Summer is a highly anticipated time for children of all ages – a time to play, swim, go to camp, and enjoy a break from the bustle of the school year. It’s a time when a kid can truly be a kid. Unfortunately, our young neighbors can’t always have the carefree summer they dream of.

Parents who rely on school to provide a safe environment and regular meals throughout the day can find themselves unsure about how to care for their children when resources are scarce.

That’s where The Salvation Army comes in! With our many youth programs, during the summer and throughout the year, we provide a respite for children of families that are otherwise unable to afford the enrichment needed for their successful development.

Campers at our six area Summer Day Camps have the opportunity to participate in field trips, music & art, listen to guest speakers, and be surrounded by their peers.

As the summer comes to a close, we anticipate a new school year filled with much hard work and many smiles from children we serve all year – smiles only possible with your support. Through your generosity we will be able to welcome over 3,000 participants to our after school, academic support, and sports programs this year.

Your kind, giving spirit is a true blessing to us as we continue to Do the Most Good. On behalf of every child we serve, thank you for your dedication to improving our community, offering opportunities to those who need them most, and to The Salvation Army.

Major Chris Flanagan
Area Commander
Greater Houston Area Command

Serving Harris, Montgomery and Fort Bend Counties

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ZAC Foundation Water Safety Camp

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ALDINE-WESTFIELD HOSTS WATER SAFETY CAMP
The only Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club in U.S. selected by ZAC Foundation

Last year, 73 children drowned in Texas, ten of which were from the Houston/Harris County area. One death is too many for a tragedy that is easily preventable.

With the goal to educate and keep our children safe, The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club – Aldine-Westfield Branch applied for a grant to host the ZAC Foundation’s Water Safety Camp. Of the twenty Boys & Girls Club locations selected this year, Aldine Westfield was one of two clubs chosen in the state of Texas and the only Salvation Army location participating nationwide.

The ZAC Water Safety Camp took place June 22nd to 25th, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. More than 100 five to nine year old club members participated. The children learned water safety by participating in swimming classes, learning in the classroom, and interacting with first responders such as fire fighters, the coast guard, and paramedics.

They learned the ABCDs of Water Safety: A-Adult Supervision, B-Barriers around water, C-Classes on how to swim and D-Drainage safety.

The closing ceremony included special guest ABC 13 sports reporter David Nuño, who shared about his three year old daughter’s close call in a swimming pool. Nuño, as well as ZAC Foundation Executive Director Cheryl Rosario, awarded “gold” medals to all camp participants.

Thanks to the ZAC Water Safety Camp our kids are better prepared for this summer and future summers around the water.

“I didn’t know how to swim before, but now I do!” - Dylan, 9

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR KICKS OFF AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
Over 1,500 youth to participate at six Salvation Army locations

The new academic year has begun and back to school means the start of our After School Program. Offered at six locations across Houston and Pasadena, The Salvation Army will be the afternoon destination for more than 1,500 children and teenagers.

Our five Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs are open to youth ages 6 to 18 and offers a variety of programs: Power Hour (help with homework), arts & crafts, mentoring, sports, martial arts, and cheerleading… just to name a few.

In Southwest Houston, International Corps Community Center’s After School Program welcomes children from Pre-Kindergarten to Eighth grade and offers tutorials, physical activities, musical instrument classes, and much more.

For students in Lee and Sharpstown High School, back to school means the start of the Upward Bound college preparatory program.

For older students we offer leadership clubs and Youth of the Year (YOY) scholarship program, preparation for higher education and opportunity to earn scholarship money.

All our locations offer snacks and, those who are eligible, receive transportation from their school to our program.

Each program has their own time frame, fees, etc. To learn which site is closest to you and the specifics of what is offered, please visit SalvationArmyHouston.org or call the location directly.
Thank you for Supporting our Youth Programs
Providing children and teenagers opportunities in their local communities

For 125 years, The Salvation Army of Greater Houston has been serving those in need in our community. Today, the Army provides a variety of youth programs, including but not limited to The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs, Upward Bound college preparatory program, Youth of the Year scholarship program, and youth ministry.

Teena & Tyrese
Family Residence’s Reading Club and Boys & Girls Club Day Camp

Since July, Teena and Tyrese have called Family Residence home. While mom is getting assistance through the shelter’s programs to regain their independence, Teena and Tyrese are busy participating in The Salvation Army youth programs.

Teena, 9, and Tyrese, 7, attended the Summer Day Camp at Temple Corps’ Irvington Boys & Girls Club, as do many of the children at Family Residence. While Teena enjoyed movie day, Tyrese loved playing basketball. Back at Family Residence, they enjoy playing with toys, reading books and napping.

Of all the pastimes available at Family Residence, Teena’s favorite has been the Women’s Auxiliary Summer Reading Program. While they both won prizes, including the books they read, Teena won a dress up kit, three diaries, and a sock puppet.

“We didn’t have books and now we have a ton of them!”

Bria Davis
Upward Bound at Lee High School and Rice University Summer Program

After failing one of her classes her freshman year, Bria’s mom transferred her to Lee High School, where she works. There, Bria joined The Salvation Army’s Upward Bound (UB) college prep program.

UB taught Bria that to get into college, she would have to put in the effort to get good grades.

“Upward Bound pushes me to do my best.”

At UB, she receives tutorials on a weekly basis and every six weeks they check her grades to see if she needs help. These past two summers, Bria participated in UB’s Summer Program at Rice University. Here she continued her academic studies and went on field trips.

Once she graduates from high school, she hopes to attend Sam Houston or Lamar University and go into forensic studies.

Nicholas Connors
Pasadena Boys & Girls Club member and Youth of the Year scholarship recipient

Nicholas has been a member of our Pasadena Boys & Girls Club since he was five. Former Club Director, the late Teresa Moore, encouraged him to sing. Nicholas has sung the national anthem at our events for several years.

Last year, Nicholas participated in Youth of the Year and won a $3,500 scholarship. This year, he placed again and won $2,500. During the summer day camp he served as a junior staff member at our Pasadena club.

You might know Nicholas for recently making headlines singing at a Rockets game when Texans football player JJ Watt, who was in attendance, came to congratulate him on the court. Since then, he’s been invited to sing at high profile events and recently fulfilled his dream of singing the national anthem at a Texans game.

“I love what The Salvation Army has done for me! It’s where everything started.”

Donate online at www.SalvationArmyHouston.org or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-725-2769) Donate online at www.SalvationArmyHouston.org or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-725-2769) Donate online at www.SalvationArmyHouston.org or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-725-2769)
I first became involved with the Salvation Army as a founding member of the Women’s Auxiliary in 2003. I served as President from 2006 to 2007 and chaired the grant committee the following year. In 2010, I co-chaired the Reflections on Style Luncheon and Chic Boutique.

The Auxiliary grew rapidly and over the years has retained a corps of very talented women who have raised over $4.5 million to support the projects of The Salvation Army in the Greater Houston Area. These dedicated women have contributed countless volunteer hours over the last decade at Sally’s House, The Family Residence, The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs and Santa’s Secret Warehouse.

I have served on the Salvation Army Advisory Board since 2007 and John and I are honored to chair the 2015 Annual Luncheon honoring Jeanie Kilroy Wilson.

We are continually inspired by the people who dedicate their lives to the work of The Salvation Army and its mission to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

The Army has enriched our lives and allowed us to participate in the activities of one of the best run organizations in the United States.

Volunteers are needed all year round, as the work of the Army knows no season. However, our busiest time of year is definitely Christmas. Join our efforts by signing up for one (or more) of the following today and invite others to join too. Remember, the more the merrier!

**RED KETTLE:** You’ve seen them spreading holiday cheer. Why not become a bell ringer this year? Volunteer one day for a few hours or adopt a kettle and ring longer. The time commitment is up to you!

**ANGEL TREE:** We distributed gifts to more than 25,000 children and seniors (known as angels) last year. Encourage your company to participate and help more angels get the gifts they are asking for this Christmas.

**SANTA’S SECRET WAREHOUSE:** It is no small task to take in gift items for thousands of angels. Help us prepare gifts for distribution by rounding up a group of 10 or more and volunteering for a four-hour shift!

To learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities, please visit our website SalvationArmyHouston.org.

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* **SAVE THE DATE** *

**THE SALVATION ARMY ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

**Hilton-Americas Hotel**

**Luncheon Chairs:**

**Ann & John Bookout**

**Honoree:**

**Jeanie Kilroy Wilson**

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**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.

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