



GOOD NEWS

THE SALVATION ARMY DFW METROPLEX COMMAND | FALL 2016

DOING
THE MOST
GOOD®

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM IS LIKE AN EXTENDED FAMILY

Miranda enrolled her two children, Maiyah, age nine, and Isaiah, age seven, in our after-school program in Arlington. She says the low-cost program is necessary due to her financial situation, and that it has been a blessing for her and her family.

“The Salvation Army has surpassed anything I could have ever expected,” Miranda said. “My kids love it here. They get educational support, spiritual support and emotional support. They get love and care from the staff.”

Being able to trust the people who care for Maiyah and Isaiah is important to Miranda, especially since they will be in after-school care for three or four hours each school day. She listens to her children tell her often about how the after-school program helps them.

“They tell me stories about how the staff here helps them and makes them feel better about themselves,” she said. “They help them with situations at school, so I see them as my extended family.”

In addition to the after-school program in Arlington, eight other Salvation Army community centers across the Metroplex offer after-school care. Last year, more than 600 boys and girls participated in the program.

A donation of \$50 helps provide after-school care for a child for one week. A gift of \$1,800 helps underwrite a child’s participation for the entire school year.



619 children in after-school programs last year.



ACADEMY HOSTS SHOPPING SPREE

Thirty children from The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club in Waxahachie were treated to a back-to-school shopping spree at the local Academy store. The store provided each child with a \$100 gift card. Most of the kids walked away with shoes, a new outfit, socks, and a backpack.



“IT’S LIKE A SECOND HOME”

Our soccer program in Pleasant Grove helped ten-year-old Angelina break out of her shell. “When she was younger, she was shy,” said Angelina’s mother, Maria. “She wanted to make friends, but she didn’t know how.” But now Maria says Angelina is outgoing and has developed the ability to make friends with other children.

Maria also says it is important for Angelina and her brother to be in a place where they feel safe and are around good influences.

“I’m very happy to have them in a safe place,” Maria said. “The staff knows my name and my children. It’s like a second home.”

PROVIDING TOOLS FOR SCHOOL

The cardboard boxes were lined-up in a row on two long tables at our Christmas and Disaster Center in Dallas. Inside each box were school supplies, including pink erasers, yellow pencils, paper, scissors, and glue, to name a few.

The supplies would fill 1,500 backpacks for distribution to underprivileged children. The Salvation Army Women’s Auxiliary of Dallas completed the backpack stuffing project, assembly line style, in two-and-a-half hours.

Just one of these stuffed backpacks could retail for as much as \$100. Multiply that times the number of children in a family and it comes to an expense that few low-income parents can afford. That’s why each year we distribute school supplies to deserving children before the start of school.



Jeanne Pendery and Nancy Bierman, co-chairs for the backpack stuffing project

ACT OF KINDNESS TO ONE MULTIPLIES TO HELP MANY



On August 15, Kasey Simmons was at the grocery store when he noticed the lady in front of him looked upset.

"I told her that she was beautiful and asked how she was doing," said Kasey, who works as a server at Applebee's in Little Elm.

The lady explained she was having a rough day as it was the three-year anniversary of her husband's death. To cheer her up, Kasey insisted on paying her grocery bill.

"It was only \$17 but she smiled and seemed to feel a bit better," said Kasey. "She told me that 53 years ago she first met her husband when he offered to buy her groceries."

That night Kasey was working at Applebee's. A family of four came in and ordered only a few drinks. Kasey was slammed. He felt bad for his slow service so he brought them a check for syrup for a flavored drink costing 37 cents.

Later, Kasey discovered they had left him a \$500 tip and a message on a napkin. The message told of a daughter's gratitude for his kindness to her mother at the store. It read, "On one of the most depressing days of the year (the death of my father, 3 year anniversary) you made my mother's day wonderful. She has been smiling since you did what you did."

In response to Kasey's act of kindness, Applebee's management announced they

would donate 15% of net sales from the restaurant the upcoming Sunday to the charity of Kasey's choice. Kasey selected The Salvation Army.

He explained why: "About six years ago we went to The Salvation Army for help. We were having a hard time and they were there to support us, giving us clothes and shoes for the kids, and they even helped us out with a couple of bills that we couldn't afford. I'll never forget that the people there were so friendly and helpful. They couldn't do enough for us."

Kasey's selection of The Salvation Army multiplied the good even more. That Sunday, the amount raised to help people in need was \$1,500.

"For me, I always follow my instincts," said Kasey. "I believe in God as my higher power, and so when I feel those instincts I believe it's God leading me."

KEEPING A FAMILY IN THEIR HOME

VaNessa lost her job and health care insurance when the agency she worked for lost funding. This created a huge crisis for VaNessa because her teenage daughter, Tia, experienced serious medical issues that requiring hospitalization.

VaNessa drained her 401k to pay medical bills. Thankfully, her daughter's health improved but VaNessa ended up worse than broke. She was on the verge of becoming homeless.

That's when she came to The Salvation Army and was accepted into our Home Sweet Home Program.

"I had never asked for help from anyone. Never been on the government system or programs of any type," VaNessa said.

The Home Sweet Home program helped pay VaNessa's rent and utilities for nine months, gave her job referrals, and provided training in financial literacy, budgeting, and nutrition. She also received regular groceries from our food pantry. The support helped VaNessa and Tia remain in their home until VaNessa could get a job and get back on her feet.

"I was recently hired full-time," VaNessa said with a smile. "That's a plus, and I owe it all to the help I received from the Home Sweet Home program."





THE SALVATION ARMY HELPS SEND INAYAH TO TEXAS TECH

Inayah just started college at Texas Tech University. But getting there might not have been possible without years of support from The Salvation Army.

Beginning in eighth grade, Inayah attended Tyler Street Christian Academy in Oak Cliff on a scholarship provided through our Project Tomorrow program. Project Tomorrow covers half the tuition for gifted, at-risk middle- and high-school students to attend Christian preparatory schools. The schools donate the other half.

The program gave Inayah a chance to get an education she might not have received otherwise.

"I'm very grateful for them sponsoring my education... and assisting me with the tuition," she said of The Salvation Army's support during middle and high school. "I do not come from a lot of money, so I'm eternally grateful."

At the academy, Inayah was involved in track, creative arts, and music classes where she learned piano and hand bells. She also discovered a passion for science. At Texas Tech, she plans to major in biology with hopes of transitioning into medical school and eventually becoming a pediatrician.

SAVE THE DATE

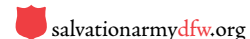
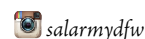
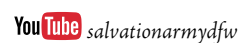
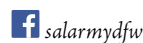
Country-singer, Jimmy Wayne, will perform and share his story at our 2016 Annual Doing the Most Good Luncheon on November 17 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. An accomplished singer and songwriter, he was given the William Booth Award by The Salvation Army in 2005 for his hit song "Paper Angels," which is about his real-life experience of being one of the children in our Angel Tree program when he was a child.



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