

# LONE STAR



SUMMER FOOD  
IS PLENTIFUL

INSIDE

- STUDENTS RECLAIM RESTAURANT LEFTOVERS
- KENTUCKY NATIVE MAKES THE JOURNEY HOME
- ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HARVEY · WESTLAKE FANS

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## EDITORIAL

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DOING THE MOST GOOD

## From the Editor

Finally, the end is in sight to another long, hot Texas summer. The Salvation Army has been busy on many fronts. Summer camp, Vacation Bible School, cooling stations, fan drives and back-to-school events have kept staff and volunteers busy.

Summer camp is always a highlight for kids. This year, from June to August, more than 1,500 children made Hoblitzelle Camp & Conference Center in Midlothian their week-long home away from home.

The experience brought children from all backgrounds to Camp Hoblitzelle – boys and girls from inner-cities and small rural communities, kids who attend year-round activities at The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs, and others who attend Salvation Army churches.

Campers enjoyed activities from

canoeing to paintball. More significantly, many children made decisions for Christ.

While many campers list the swimming pool or horseback riding as the best part, some say getting to eat three meals every day is their favorite. And they mean it, since many campers

don't get the same provisions at home.

You never know how the support you give helps each camper, but you can be

sure it helps provide a special week in the lives of hundreds of young people – and we are grateful to you for that.

We also recognize the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Harvey. The Salvation Army

continues to support survivors still struggling from its impact. Long before Harvey hit, we were working in most of the affected communities, and we'll be there long after recovery is over.



## Amarillo Students Reclaim Leftover Food for Local Shelters

National program helps provide food to area shelters including The Salvation Army

Hundreds of pounds of food are thrown away every night in restaurants around the country. A group of students who became aware of this issue in Amarillo have found a way to turn that wasted food into a benefit for area shelters.



"I worked at a local restaurant and noticed that every night when we closed we were throwing away a lot of food, particularly salads," said Jay Schroeter.

"I tried to come up with solutions and talked to my high school counselor, who showed me the Rescuing Leftover Cuisine website," said Schroeter. "I emailed the CEO and within about a month, the Amarillo branch of Rescuing Leftover Cuisine was founded."

The students are currently working with 10 partner restaurants in Amarillo.

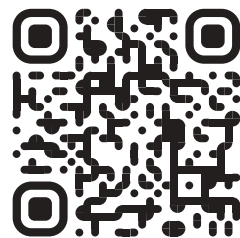
"We take their leftover food each night to local shelters like The Salvation Army so they can reuse that food, reduce food waste, and decrease hunger in Amarillo," Schroeter said.

The Salvation Army, the primary beneficiary of the program, receives around 80 percent of the food. "We estimate that Amarillo alone throws away around 1,500 tons of food a year," said Schroeter. "If all of that food could be harnessed we could eliminate food hunger in Amarillo and the surrounding area."

"Rescuing Leftover Cuisine has helped us cut the cost of food services and allowed us more funds to serve

those in need," said Stephanie Pena, PR/Donor Development Director for The Salvation Army Amarillo. "It's amazing to see young people strive to better our community and lend a helping hand."

To see a video with more on this story, please scan this QR code with your smart phone or visit <http://www.salvationarmytxas.org/lonestar>



Students work with shelter staff to feed the homeless in a new way

## Meals Provided for Students Through the Summer

The Salvation Army Lewisville heads partnership providing lunch to hungry kids

Summer is meant to be a time for students to take a break and relax before the next school year, but for some, that also means not knowing where their next meal will come from.

This summer they found out exactly where, thanks to a bullhorn being manned by Stephen Thomas, Director of The Salvation Army Service Center in Lewisville. He beckoned kids, letting them know free lunches were practically being delivered to their doorsteps.

That was thanks to a unique school

year-end partnership between The Salvation Army and the local school district that provided the meals.

"We uncovered a huge need last year with kids who qualified for free and reduced school breakfast and lunch. We



Kids enjoy free lunches all summer from The Salvation Army mobile kitchen



## After a Series of Mishaps, Kentucky Native Returns Home

A visit to an Army art exhibit by the homeless brings an unexpected opportunity

Kentucky native and veteran Josh, living on the streets of Houston, fell prey to a series of mishaps, the worst being an unthinkable crime.

"While I was sleeping, someone stole my prosthetic leg," he said. His left leg had been amputated in 2009 due to a 2005 car accident that crushed the limb. Surgery included the insertion of a titanium rod, but an allergic reaction to the metal led to a severe bone infection. The theft happened around the same time a friend threw away all of his identification cards. The effect of both incidents was debilitating. He had to get a wheelchair to get around, and without proper ID, it was nearly impossible to get any benefits. So getting a new

prosthetic was out of the question.

Josh had no means to get back home, where he could have the love and support of his family and re-establish his identity. Life kept him in Houston from October 2015 until April 2018, when an opportunity came his way. "A buddy was going to Waco and said he'd pay my bus fare and I could pay him back. Since Waco was a little closer to home, I decided to go," Josh said.

"When I got to Waco, some people on the streets told me about The Salvation Army," said Josh, 38. "I went there for meals and showers." Things started to look a little better, but within a few days, his wheelchair was stolen.

Somewhat discouraged and tired from the stress of the losses, Josh didn't realize he was just weeks away from his dream of returning home.

While attending an art exhibit at The Salvation Army on May 17, Josh met and talked with some Salvation Army employees who encouraged him to speak to the officers there. He did and within a few days, Jorge Delgado, Social Service Director of The Salvation Army Waco, put him on a bus home.

His mother and brother were waiting there. "My mother was crying her eyes out, she was so happy," Josh said. "It couldn't be better. He's so happy to be home," said his mother, Diana Banks. "What The Salvation Army did helped us and helped him so much. You have no idea what it meant to us."

Once home, Josh got his ID and medical card, saw a doctor and has gotten a new prosthetic. Later this year he plans to attend community college and is researching a business opportunity to pursue while attending classes.

"It's been great. I'm back with my brother, my mom and my grandparents. I haven't seen them since I left in 2015," Josh said. "We're very close again."



Josh with employee at exhibit

# Standing Strong With Texas a Year After Hurricane Harvey

*Work with survivors still continues and will go on as long as 'there is a need'*

**M**ore than a year after Hurricane Harvey, the damaging effects of the storm can still be deeply felt in Texas. With lives changed forever, thousands of Texans still face a tough path to recovery.

"The Salvation Army was there with meals and supplies as soon as the water went down," said hurricane survivor Joe Lyons. "They were there for me again months later and helped me get building supplies and appliances. I can't say enough about The Salvation Army."

The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services transitioned from emergency assistance to long-term recovery after around eight weeks of immediate disaster response. The support is ongoing for individuals and families working to piece their lives back together.

Eight temporary distribution centers have been opened and continue to receive and distribute a wide range of items donated to help survivors.

A long-term disaster recovery program manager and four regional recovery managers are now overseeing case workers who meet with those still struggling to recover. Special efforts have been made by The Salvation Army to development partnerships with area churches and agencies to reach survivors in rural, under-served areas of the state.

To date, Salvation Army case workers have served thousands of individuals and families statewide, providing financial support such as utility and rent assistance, gift cards, and buying programs for



furniture, appliances and household items, through corporate partners.

"The Salvation Army is committed to stand with our community" said Alvin Migues, Director of The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services.

"Our presence continues to be a powerful influence, physically and emotionally. We will be here as long as there is a need for us."

## The Initial Aftermath

Johnny, a long-time resident in Port Lavaca, rode out the storm inside his trailer home. "It was really scary, but I had no money and no place to go," he said. "The roof was torn off my trailer." He ended up sleeping in his truck.

Immediately after the storm

devastated the coastline, The Salvation Army dispatched trained disaster teams from across the country. At the peak of service, 103 mobile feeding units and more than 500 workers served in affected areas.

The Army delivered close to a million meals, 33,000 food boxes, 92,000 comfort kits and 15,000 clean up kits. Emotional and spiritual comfort also was provided to almost 57,000 individuals.

Through generous monetary and in-kind donations, The Salvation Army has been able to help survivors like Johnny.

"The Salvation Army is one of the bright spots in my life right now," said Johnny. "They're friendly and they drive in and deliver hot meals." His sentiments were echoed by other survivors time and time again, as meals were prepared and delivered every day for weeks in the areas hit hardest.

Although the road to recovery for many is long and challenging, Texans can count on The Salvation Army to serve — long after the disaster — as a source of hope, stability, and service.

## Hands Across Texas: Westlake Ace Hardware Fan Drive

**K**eeping cool in the summer can be a challenge for many, and Westlake Ace Hardware has partnered with The Salvation Army around the country to help beat the heat.

Ace Hardware customers had the opportunity to make point-of-sale

donations with all proceeds used to purchase fans to be delivered to The Salvation

Army and distributed to those in need.

After another successful campaign,



Westlake Ace Hardware delivered almost 1,800 fans to The Salvation Army in Texas: 193 in San Angelo, 151 in Odessa, 474 in Midland and 973 in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Thank you, Westlake Ace Hardware, for Doing The Most Good!