Dear Friends,

Where has the time gone? I have heard this question lately as the year quickly draws to an end, and what a year it has been.

When I take time to reflect on the past year, I give thanks for the opportunity we have to change lives. However, I am also reminded that this time of year can be a time of stress and sadness for thousands of individuals and families in our area.

Many hungry and homeless in our community don't feel they have much to be grateful for. We believe that all people deserve to give thanks for a warm holiday meal shared with others.

For many older adults, the most wonderful time of year becomes the loneliest as seniors often feel far removed from the joy and thanksgiving we feel during the holidays. We believe that every older adult deserves to be remembered this Christmas.

Many families in our community have fallen on hard times and struggle to meet the financial demands of day-to-day life. They question how they might provide a gift or two for their children on Christmas Day. We believe that every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas morning.

If you believe that every person deserves to give thanks, every senior deserves to be remembered, and every child deserves a Merry Christmas, please help. Your support will allow us to provide nearly 7,000 holiday meals to the hungry and homeless, acknowledge nearly 5,000 lonely seniors, and provide the joyful miracle of Christmas to nearly 20,000 children.

We are grateful for all you do to help these individuals and families through your generous contributions. On behalf of The Salvation Army, thank you for your support, not only for this past year but for the 125 years that we have been a part of this community.

May God Bless You!

Major Chris Flanagan
Area Commander
Greater Houston Area Command

Serving Harris, Montgomery and Fort Bend Counties

Christmas 2014
HELP GIVE A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS TO A CHILD OR SENIOR
Join our Mall Angel Tree Program

Christmas is truly the most wonderful time of year- trees with twinkling lights, music we can all sing along to, and that special feeling only this season brings. It is especially magical when you are a child.

Unfortunately, this time of year can be an additional burden for families in need. At The Salvation Army, we are here year round to help families trying to make ends meet. During the holiday season we make the extra effort so that their Christmas can be just as magical.

Through the Angel Tree program low income families can register their children and seniors to receive gifts for Christmas. Last year, we were able to serve more than 25,000 children and seniors in the greater Houston area and, with your help, we will be able to continue to do so this year.

We invite you to join us in embracing the "spirit of giving" and participate in our Mall Angel Tree program. When you are out this holiday season buying presents for your loved ones, we ask you to look for our angels adorned on Christmas trees at the following malls: Baybrook Mall, Deerbrook Mall, The Galleria, Memorial City Mall, Pasadena Town Square, Willowbrook Mall, and The Woodlands Mall.

All you have to do is select an angel tag hanging from the Christmas tree and purchase a gift for your angel (the tag will have the child or senior citizen's name, gender and gift suggestions). Once you have purchased the gift, place the unwrapped item in the bag we provide and return it to the Christmas tree where you found the angel.

The Mall Angel Tree program will begin on November 28, with the exception of The Woodlands Mall, which will begin November 8th. For end dates, please check with your particular location.

For more information about the Mall Angel Tree program, please visit SalvationArmyHouston.org.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH THE SALVATION ARMY
Make us part of your Holiday Traditions

The holidays have arrived and with it all the family gatherings, festive activities and gift shopping. For The Salvation Army, Christmas is the busiest time of the year. From bell ringing to toy drives, here’s how you can incorporate The Army into your Christmas celebrations this year.

Once again, our Big Red Kettle will help us welcome the Christmas season at the annual Uptown Lighting event in the Galleria area. Taking place on Thanksgiving Day, attendees will have the opportunity to take a picture in front of the 10 foot tall kettle and enjoy hot chocolate courtesy of our canteen. Don’t miss out on all the great performances, including our very own Harbor Light Choir.

The following day, we invite you to the Galleria to help us officially kick off the Red Kettle season in Houston. For the 22nd year, you will find us in front of Tiffany and Co. The Harbor Light Choir will lead us in Christmas songs and Major Chris Flanagan and Mr. Michael McClure, Manager of Tiffany and Co., will drop in the first official donations of the season.

In its 14th year, we are proud to announce that KHOU Channel 11 will host the city-wide “Secret Santa” Toy Drive beginning Thanksgiving Day through December 21. Bel Furniture, International House of Pancakes (IHOP) and Randalls Supermarket have all returned to support the campaign. We invite you to join our efforts and drop off a new and unwrapped toy at one of these locations. KHOU will also host special drop off events on Fridays, December 5 and 12.

If you would like to learn more about one or all of these events, please visit SalvationArmyHouston.org. We also invite you to visit our website to learn about the different volunteer opportunities available during the holiday season.

 Tells us why you donate to the red kettles on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Don’t forget to include #RedKettleReason.
How Your Contributions are Making a Difference
Meeting human needs in His name without discrimination

From January to December, The Salvation Army of Greater Houston is here to serve the community. We are proud to be a source of hope and, many times, a lifeline to those in need. We share with you these three stories of how, with your help, we are making a difference in the lives of our clients and members.

**Mcclelland Family**

Having met, married and started a family in West Virginia, Maria Elena and Brian McClelland relocated to Houston three years ago when work became scarce where they lived.

They were staying with a friend but, not wanting to be a burden, decided to move on. With nowhere else to go, the McClellands found themselves living under a bridge for three weeks with their toddler.

No longer able to live like this, the family went to a local homeless shelter. Nearing the three month stay allowed, Brian heard a fellow dad mention they had secured an apartment with help from The Salvation Army.

Knowing he had to try something to help his family, he immediately scheduled an appointment with Social Services. After meeting with a case manager, the McClellands were soon placed in affordable housing.

Now, a year later, they have a stable home to raise their son and no longer require assistance. Brian has been employed for the past seven months and their son is doing well in kindergarten. They are now saving up money to purchase a house and open up a restaurant in the future.

**The LawrenceS**

Life was marching along just fine for the Lawrences. Larry was working as a painter and Scharlee, who had been a housewife for the past 26 years, was obtaining her Psychology degree from an online university.

Suddenly, life changed in 2012 when Larry was hit at an intersection by an uninsured driver. Suffering a debilitating injury to his left arm, he took jobs where he could to try to make ends meet.

After depleting their savings, the couple found themselves homeless. For two weeks the Lawrences lived in their car and were about to enter a homeless shelter when they came across Evangeline Booth Garden apartments in Pasadena, one of two Salvation Army low-cost senior housing facilities.

With enough money in their pockets for a deposit, the Lawrences moved in and have been tenants at Evangeline Booth for the past seven months.

Summing up his experience with the Army, Larry says, “The Army does so much. They take someone who is at their lowest and they give them back hope.”

**James C. Richard**

James Clinton Richard served in the Navy from 1981 to 1985 and in the reserves until 2001. James had dabbled in alcohol and drugs as a young man but it became a habit during his time in the service.

Due to his addiction, he stole, was homeless and was incarcerated several times. Mentally, emotionally and physically exhausted with the life he was leading, he decided he needed a change.

His sister encouraged him to seek assistance from The Salvation Army’s Veteran Assistance program. He went to find out more about the Harbor Light Center and stayed for four and a half months. Here, he was able to become whole again and regain his spiritual foundation.

After completing the program, he received assistance from the Social Services office, including housing, bagged lunches and job search preparation.

Today James has a stable job with the City of Houston’s Solid Waste Management Dept. and has been able to mend broken relationships with family and friends. “I have a new mind set and am filled with hope, serenity and peace. I have stopped existing and am now truly living.”

*Be a virtual bell ringer by and host your own online red kettle. Visit OnlineRedKettle.org to get started.*
Why I Support
THE SALVATION ARMY

CLUTCH THE BEAR
Houston Rockets Mascot

Entering my twentieth season with the Houston Rockets, I have made over 1,000 appearances on the court and 5,000 appearances off. A large part of these off-court appearances have been in front of youth, including children from The Salvation Army.

For many years I’ve come and entertained children at The Salvation Army Corps Community Centers and the Family Residence.

Working with many non-profit organizations, I decided I wanted to shake things up a bit (and I know a thing or two about shaking things up) and try something new. This is when I decided to help The Salvation Army during the Christmas season.

Familiar with the Army’s efforts of “Doing the Most Good,” I signed up to be a bell ringer and man one of the kettles.

For the past two years, I have rung the bells and donned the Santa hat outside the Toyota Center during several Rockets home games.

I am proud to be able to support The Salvation Army of Greater Houston because of all the great work they do throughout the year. I am also excited to join the ranks as a volunteer bell ringer during the holiday season.

12 WAYS OF SUPPORTING THE ARMY
“Doing the Most Good” this Holiday Season

1. Support the Red Kettle. Donate money or become a volunteer bell ringer!

2. Don’t have time to be a bell ringer? Start your own red kettle online. Visit OnlineRedKettle.org to get started.

3. Share on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram why YOU donate to the red kettles and use the hashtag #RedKettleReason. Learn more at RedKettleReason.org.

4. Adopt a low-income child or senior this Christmas and provide them a gift through our Angel Tree program.

5. Host a toy drive or senior drive at your workplace, church or school. Collect new and unwrapped toys for children and/or items like blankets, books and alarm clocks for seniors.

6. Donate to our toy drive! KHOU 11 is hosting the citywide “Secret Santa” Toy Drive benefitting The Salvation Army. You can drop off your donations at Bel Furniture, IHOP and Randalls locations.

7. Be a workshop elf this Christmas and volunteer at Santa’s Secret Warehouse. Help us sort, package and distribute the gifts to our Angel Tree participants.

8. H-E-B shoppers: Participate in “Ring in a Miracle” by donating to The Salvation Army at the cash register between December 2 and January 3.

9. Randalls shoppers: Between November 28 and December 24, you can also make a donation to The Salvation Army at the cash register.

10. Walmart shoppers: The Salvation Army will be participating in Walmart’s “Fill the Truck” campaign. Learn where and when on our website.

11. Need electricity service? Sign up for the Naughty or Nice with Reliant Secure Advantage® 12 plan. Choose “nice” and Reliant will donate $100 to The Salvation Army and treat you to a $100 Target Gift Card.

12. Buy a ticket to the Trans Siberian Orchestra on December 19 and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to The Salvation Army.

THE SALVATION ARMY OF GREATER HOUSTON
713-752-0677 / main
SalvationArmyHouston.org

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

The Salvation Army of Greater Houston is proud to be a United Way agency.