



# GOOD NEWS

THE SALVATION ARMY DFW METROPLEX COMMAND | HOLIDAY 2018

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GOOD®

## RELUCTANT BELL RINGER BECOMES RED KETTLE COORDINATOR FOR FOUR SITES

Former Superintendent of Arlington ISD, Jerry McCullough, was reluctant to be a bell ringer the first year he joined the Advisory Council for The Salvation Army in Arlington. But by the time the holidays came around the next year, his conscience got the better of him and he agreed to help.

To Jerry's amazement, ringing the bell wasn't what he expected. He enjoyed interacting with people who put money in the kettle. His experience that year put his motivation into high gear. The next holiday season, he offered to be responsible for a kettle site for an entire Saturday, including recruiting and scheduling all volunteers.

"I got some people who are friends or owed me something and I went out and signed them up to ring," Jerry said. "I just made sure I was there when they started and finished so they didn't have to worry about anything."

The following year, Jerry began taking photographs of his volunteers working at the red kettle.

"I'd go print the pictures, put them into little frames and when I came back I presented them with a picture of themselves ringing the bell. That was a hit," he said. "I did that for several years and it became a bit of a tradition."



Jerry now posts his bell ringer photos to Facebook. "I write a little about each person and what they do in the community. People love seeing their picture on there."

Social media has since become his recruitment tool. He starts posting photos from previous years in October to remind people it's time to sign up.

Jerry is now Chairman of our Arlington Advisory Council and manages four kettle

sites every Saturday from Thanksgiving to Christmas, coordinating about 145 volunteers.

"If I can get someone to ring just once, then I've usually got them," Jerry said. "That's what happened to me and look at me now."



# THREE FRIENDS ENJOYED AN UNEXPECTED THANKSGIVING MEAL AT THE SALVATION ARMY

On the night before Thanksgiving last year, Jeff slept in a tent and Michael slept in Jeff’s truck. Both men were homeless.

The next morning, they went to visit Kriss, a mutual friend, at her home. She had already celebrated an early Thanksgiving with her family the day before and had no lunch plans that day.

“I was going to spend Thanksgiving home alone,” Kriss said. “These are my two good friends and they needed a place and a good meal.”

As they discussed where to go for Thanksgiving lunch, Michael thought of The Salvation Army in Dallas. Having participated in our veterans program the year prior, he knew we would be offering a community meal on Thanksgiving Day.

After arriving at our Carr P. Collins Social Service Center, Michael, Jeff, and Kriss waited in the lobby until it was time to be seated at a table in the dining room.

At their table, we served the three friends with a traditional Thanksgiving lunch complete with turkey & dressing, yams, green beans, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.



Michael, Kriss and Jeff

On a special day when they had no special plans, Thanksgiving turned out to be a time of togetherness and fellowship for Michael, Jeff, and Kriss.

“[This is] about the closest thing to family as we got, right here, right now,” Jeff said, referring to Michael, Kriss, and himself.

# KAY RECEIVES THANKSGIVING FOOD BOX FOR HER FAMILY

Kay got injured on her job and has been on disability ever since. Being on a fixed income, her family is barely able to get by.

“We just struggle from month to month to pay our bills. Most times if we manage to get the bills paid, we hardly have any money left to buy food and household supplies that we need.”

To help her celebrate Thanksgiving last year, The Salvation Army of Denton provided Kay with a Thanksgiving food box that included a turkey, dressing, and other food supplies.

“I think it’s a blessing that I’m able to receive this Thanksgiving gift,” Kay said when she picked up the food box. “It means I can save some money on Thanksgiving meals to pay my bills and be able to get through the month.”



# DALLAS MAYOR MIKE RAWLINGS CUTS RIBBON IN PLEASANT GROVE

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings and Dallas City Council Member Rickey D. Callahan participated in the grand opening celebration for our completely renovated community center in Pleasant Grove. A year in the making, the renovation transformed the original structure built in 1965 into a state-of-the-art center for the future. The facility includes an outdoor sports complex, a completely remodeled worship space, a gymnasium with maple floors, a dedicated food pantry, a kitchen with commercial equipment, an upgraded multipurpose room, and much more parking for local residents to access services.



Walter Ballard, Advisory Council Chairman; Rickey D. Callahan; Major Valerie Calderon, Corps Officer; Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings; Major Barbara Rich, DFW Metroplex Commander; Major Angel Calderon, Corps Officer; Major Jon Rich, DFW Metroplex Commander; and Major Mark Brown, General Secretary for The Salvation Army Texas Division.

# AWARD-WINNING FOX 4 PHOTOJOURNALIST AND HIS FAMILY VOLUNTEER ON CHRISTMAS DAY

For years, award-winning photojournalist Kevin Bell came to our social service center in Dallas on Christmas Day to cover the free community meal for FOX 4 News. After so many times, Kevin decided to experience the occasion from a different perspective. He signed his family up as volunteers to help distribute the meals. Here’s how Kevin described the experience:

“We got there that morning and were greeted by the volunteer coordinator. Upon check-in, we were supplied with a name tag and red apron. The assignments were given out shortly after that. My family was assigned to the main lunchroom.

“Diners were allowed into the dining room in groups of 40 to 50 at a time. Men, women, and children were there to be served a delicious meal. All the diners had to do was come in and sit down; we did everything else including making sure they felt the holiday spirit.



Jessica, Kevin Jr., Kevin, and Dolores Bell

“I passed out the plates of food. I would go to the service line and pick up a tray with five to six plates on it to serve to the diners. We gave service with a smile and a kind word.

“What a tremendous experience in that I was there to help and serve and found myself being uplifted. I can’t thank the Salvation Army enough for this wonderful opportunity.

I didn’t know exactly how this would go over with my family but as we were leaving my kids suggested we do this every year.”

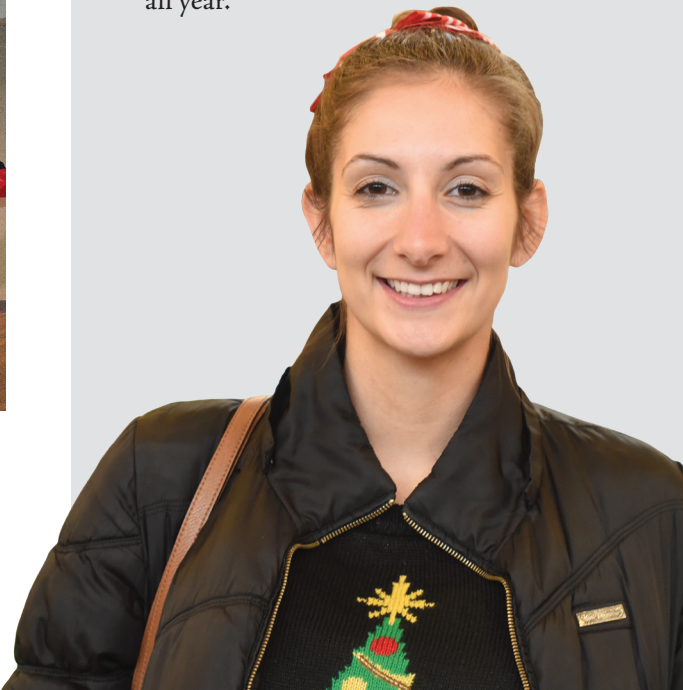
# A SINGLE MOTHER OF FOUR NEEDED HELP WITH ANGEL TREE

Christmastime worried Ashley. As a divorced mother with four children ages four to nine, and the sole earner for the family, she was concerned about providing Christmas presents for the kids last year.

“I get minimal child support,” Ashley said. “Every day, I work to make sure they are okay, and have everything they need. We have been in horrible situations – we have had to sleep in the car before. I’ve never given up, I’ve just always kept fighting.”

Ashley learned about The Salvation Army Angel Tree program through her children’s school counselor and enthusiastically signed her children up for the program.

“Without Angel Tree, I probably wouldn’t be able to get them anything for Christmas,” she said. “It’s a struggle just to survive day-to-day, to get bills and rent paid, let alone Christmas-present shopping. This is by far the nicest thing done for me and my kids all year.”





# ALPHONSO WORKS IN RETIREMENT AS BELL RINGER



Alphonso worked as an insurance salesman in Dallas for many years, but two heart attacks, diabetes, and high blood pressure left him partially disabled, leading to early retirement. He had little to do, so he took special notice when a neighbor had a job during the holidays as a bell ringer for our red kettle campaign.

"I would see him leave every day to ring the bell and come back home in the evening," Alphonso said. "I was retired, disabled, and wanted to do something."

While many bell ringers are volunteers, The Salvation Army must maintain a workforce of seasonal employees to make sure its best red kettle sites are always covered, especially on weekdays when volunteers are not readily available.

Last year was Alphonso's ninth year as a bell ringer.

"Getting out here, standing on my feet and ringing this bell for as long as it's needed is one way for me to give back," Alphonso said from his red kettle post at NorthPark Center last year. "I try hard to get that kettle filled up, because I know the good that The Salvation Army will do with the money."

Alphonso says being a bell ringer is the best joy he can get every year.

If it wasn't for The Salvation Army, a lot of folks wouldn't have toys, food, wouldn't have the lights on, water and many other things. The Salvation Army takes care of all of those."

## 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.

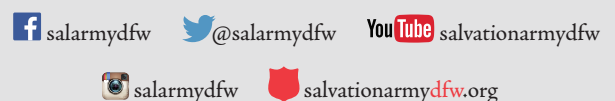
For more information, go to [RegisterToRing.com](https://www.salvationarmydfw.org/register-to-ring)



Thank you to our signature partners



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