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## **THE SALVATION ARMY BRINGS DOOR-TO-DOOR RELIEF TO LĀ'IE FAMILIES RECOVERING FROM MARCH FLOODING**

*Hot Meals, Cleaning Kits, and Direct Financial Assistance Delivered to more than 250 people  
Across Flood-Impacted Neighborhood*

**\*\*MEDIA NOTE: Please see the folder [HERE](#) for photos and video b-roll. Courtesy of  
The Salvation Army.**

**LĀ'IE, Oahu** — On April 18, The Salvation Army walked door-to-door through flood-impacted Lā'ie, bringing hot meals, cleaning kits, and direct financial assistance to 52 households — representing 258 individuals — recovering from the Kona low storms that have taken a heavy toll on the community over the past month. With the direction and support of key community members, the effort was carried out by 30 Salvation Army officers, staff, and volunteers who went door to door through the flood-impacted neighborhood, ensuring disaster relief reached families where they were.

While much of the public attention following the March flooding has been focused on disaster relief in hard-hit Waialua, several streets in Lā'ie were also severely impacted. Dozens of homes sustained significant damage with knee-high flooding, and numerous families were displaced, facing a long road to recovery.

"The families of Lā'ie are a tight-knit community who show up for one another—that kind of strength is something to be honored," said Major Troy Trimmer, Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division. "This distribution was our way of making sure that strength didn't go unsupported. We are committed to being present for this community for as long as recovery takes."

In the week leading up to the event, The Salvation Army connected with community members in Lā'ie who shared that many families would not likely travel to a centralized distribution location. They were going to be home on Saturday, cleaning debris, making repairs, and doing the hard work of recovery. Taking that guidance to heart, The Salvation Army shifted its original drive-through distribution plans and went directly to families — bringing supplies and support to people where they were.



"When we visited the neighborhood while planning the event and saw families already outside clearing debris and hauling out damaged belongings, just doing what had to be done — we knew coming to them was the right decision," said Mari Sheild, Partnership Development Director of The Salvation Army Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division. "These families weren't waiting for help to find them. We just wanted to make sure it did."

That decision was made possible through the partnership of BYU–Hawai‘i and Lā‘ie community members, whose collective knowledge helped identify where the need was greatest and connected The Salvation Army with families who needed support most.

"Lā‘ie is my community," said Diedra Uli‘i, University Scheduling Manager at BYU–Hawai‘i, who served as a community liaison for the event. "When I saw what families were going through, I wanted to do everything I could to make sure help reached them. BYU–Hawai‘i was honored to play a role in that, alongside so many neighbors and organizations who have given so much to support this community's recovery."

Families received water, food, cleaning kits, and direct financial assistance. Nearly 300 hot meals were distributed, with Zippy's generously donating half of the meals in support of the effort. Aloha Harvest contributed several pallets of water and snacks, along with baked goods for distribution. Domino's Hawai‘i also generously donated gift cards for every family served. The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center team provided critical logistics support, loading donated items and cleaning kits and delivering them to the distribution site at BYU–Hawai‘i. Additional corporate partners who contributed to the event included Walmart, Ace Hardware, and Foodland.

The Salvation Army, in coordination with BYU–Hawai‘i and the Lā‘ie community, is discussing opportunities for additional door-to-door distribution for families not reached on Saturday. The Salvation Army is continuing to assess the ongoing needs of residents as recovery efforts unfold, with additional distribution efforts being explored as the need is identified.

Since mobilizing Emergency Disaster Services on March 16 during the first Kona low storm, The Salvation Army has assisted more than 11,700 people, providing more than 9,500 meals, and more than \$250,000 in direct financial assistance for community members as they begin recovery efforts.

Community members in need of long-term recovery support are encouraged to visit <http://hawaii.salvationarmy.org/konalow>. For those who want to support the families of Lā‘ie and other communities still recovering from the Kona low storms, 100% of donated funds go directly to disaster relief efforts supporting families in need. Donations can be made at <https://fundraise.salvationarmyhawaii.org/campaign/779616/donate>.



### **About The Salvation Army – Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division**

The Salvation Army Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division covers the state of Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands including Guam, The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands and The Federated States of Micronesia. The Division offers a wide variety of programs throughout the islands including: affordable senior housing; at-risk youth services and housing; camp & conference center; family stores, food distribution and feeding programs; homeless services; The Kroc Center – Hawai'i's largest community center; preschools & day care services; social services – emergency assistance; substance abuse treatment; and work therapy & rehabilitation services. For more information, call 808-988-2136, visit [Hawaii.SalvationArmy.org](http://Hawaii.SalvationArmy.org), and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.

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