# GOOD NEWS THE SALVATION ARMY DFW METROPLEX COMMAND | SUMMER 2016

## What a difference a week can make

When he was four, Joe Angel was injured in a tractor accident. He wears a leg brace and cannot always fully participate in activities with his friends. So naturally he was fearful when he was given the chance to go to Salvation Army summer camp. On the first night, his cabin played kickball. Joe Angel kicked the ball but it was caught in the air, sending him to the bench.

Feeling sorry for himself, he burst into tears. In no time at all, someone sat next to him and put their arm around

> his shoulder. It was Nathan, the staff member who caught the ball. Nathan had a similar disability, having been injured in a car accident as a child.

Doing The Most Good®

For the rest of the week, Nathan worked with Joe Angel and made sure he was accepted by the other boys. One of the highlights of the week for Nathan was talking to Joe Angel on the last night.

"Joe Angel wasn't able to climb the stairs with the rest of his cabin up to the amphitheater for vespers, so I walked around the path with him and we sat together," Nathan said. "I'd been praying for Joe Angel through the whole week, and that night I was blessed to see him accept Jesus into his heart."

Last summer was Joe Angel's fourth time to attend camp where he participated in our month-long music institute. In this program, he worked on his skills at reading music and playing a baritone horn.





#### Community Health Clinic

Our community center in the Northside area of Fort Worth held a health and wellness fair for the local community. Two hundred individuals attended one of three workshops offered by Northside Community Health Center. Most adults had no health insurance and were unaware the local health center was a resource for them.

A mother of four children attended who had been diagnosed with cancer a year earlier. Without insurance, she had not been receiving treatment. At our health clinic, she discovered she has access to care at the community health center. She is now receiving medical care.

- 102 had their blood pressure and glucose levels checked
- **3**2 requested medical appointments
- 7 appointments were made to sign children up for children's Medicaid
- 20 women signed up for exercise programs

### Donating by the Book

Drs. Erik and Concetta Ledig, along with their children – Little Concetta, age 5; Mary, age 3; and Robert, age 1 – installed a children's library at The Salvation Army Mabee Social Service Center in Fort Worth.

The library consists of 1,040 children's books to be used by kids in the shelter, as well as children who live at the center while their mothers go through substance-abuse rehab. Every night, approximately 25 to 30 children stay at the center.



## Mobile Feeding in Pleasant Grove

Hunger is a big need in Southeast Dallas' Pleasant Grove community. So we're taking relief to the streets.

Salvation Army workers load about 200 hot meals onto one of our mobile disaster kitchens and deliver them to low-income neighborhoods, apartment complexes, and homeless camps in the community.

"Poverty is a disaster and hunger is a disaster," said Captain Paul Ryerson, who has overseen the initiative for the past two years. "So putting food on the trucks and taking it out to low-income areas is indeed a disaster response. We're going out and making sure that these kids, parents and families have something to eat."

Some people show up without shoes, without the proper clothing, or other basic necessities. We have also begun distributing shoes, socks and other items, Captain Ryerson said.





#### Organic Gardening Program

Not only are we serving hot meals in Lewisville each weekday, we are now growing some of the food we serve. We've started an organic gardening project on land furnished by the Trinity River Water Project where we grow corn, cucumbers, lettuce, carrots, beans, radishes, squash, onions, melons, and bell peppers to support our weekday feeding program. Scraps from our kitchen are used to make compost for the garden.

Employees from the local Starbucks Coffee Shop volunteer to work in the garden along with other volunteers from the community.

Through the organic gardening project, those who benefit from the free meals we serve now enjoy fresh produce grown right in their own community. Each week, we serve more than 500 nutritious meals.

> 991,388 Meals Served

\$25 Helps provide a meal for 11 people





SAVE THE DATE Country-singer, Jimmy Wayne, will perform and share his story at our Doing the Most Good 2016 Luncheon on November 17 at the Hilton Anatole Hotel in Dallas. An accomplished singer and songwriter, Wayne 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.

#### **RESTORING HOPE FOR GRANDKIDS**

Lousetta was forced to take custody of her five grandchildren after their living conditions became unbearable. Their school called to report that the children complained of sleeping on bare floors without blankets, not having to bathe or brush their teeth, and going to bed hungry most nights. Child Protection Services requested that Lousetta take full custody of the kids.



Naturally, this put an unexpected strain on her. So she went to The Salvation Army in Garland for food pantry assistance. She also enrolled the children in our summer day camp program.

Lousetta says summer day camp helped to emotionally stabilize the children and also improve their attitudes.

"They can now take instructions from me without arguing," she said. "They even know how to eat with knives and forks, and are very happy. I don't know how I would have been able to take care of these kids had it not been for the support of The Salvation Army."

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