125 years and still going strong! I do not believe anyone could imagine how much God would bless The Salvation Army over all these years. From our very humble beginnings of feeding families living under bridges in east London, to Battery Park in New York City and into Houston!

Just as our city has grown, so has The Salvation Army. Now operating 17 facilities throughout the greater Houston area, Montgomery and Fort Bend counties. Services that consist of shelters housing families, men and women; Boys & Girls Clubs; social services providing food, clothing and rental assistance; and senior services which include feeding programs and housing.

Yes, God has truly blessed and grown our Army and none of this would have been possible without your support. Your financial support coupled with your volunteering efforts as well.

Most of you will recognize our current branding of “Doing the Most Good,” this is our pledge to you and our community. I must admit that I was fonder of our previous motto which stated, “Heart to God and Hand to Man.” Heart and Hand! What better way to express what has taken place over these past 125 years and what will continue to take place in the years ahead! All of us having our heart toward God and being “His” hands serving those in need in our city.

It is because of your support that we can celebrate 125 years of service. We are excited about what will take place in the future. Thank you for all that you do.

May God bless you!

Major Chris Flanagan
Area Commander
Greater Houston Area Command
Known worldwide for the red kettles during Christmas time, The Salvation Army has become synonymous with giving and helping others. Easily identifiable by the red shield and the military uniform, The Salvation Army has a rich history embedded in faith, service and helping those who need it the most. First founded in 1865 by William Booth in London, England, this evangelical movement eventually made its way to the United States in 1879 and finally to Houston in 1889.

From its very beginnings, The Salvation Army preached to society’s most needy: the homeless, the poor and the destitute.

Now a century-plus later, The Salvation Army in the greater Houston area continues offering hope to this segment of the population via five shelter/rehabilitation programs. The two oldest rehabilitation programs offered by The Salvation Army in Houston are the Harbor Light Center and the Adult Rehabilitation Center. However, ensuring that we provide assistance to all in need, The Salvation Army opened the doors of Family Residence, for families in need, in 1984 and Sally’s House, for single women, in 1999.

While still carrying out our mission of feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and rehabilitating the addicted, we are proud to offer additional services through our Corps Community Centers. Offering the community a place to turn to since its inception, the Community Centers have spread across the area to include four locations within Houston, plus a location in Conroe and another in Pasadena. At these locations you’ll find a variety of services, including youth programs, senior programs, social services and worship centers.

Among the programs offered at many of our Community Centers is our Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs. Opening more than 60 years ago with one location, today The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs can be found in five different locations across our area, serving more than 270 youth per day. Furthermore, through the Youth of the Year scholarship program, deserving youth have received financial support to attain a higher education for the past 13 years.

To further cement our commitment to the well-being and quality of life of the elderly, in 1995 we opened our first 64-unit affordable housing...
apartment complex just north of Downtown Houston and, ten years later, our second 62-unit apartment complex in Pasadena.

And as you know, we are most visible in the community during the Christmas season. Originating in 1891 in California, our red kettle fundraising campaign has become a holiday tradition. In addition to providing a Thanksgiving and Christmas feast to those in need, we also began our Angel Tree Program in 1988. Through this program, we are able to provide gifts to children and senior citizens who wouldn’t otherwise have a merry Christmas.

The Army’s commitment to helping others during their greatest time of need quickly widened to also include assistance during natural and man-made disasters. Our first test in the United States was in September 1900, with the Galveston Hurricane. Since then, The Salvation Army has answered the call of need internationally, nationally and in our own backyard, most recently offering local relief following Hurricane Ike in 2008.

“While women weep, as they do now, I’ll fight; while little children go hungry, as they do now, I’ll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I’ll fight; while there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I’ll fight—I’ll fight to the very end!”

- General William Booth, founder

For this reason, our work as God’s soldiers continues on. Just as we have done for the past 125 years in Houston, we will continue to serve and provide as much as we can to as many as we can for as long as we can. We look forward to what the future holds, including the opening of the new International Corps facility in April and a new shelter in Conroe.

Nonetheless, while we have the desire and goodwill to serve those in need, we call on you to help us in our mission. Only through our community’s contribution of time, money and resources will we be able to continue “doing the most good.”
WHY I SUPPORT THE SALVATION ARMY

BILL SLICK
Board member since 1973

I became involved with The Salvation Army back in the early 70s. Soon after joining the Advisory Board in 1973, I was asked to help form an Advisory Council for the Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC). Since then I’ve sat on the National Advisory Board, served as Chair and now life member of the Houston Area Advisory Board, and am a former Chair and current member of the ARC Advisory Council.

“Some people just get The Army in their blood and, if you spend time with them, you’ll find that it’s infectious.”

I have watched The Army grow, from having one Boys & Girls Club, two Corps Community Centers, three shelters and a couple of Family Stores to now five Boys & Girls Clubs, five shelters, six Community Centers, six Family Stores and much more.

The Salvation Army’s founder William Booth was asked by his son one day if he knew people were sleeping under London Bridge and his reply was, “Do something!” Well, here in Houston we have women sleeping under the highway and that’s why we did something about it, we built Sally’s House. When The Army sees the need, they do what they can to “do something” about it.

I continue to be impressed with The Army and its commitment to the people they serve. The Army does more with less than any organization I know, and they do it well, and that’s why I am proud to be associated with them.

3 WAYS YOU CAN PARTNER WITH THE SALVATION ARMY AND COMMEMORATE OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

MONEY. Give up 125 to “Doing the Most Good”
By giving up a liter of soda, your $1.25 could pay for a meal at one of our centers. By giving up 5 cups of coffee, your $12.50 could pay for a week of shelter for one person. By giving up eating out for one month, your $125 could pay for food boxes for 25 families. By giving up going out of town for a family vacation, your $1,250 could pay to send four children to summer camp. What amount will you give up to “Doing the Most Good”?

TIME. Give 125 minutes for 125 years of Giving
Consider volunteering at one of our 17 different locations. In 125 minutes - or a little over two hours - you could visit and play games with our seniors or help prepare and serve meals at one of our homeless shelters. For those looking for a longer commitment, you could tutor and mentor youth at one of our Boys & Girls Clubs facilities or serve as a class instructor – e.g. basic computer skills, arts and crafts, ESL - at one of our community centers once or twice a week. How much time can you spare to help your neighbor?

RESOURCES. 125 cans for 125 years
Be it at work, school, with family or friends, consider organizing a food drive. Aim to collect 125 cans of non-perishable food in order to stock one of our food pantries. All it takes is 25 people donating 5 cans each. A small donation from many, can go a long way to helping others.

EVENTS CALENDAR

April 15 The Salvation Army Women’s Auxiliary “Reflections on Style” Chic Boutique, Runway Show and Luncheon
April 17 – 19 The Salvation Army Women’s Auxiliary Chic Boutique After-Sale
April TBD International Corps Community Center Ribbon Cutting
May 12 – 18 National Salvation Army Week
June 6 National Doughnut Day

OUR MISSION The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

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Donate online at www.salvationarmyhouston.org or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769).

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