



# GOOD NEWS

THE SALVATION ARMY DFW METROPLEX COMMAND | SUMMER 2019

DOING  
THE MOST  
GOOD®

NORTH TEXAS

## SUMMER DAY CAMP HAS HELPED TEACH JAMES RIGHT FROM WRONG

As a single mother, Stephanie desperately needed help caring for her son James. Her mother had helped with childcare but when she suddenly passed away, Stephanie felt overburdened. Then somebody told her about The Salvation Army in Irving.

Stephanie enrolled James in our summer day camp program, which provides recreation and educational activities for children during the summer allowing their parents to work knowing they are in a safe environment.

"On my first day, everybody welcomed me," James said. "I made a lot of friends. It's been great fun."

Over the past three summers, James has had an opportunity to play

soccer, basketball, football, hockey, and capture the flag. He has also been on many field trips, including to AT&T Stadium where he and other children had sessions with college and high school football coaches and participated in various football activities.

James hopes to become a professional football player. If that doesn't work out, he would like to be a medical doctor or an engineer.

"We have a class at the camp for children age 12 and up, where they teach us about life skills," James said, "and now we have started learning how to prepare our resumes, write cover letters, and fill out job applications. I think that will really help us in the future."

Stephanie believes James has learned right from wrong through working with the coaches and staff at The Salvation Army.

"I think they give him that balance that he needs," Stephanie said. "It's been affordable and the best thing for us. The Salvation Army is basically my support system."







## HONDA DEALERS SPONSOR FREE HAIRCUTS AT FORT WORTH SHELTER

North Texas Honda Dealers brought in five barbers and stylists from Magnolia Avenue Salon in Fort Worth to give free haircuts to people staying in our shelter in Fort Worth. They also donated lunch and distributed beanies, socks, and gloves to our residents.

Up to 250 people sleep at our shelter in Fort Worth each night. The emergency shelter provides a safe, clean refuge for men, women, families, and women with children. In addition to sleeping accommodations, guests receive hot meals, showers, toiletries, and clothes, if needed.

## SENIOR CITIZEN CROWNED PROM QUEEN AT AGE 106

Vestana, who is 106 years old, has been attending our annual Older Adult Camp at Camp Hoblitzelle in Midlothian for about 20 years. This spring, she was excited to once again participate in the four-day camp with 12 of her friends from the YMCA in Dallas.

“This is my vacation,” Vestana said. “Since I got so young I don’t travel so much anymore. I always liked to travel.”

Instead of swimming, canoeing, and ziplining like the youth campers, the senior campers enjoy alternative activities including bingo, arts-and-crafts, and fishing. When asked if she had been horseback riding, Vestana laughed and said, “What? I’m not going to get that close to the horses. That’s not my cup of tea.”

Vestana’s group from the YMCA enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship together and meet new people.

“The food was good but they fed me too much,” Vestana said. “I don’t get time to get empty and it’s already time to eat again!”

A highlight of the week was Prom Night on the final evening of the camp. The campers were each invited to vote for their Prom King and Queen. After the votes were counted, Vestana was crowned Prom Queen.

“I’ve enjoyed myself this week and love being around my friends and other people,” Vestana said. “The Salvation Army is an important organization. It’s a beautiful thing, how they help other people.”

## DALLAS COWBOYS AND AT&T SPONSOR CODING CAMP IN PLANO

AT&T and the Dallas Cowboys sponsored a software coding camp for children at our Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club of Plano. While Cowboys mascot Rowdy ran around slapping high fives, AT&T volunteers taught kids like 11-year old Braylon how to use code to create computer games.



“I think it will help me lots because I want to be a computer engineer or a software engineer, and getting this exposure at a young age will help me in my research and knowledge in the future,” Braylon said.

“We are very excited to continually expose our youth to opportunities to grow their skills and learn more about how they can put themselves in a great position for jobs of the future,” said Steve Stine, Senior Vice President, AT&T Communications Transformation.

## HOLD ONTO YOUR HAT!

*YET Kids Win Hat Contest*



Hats off to children from our Youth Education Town in Arlington who threw their hat in the ring in the “Hats Off to Fort Worth” art contest sponsored by Reliant. The kids came in second place to win a \$5,000 prize for the YET, which is definitely a feather in their cap as such awards don’t come along at the drop of a hat. The hat was on display at the Reliant booth in the Amon G. Carter Jr. Exhibit Hall during the last Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo.

## EVERYBODY IS A STAR AT MOST GOOD 5K



Our Most Good 5K was held at The Star in Frisco, the world headquarters of the Dallas Cowboys. After a warmup on Tostito’s Championship Plaza, a horn blasted and 444 runners took off down Cowboys Way, some trying for their best time and others just wanting to complete the course.

In partnership with The Dallas Cowboys, Orthofix and Baylor Scott & White, this year’s post-race activities included autographs from Dallas Cowboys alumni Charles Haley, bounce houses, games, vendors, and a Health and Wellness Expo at Baylor Scott & White’s Sport Performance Center.

## SUPERIOR HEALTH PLAN DONATES \$5,000 FOR FOOD TRAILER

Superior Health Plan donated \$5,000 to our center in Oak Cliff to purchase an enclosed trailer to pick up food donations to stock our food pantry. The food pantry is open to the community every Tuesday and Thursday, allowing struggling families to get groceries at no cost.



Jessie Caceres with Superior Healthplan (center) with Majors Lola and Mario Maldonado and members of our Oak Cliff Advisory Council.



## WESTLAKE ACE HARDWARE FAN DRIVE

Westlake Ace Hardware is once again doing their part to beat the Texas heat this summer. Last year, Westlake and their generous customers donated 973 fans for local distribution through their annual fan drive.

This year’s drive runs from June 8-23. To make a donation and help provide relief to people in need, visit your nearest Westlake Ace Hardware store or go to: [www.westlakehardware.com/fandrive](http://www.westlakehardware.com/fandrive).



## GARAGE SALE RAISES \$51,600



The Tarrant County Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary conducted its annual garage sale to raise funds for our centers in Fort Worth and Arlington. The two-day sale was followed by a special "last chance" sale six weeks later. After swarms of shoppers found treasures for a fraction of their value at both sales, the Women's Auxiliary had raised \$51,600.



## MICHAELS STORES DEMONSTRATE THE ART OF WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Children in our Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club in Irving had great fun with volunteers from Michaels Stores' corporate headquarters who conducted an arts-and-crafts session for the kids. The volunteer activity was held during National Boys & Girls Club Week in April.

## NEW SECURITY SYSTEM DONATED IN LEWISVILLE

IDIS, a global manufacturer of security systems, donated a new video surveillance system for our church in Lewisville as part of its social responsibility initiative that delivers support to local communities. The system is equipped with 16 security cameras and NVR video management software. The company's Korean partner, KOTRA, provided funding for the installation.



Major Paul Gilliam, Captain Kettle, and Salvation Army staff with representatives of IDIS and KOTRA.

Thank you to our signature partners



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