

PARTNERS IN CARING

*Your compassion
meeting needs and
transforming lives*

Rejoice as you read about the wonderful difference your compassion makes for many struggling families in St. Louis.



THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

When I was nine, my mother was very sick. She spent months in and out of the hospital. My dad gave up his hobby and sold off his classic cars in order to focus on my mother's health.

As Christmas neared one year, my parents carefully explained to me we weren't going to celebrate. We were going to be thankful mom was healthy again and were not putting up a tree since we couldn't afford any gifts.

My mom's friend suggested we go to The Salvation Army to get assistance since we barely had any money. A few days before Christmas we were shocked when our doorbell rang. At the door were a group of men who had adopted my family for Christmas through The Salvation Army. They brought boxes of gifts and food for my family. I remember thinking I had never seen so many boxes. They even brought a small Christmas tree.

Through their gift, my family rediscovered the true meaning of Christmas through The Salvation Army. My parents now know firsthand the difference these gifts can make and often donate to and volunteer for The Salvation Army.



DOING THE
MOST GOOD

Because of your faithful support, local individuals and families receive food, shelter, clothing, compassion and hope at The Salvation Army.





“We prepared for a storm,” Marlene says, “but not a hurricane. Thank God for The Salvation Army.”

DOING THE MOST GOOD THIS CHRISTMAS...

IS EASY AS... 1, 2, 3!

When it comes to helping our neighbors in need, we all have a role to play. Here are 3 easy ways you can keep caring for others:

- 1. GIVE** Your donation strengthens The Salvation Army’s programs and services in our community. They provide food, shelter, clothing, spiritual and emotional healing, and much more – transforming thousands of lives.
- 2. VOLUNTEER** Ring the bell at the red kettle, pack or distribute gifts to children, or give food to the hungry.
- 3. DONATE** presents for Children! Drop off new, unwrapped presents at The Salvation Army, and we’ll deliver them to grateful, underprivileged children in time for Christmas.

TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE

Marlene Brugere is finally back to work after more than three years of unemployment, following her layoff in 2008. Marlene watched the economy collapse and jobs become scarce. In time, she found that she had needs that her severance package and savings were unable to meet, and she reached out to The Salvation Army in South St. Louis. “When you’re in a situation like this for the first time, it’s scary to go in and ask for help. You feel like a bit of a loser, but the people I interacted with were helpful and supportive. They treated me with respect.”

“I know there are people less fortunate that are still working, and I also knew that The Salvation Army would know who to give my donation to.”
— Marlene

As Marlene worked with a social worker to address her needs, she found that The Salvation Army would assist her with both food and utilities. Marlene worked with The Salvation Army to stay afloat until she was finally able to find employment.

Upon getting her first paycheck, Marlene returned with a thank you and a cash donation. “When you go through a crisis like this, you wonder why God would let you go through it.

It can become a crisis of faith, but organizations like The Salvation Army make the suffering bearable, showing God’s love in their work. The people I dealt with were supportive, encouraging and caring and I can’t say enough about what their help did for me.”



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Everyone wants to leave the world a better place and to make a difference that lasts. By remembering The Salvation Army in your will, you ensure your deepest-held values live on, changing lives for generations to come. **To learn more, check the box on the reply form and we’ll contact you.**

Thanks to your support, Salvation Army programs like this are made possible.

A MIRACLE IN ME

This Christmas will mark two years of sobriety for Odean Savage. Savage, 49, was born and raised in St. Louis, part of a devoutly Christian family. “My mother did everything right,” he recalls, but in November 2009, Odean found himself at The Salvation Army’s Harbor Light searching for direction.

After a 30-year self-described “tailspin” of addiction, Odean found himself homeless and hopelessly addicted. “I had nowhere else to go. I thought life was over for me. I had wasted the prime of my life in drugs, addiction and jail. I wondered what I would do with the next 20 years I got left.”

At the Harbor Light he found that sobriety was obtainable, when God was the focus. “I saw everything I’d done in my life reflected in the bible,” said Odean, “and I started to read the bible and learn more about God. It made me want more of God, and more of God’s will. This is really recovery/spirituality.”

This Christmas will be Odean’s second consecutive sober holiday season, a first in his life. The defense of his sobriety and spirit are foremost in Odean’s mind. “It took me a long time to get here. I wasn’t ready for a long time. I knew God, but had to come to Him in my own time. I now protect myself in ways I didn’t before,” he says.

GIVING BACK FEELS RIGHT



This holiday season marks the 21st year that Terry and Danny McDaniel have chosen to give back to The Salvation Army in St. Louis. “When my husband badly needed a job, we prayed to God for an opportunity, and he was granted a job at Chrysler. We’d promised God that we would give back to others a set amount every year in order that we might be able to continue blessing others with the blessings we received,” recalls Terry, and they have been faithful every year.

For several years, the McDaniels volunteered at The Salvation Army Toy Town distribution, but a few years ago, they learned about the work at its Harbor Light Center and knew they could do something meaningful for the homeless men The Salvation Army serves. The family began donating sweatshirts, hats and hoodies to keep the men warm.

Each year they continue to giving generously to The Salvation Army, Terry says, “You see the people who lost their jobs, or are veterans, or those who are out on the street through no fault of their own, or bad luck, and then you see the ways in which The Salvation Army truly helps people.”



Odean has a new lease on life. He is healthy, compassionate and giving back to his community thanks to your generosity to The Salvation Army.



82% Programs & Services
12% Administrative Support
6% Fundraising

DID YOU KNOW?

82¢

out of every dollar spent is used to sustain life-changing programs directly to your community.



Your gift to The Salvation Army will be used now and throughout the year to support Salvation Army services in our community.

To learn more about The Salvation Army, visit our website at:

www.STL-SalvationArmy.org

Photos and services reflect actual Salvation Army programs around the US.

A Personal Word from MAJOR LONNEAL RICHARDSON



This Christmas our financial system is still shaky at best. At our community centers, we see individuals on a daily basis seeking aid for the very first time.

As utility costs skyrocketed this summer, our community centers served as cooling centers. We served 100 children daily in some locations, providing adequate nutrition to those who couldn't afford it outside of a school cafeteria.

In addition to a troubled economy, we also served as first responders in the many disasters, including Joplin, throughout Missouri.

During this Christmas season, our hopes for your generosity is higher than ever, as we are dependent upon your kindness in order to carry out our mission to the masses who have need of what we do.

Thanks to you, help exists at The Salvation Army.

Merry Christmas,



DOING THE
MOST GOOD®

Major Lonneal Richardson
Divisional Commander



Please keep helping your neighbors in need this Christmas. Help struggling families and individuals in St. Louis by sending your next gift with the enclosed reply slip today. Thank you!

SEE HOW YOUR DONATIONS CHANGE LIVES



To watch a short movie on how The Salvation Army is Doing the Most Good in St. Louis,

please scan the QR code or visit us on YouTube at

www.littleurl.net/18c08a

OFFER HOPE WITH US

The Salvation Army works to serve the neediest in our community, and through disaster and economic turmoil, our resources have certainly been put to the test in 2011. To continue this work, we need your support. There are so many ways you can help us this holiday season:

- ♣ Race your friends and raise funds by ringing the bell at your online red kettle
- ♣ Serve holiday meals to the homeless
- ♣ Donate toys or gifts to this year's JCPenney Angel Tree
- ♣ "Friend" us on Facebook and spread the word about our good work!

Your support is critical to our ongoing mission. Thank you for helping us to transform lives in St. Louis. You'll touch someone else's life – and add meaning to yours.