mild stroke. Due to the medical issues, last year she lost her home. Then, after her vehicle was stolen she was left to survive on the streets.

When she first started coming to The Salvation Army in Lewisville, it was a place to take a shower and get a hot meal. But Sylvia received so much more.

"They give us so many things that homeless people need," Sylvia said. She especially pointed out being treated with "dignity, love, and respect."

But in addition to material and emotional assistance, she also found an emphasis on the renewing power of Jesus Christ.

"I've just spiritually grown," Sylvia said. "I love this place and I can't thank God enough for this ministry. It's not the food, the clothing and the hygiene. It's all about the love of Christ that I see right here."

## VINCENT NEEDED HELP GETTING CLEAN



After battling drug addiction and homelessness for years, Vincent left Lewisville to seek help at our social service center in Fort Worth. There, he enrolled in a two-year residential rehabilitation program.

"I came with the hope of changing my life, and The Salvation Army gave me the opportunity to do so," Vincent said. "The Salvation Army has helped to turn my life around. They have helped clean me off of drugs and I now maintain a lifestyle that would help me when I leave the shelter."

## MAKE YOUR BELL RINGING PLANS NOW

During the upcoming holiday season, we need your help organizing five or more of your friends for a full day of bell ringing at a red kettle site in your area. The day would be divided into five shifts allowing everyone who participates to be on site during their shift only. Your participation will help raise vital funds that allow us to serve your community. For more information, please contact Justin Eatherly at 214-637-8214.



## THE SALVATION ARMY PREVENTED TONYA FROM BECOMING HOMELESS

Tonya went from a full-time position at work to part-time and was eventually laid off. While searching for a job, she experienced serious financial difficulties. She had to borrow money from friends to pay her utility bills, which were about \$150 a month.

"The more I went without a job, the more I plunged deep into debt, like digging one hole to cover another one," Tonya said.

She tried to cut her utility bills by cooking only once a week, using lamps instead of the ceiling lights, and keeping her air conditioner off except when

the temperature became unbearable.

Someone suggested she go to our social service center in Dallas for assistance. After learning of her situation, we covered her utility bills and rent for more than 6 months. We also helped her find employment. Today she is able to pay all her bills and meet her financial obligations.

"I'm glad that The Salvation Army kept me functioning in my own home, and made provision for me to become useful in my community again," Tonya said. "I feel greatly relieved, and I'm very grateful for their support."



## A THANKSGIVING FOOD BOX FOR NOBELENE

While working as a nurse, Noblene took a Hepatitis B vaccine and the next day she was unable to walk. She went to numerous doctors, even flying to Minnesota, for treatment.

"I managed to work for another two years, but my daughter had to help dress me up and take me to the office every day," Noblene said.

The time came when she could no longer

work. Since then her health has continued to deteriorate. She now has trouble maintaining her balance.

"I fall a lot. About a year ago I fell and fractured my collar bone, two of my ribs, and I also broke my little finger," she recalled in tears.

Last year, she came to our center in Denton to receive a Thanksgiving food box

containing a turkey, dressing, peas, mashed potatoes, sauce, bread, and dessert.

The day she picked up the gift, Noblene said, "It's really hard to experience all that I have been through and be excited but I am happy right now, and this Thanksgiving food will just make things even better. I'm eternally grateful to The Salvation Army for making me happy this Thanksgiving."

## SAVE THE DATE



Retired Dallas Police Chief David Brown will be the keynote speaker at our 2017 Annual Doing the Most Good Luncheon on Thursday, November 16 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. Brown released his memoir last summer titled *Called*

*To Rise: A Life in Faithful Service to the Community That Made Me*, which chronicles his life from childhood in Oak Cliff through the night in 2016 when five Dallas police officers were killed following a police brutality protest downtown.

# FREE MEALS HELP JOHN GET BY



John was a chemical engineer working for a company in Houston, but 15 years ago he had a nervous breakdown. He began receiving social security disability and currently survives on that, but he says “things are getting tighter and tighter.”

His social security benefits barely cover his rent and utilities. To make ends meet, he comes to the free lunch program at our service center in Lewisville.

“I come here Mondays through Fridays and on Sundays too,” John said. “It really helps me a lot.”

John says he now saves at least \$40 a month because of the free lunches, which helps him have extra gas money for his car.

“The Salvation Army is definitely helping me to get by and I thank them a lot for that,” John said.

## MCKINNEY SENIORS ARE IN A PICKLE

Senior citizens are getting into the swing of things at our center in McKinney through a game called Pickleball. Three days a week, local seniors gather in the gym to play.

Pickleball is similar to tennis, but with a paddle and a wiffle ball instead of a racquet and tennis ball. It’s played on a badminton-sized court with a modified tennis net.

The game is easy on those who have had sports injuries. One participant said he quit playing tennis because of

problems with his shoulders and knees, yet he’s able to safely play pickleball.

In addition to serving during pickleball games, participants also serve in other ways. Some have volunteered to help with our Angel Tree program and red kettle campaign. Others have helped fill backpacks with school supplies for distribution to local school children.

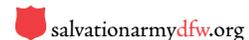
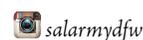
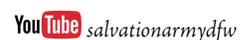
Pickleball is a great sport that has engendered close-knit relationships and enhanced services at The Salvation Army in McKinney.



Thank you to our signature partners



## CONNECT WITH US ONLINE



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To donate gently used furniture, clothing, household goods, or vehicles, call 1-800-SA-TRUCK or go to [satruck.org](http://satruck.org).