

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

LEADERSHIP



Lt. Colonels
Mike & Cindy Dickinson

2025 was a year of deep challenges and profound hope. As Christmas 2024 wrapped up for thousands of Angel Tree children and families receiving gifts, food, and shelter, wildfires struck L.A. County, leaving families grieving the loss of belongings, livelihoods, and stability.

But The Salvation Army was already there, doing what we do every day: providing food, welcoming those who need shelter, connecting people to resources, and offering emotional and spiritual care in times of crisis. On the worst day of someone's life, no matter the cause, The Salvation Army is there.

One of my greatest joys is telling stories, stories of transformation, like the ones in this report. Ray, Paula, Ericka, Portrett, Fred, Dana, and Treveon are just a few we get to share today. Their stories remind us that even in despair, hope remains, and that God still brings beauty from ashes.

Lt. Colonel Mike Dickinson
Divisional Commander

MISSION STATEMENT

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.





SERVICES

Spiritual Services

Salvation Army officers are pastors who help with spiritual guidance and healing.

Housing Services

Residential programs provide housing and supportive services to those facing homelessness.

Food Assistance

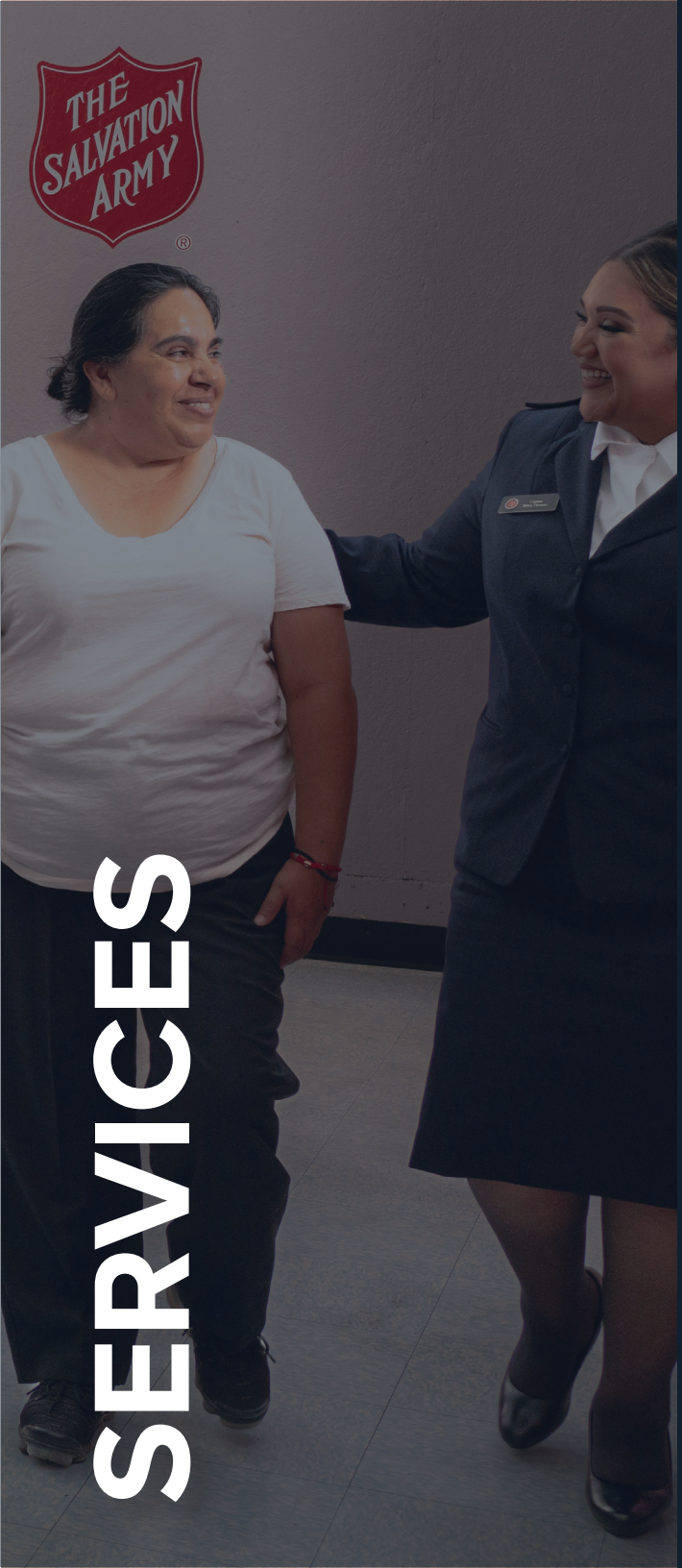
Providing nourishing food and meals while helping those in need maintain their independence and dignity.

Senior Services

Meal delivery, wellness classes, social outlets, and affordable housing units provide dignified living for seniors.

Adult Rehabilitation

Eight Adult Rehabilitation Centers provide 6-month or longer residential treatment programs for those recovering from substance dependence.



SERVICES

Disaster Response

Emergency Disaster Response Teams provide food, water, shelter, and critical supplies to those in immediate need at the site of a fire, hurricane, earthquake or other disasters.

Anti-Trafficking

Providing safe shelter, food, clothing, counseling and much more to trafficking victims so they can build new lives with dignity, purpose, and hope.

Youth Programs

Programs for children and teens to build character and faith, including after-school programs, camp, daycare, scouting, music, athletics, and arts.

Corps Community Centers

Worship and service centers established for the preaching of the gospel and to provide Christian-motivated services in the community.



Central Coast

Purpose in Full Bloom - At The Salvation Army in Ventura, purpose blossoms in the most unexpected of places, including a vibrant community garden lovingly tended by 97-year-old Silvercrest Senior Living resident Ray. For more than a decade, Ray has invested his time, creativity, and heart into cultivating a space that nourishes both body and spirit for fellow seniors in the community.

Living next door to The Salvation Army chapel and food pantry, Ray volunteers daily at the Ventura Corps' senior garden, where he has meticulously designed flower and vegetable beds enjoyed by Silvercrest residents and at weekly senior lunches. His dedication reflects a core truth we see across our programs: when seniors are given meaningful roles, connection, and support, their well being flourishes.

Outside the Garden - Ray's relationship with the Corps extends far beyond gardening. Corps officers remain in close contact with Ray and his family, working together to support his continued independence. Ray also expresses his artistic side by painting in the garden and in the creative spaces at the Corps. He regularly attends senior lunches, community events, and special celebrations, always bringing warmth and encouragement to others.

Cultured Quality of Life - New volunteers have stepped in to help carry on the gardening responsibilities, but Ray's influence endures. His commitment has inspired a culture of ownership and pride among other seniors who now work collectively to keep the garden thriving.

The Salvation Army Ventura Corps remains committed to supporting seniors through programs that enhance quality of life. Weekly luncheons, offered every Tuesday and Thursday, provide nutritious meals and crucial social interaction, a cornerstone of overall wellness. Ray's story reflects the lasting impact of these programs and the powerful role purpose plays in senior health.

Scan the QR Code to see Ray's Garden.



Inland Empire

For nearly a decade, Paula has been a joyful and steady force at The Salvation Army Riverside Corps—someone whose heart for service has shaped not only our programs, but also the community she loves. Paula's journey with us began in 2016. Grieving the loss of her husband, she found comfort in long walks with her dogs. One day, she noticed The Salvation Army sign and an invitation to worship. She stepped inside, not yet knowing that this simple moment would open the door to a new purpose.

More than a Church - Paula soon discovered that The Salvation Army was far more than a church. When asked if she could help with the kids at Day Camp, she agreed, and from there her path of service continued to grow. Later, after volunteering in the kitchen, she found her niche in the food pantry, where she now serves faithfully.

Giving and Receiving Joy - At 77, Paula is not slowing down, she even rings the bell for The Salvation Army during the holidays. What keeps her coming back? The people. For Paula, volunteering is about community, connection, and the joy that comes from helping others. She loves the laughter she shares with other volunteers and the friendships formed over years of service. Even those waiting to be served have come to know her, often stopping to chat or to ask for prayer, something she is always honored to offer.

Paula has lived in Riverside for many years, and she's seen firsthand the quiet but powerful impact The Salvation Army has in the community. She recently started participating in the monthly Street Outreach program, feeding and supporting individuals experiencing homelessness. "I'm always up for an adventure," she says.

Her message to new volunteers is simple: fill out the paperwork, come help, and you'll love it.

"I love The Salvation Army," Paula says. "And I'll be volunteering here for the rest of my life!"

Scan the QR Code to hear from Paula.



Los Angeles

Finding Stability - In December 2023, Ericka walked into The Salvation Army Siemon Youth & Community Center carrying her young daughter and years of challenges, including foster care, homelessness, and unsafe living conditions. Yet through it all, her hope remained. “At the time, I was struggling with finances, lack of transportation, and little family support,” she said. “Having someone guide me and hold me accountable made all the difference.”

A Path Forward - At the South Los Angeles Siemon Center, Ericka enrolled in Pathway of Hope, a Salvation Army initiative that helps families build long-term stability through goal setting, case management, and access to community resources. Families work one-on-one with case managers to pursue objectives such as securing housing, improving income, and managing childcare, focusing not just on urgent needs but on lasting independence.

Ericka first connected with The Salvation Army in 2019 through the Westwood Transitional Living Center, where she lived for a year and secured stable housing. That earlier experience shaped her understanding of the power of steady support and prepared her for her next steps through Pathway of Hope.

Transformation - Siemon Center Executive Director Edwin Perry remembers her first day well. “Ericka came in feeling broken but hopeful,” he said. “Pathway of Hope partnered with her to create an action plan, and we watched her get back on track.”

Working closely with her case manager, Ericka learned to set actionable goals, develop healthy habits and build a secure life for herself and her daughter. Today, she has stable housing, financial security and a clear plan for the future, including earning her cosmetology license, expanding her hair business, and exploring a career in public service.

“I want to show my daughter that no matter the obstacles, you can create the life you want,” Ericka shared. “I am proud of myself.”

Scan the QR Code for more of Ericka’s story.



SoCal Wildfires

With 80-mile-an-hour winds whipping across Southern California, the January 2025 wildfires tore through Los Angeles County with a ferocity no one expected. As flames advanced and families fled, The Salvation Army immediately mobilized its Emergency Disaster Services teams and volunteers, serving evacuees hot meals and warm drinks, welcoming them to safe shelter, and providing spiritual and emotional care amid the chaos.

As always, The Salvation Army didn't just help those fleeing from homes and businesses, but offered food, hot drinks, and encouragement to the weary first responders who were fighting to preserve life and property for thousands across So Cal.

Once the smoke began to clear, The Salvation Army linked arms with partnering agencies, distributing millions of dollars of immediate financial assistance and resources to the survivors. At each of these interactions and through the shock, we offered prayer and comfort and a listening ear.

A woman who lost her home stopped at our resource table during one of the Disaster Resource Fairs, shortly after the fires. The look on her face was somber as she glanced past the cleaning supplies. Noticing our stack of Bibles, she paused. "Oh! Can I take one?" she asked with tears springing to her eyes. "Mine was lost in the fires."

In moments of greatest need, our emergency disaster services staff and volunteers are present: offering needed resources, compassionate care, and the hope of Scripture.

Scan the QR Code for more on our wildfire impact.



Hope from Ashes

For most of her life, Portrett measured time through the memories built inside her family's single story home on Calaveras Street in Altadena, California. Purchased decades ago by her grandfather and great grandmother, the house became the heart of four generations: a place where holidays were celebrated, children were raised, and extended family always had a place to gather.

In January 2025, everything changed. Wildfires fueled by intense winds and unprecedented conditions swept down from the mountains. As smoke thickened and the power failed, Portrett's family realized this fire was unlike any they had seen before. Through the night, her brother, uncle, and neighbors worked desperately, hosing down roofs and yards in hopes of slowing the flames. By early morning, evacuation was their only option.

The family fled with only the essentials: clothes, medication, blankets, and important documents. Hours later, devastating footage confirmed their fears: their block was engulfed in flames. The home and community that had shaped generations were gone.

In the months that followed, Portrett's family faced the overwhelming task of rebuilding. That was when The Salvation Army stepped in. Disaster case managers worked closely with Portrett's grandmother, providing medical equipment, weekly groceries, housing support, and compassionate guidance. A partnership with Genesis Motor America even provided a new car to replace one lost in the fires.

As the holidays approached, the loss felt heavier. Yet through the Angel Tree program, her children received Christmas gifts that restored a sense of hope.

Today, with steady support from The Salvation Army, Portrett remains focused on rebuilding a secure future for her family, rising from the ashes with resilience and renewed strength.

Scan the QR code for more of Portett's family story.



Orange County

Broken Scales - When Fred first came to The Salvation Army, he had nowhere else to turn. After years of homelessness, he arrived at our Anaheim Emergency shelter carrying little more than a few personal belongings and a quiet determination to rebuild his life. Though he had lost nearly everything, including his musical instruments, what he never lost was his sense of dignity and faith that things could be different.

The Crescendo - At the shelter, staff quickly noticed Fred's discipline and respect for others. He kept his small living space neat and tidy, volunteered wherever help was needed, and never missed an event or church service, absorbing every note of worship music with renewed hope. In time, the trust and community he found began to gently replace the loneliness that had weighed on him for so many years. With the encouragement of his case manager and the friendships he built along the way, Fred began to take steady steps forward. He found joy in structure: learning to budget, to cook healthy meals, and to care for both his physical and mental health. Those small routines became the foundation for something greater.

Fortissimo of Praise - Today, Fred lives in his own apartment, a cozy, peaceful space he's filled with reminders of how far he's come. His home is lined with favorite books and old movies, and in the corner sits a piano he plays every evening. "It reminds me to stay grateful," he says with a smile. "This place isn't just a roof over my head. It's proof that God still answers prayers." Grateful for the second chance he's been given, Fred now looks for ways to give back, encouraging others at the shelter to stay hopeful and reminding them that a life's melody can be rewritten, one note at a time.

"This place isn't just a roof over my head. It's proof that God still answers prayers."

Scan the QR Code for more Orange County impact.



San Diego

Hopeless - For most of her adult life, Dana lived with the harsh realities of homelessness. Along the Otay Riverbed in San Diego, she made a home out of a tent she shared with her loyal service dog, Mocha. Nights were especially frightening. “That’s one of the scariest places to live, especially at night because of all the coyotes,” Dana recalled. Yet even in those difficult years, she held onto hope that life could be different.

Hopeful - That hope took shape the day she connected with The Salvation Army’s Centre City Food Program. What Dana found was more than assistance; it was compassion, dignity, and a community ready to walk alongside her. “They are so nice and so helpful,” she shared. “I’ve never heard of a place that helps people the way they do.”

Through the program’s pantry and outreach services, Dana began receiving nutritious food, essential supplies for Mocha, and the encouragement she needed while working toward permanent housing. The pantry quickly became a place where she felt seen and respected. “It’s the best pantry I’ve ever been to,” she said. “You can go in and pick your own food. They treat you with respect.”

Sharing Hope - As her life stabilized, Dana felt inspired to give back. Today, she volunteers at the very pantry that supported her during her most vulnerable moments. Each shift allows her to share the same kindness she once received and to help create a welcoming space for others seeking hope.

Now in a safe and clean living environment, Dana’s story is a testament to what becomes possible when compassion meets opportunity, and God’s love reaches a neighbor in need.

Dana describes her connection with The Salvation Army in one simple, powerful way:

“I love it here. It feels like family.”

Scan the QR Code for more San Diego impact.



Camper Story: Treveon

Not Enough - For Treveon, what began as a single week at The Salvation Army's Camp Daley grew into a life changing summer. After returning home from his first session, he couldn't wait to go back. His excitement was unmistakable, and his mom (who had originally signed him up for only one week) quickly realized this experience was something special. She signed him up for a second week. When Treveon still wanted more time at camp, she reached out to staff. To her gratitude, he was welcomed back for several more weeks at no cost, ultimately spending five unforgettable weeks growing, learning, and thriving.

Filled with a Song - At the end of the summer, The Salvation Army hosted a follow up event to connect families with their local Corps (church). While checking in, Treveon's mom shared how meaningful camp had been for her son and for her. She had noticed a clear shift in Treveon's faith and confidence. He came home singing chapel songs like "Praise," brought back a Bible each week, and eagerly shared what he learned with friends. Soon, reading Scripture before bed became a new routine at home, sparking spiritual growth that continued well beyond camp.

Overflowing - As a single mom, she admitted it was challenging being apart from her son for so long, yet the time also gave her space to focus on things she rarely had time for. Most importantly, she saw a renewed Treveon return home more grounded, more joyful, and more connected to his faith.

Scan the QR Code for more camp stories like Treveon's.





Hong with Salvation Army team member (Steve Pinckney-center) and long-time friend of The Army (Bill Lemann-right).

A Decade of Service

Ten years ago, Hong Nguyen was invited to join the San Bernardino Advisory Board because of her background in finance. She didn't realize this would begin a decade of volunteering with The Salvation Army, but she's grateful she said yes.

As the CFO of an international bank, Hong continues to give her time and resources, inspired by fellow advisory board members who are "boots on the ground" and deeply committed to serving. "Any dollar I give or any time I spend serving on the board is well utilized," Hong shares.

Mountains to Desert - Hong describes the wide range of programs serving the Inland Empire, including Pathway to Prosperity, meal and shower services, outreach to the unhoused community, the Christmas Angel Tree program, and her personal favorite: "Our shelter is very special. The knowledgeable team is really able to help clients. The success stories are truly amazing!"

She and the Board understand the needs of their large service area and take pride in the support The Salvation Army provides to families. "Our shelter beds are fully utilized every single day of the year—we are putting a roof over families' heads: kids, moms, multigeneration families."

Local Lives Impacted - Hong participates in Angel Tree each year and rings the bell at Christmas. "We appreciate every single donation—we make dollars stretch." She adds, "With every dollar given, there is a direct correlation of local lives impacted in our shelter and transitioned into permanent housing through our programs."

She also values community partners: "We are lucky to have a network of long-time partners and providers at Christmas and beyond, including the cities of Redlands and San Bernardino."

The Salvation Army was honored to present Hong with the 2025 Exceptional Service Recognition award, celebrating her decade of dedicated service in fulfilling our mission.

"I serve because I know how effective our programs are—we impact lives on a daily basis."

IMPACT

Oct. 1, 2024 - Sept. 30, 2025

In Southern California, each number represents a life changed: a senior fed, a child sent to camp, a family sheltered, a survivor supported. This is The Salvation Army's work, transforming lives through God's love, one meal, one day, one prayer at a time.

170,401
Gifts Distributed
(Christmas toys, birthday gifts for youth and seniors)

2,549,091
Meals Provided
(hot meals, family food boxes, boxed lunches)

157,684
Clothing Distributed
(for those coming to our shelters and food pantries in need of socks, shoes, a coat or more)

873,818
Nights Sheltered
(emergency, transitional, and permanent housing for individuals and families)

10,220
Camp Attendees
(day and overnight camp programs for youth)

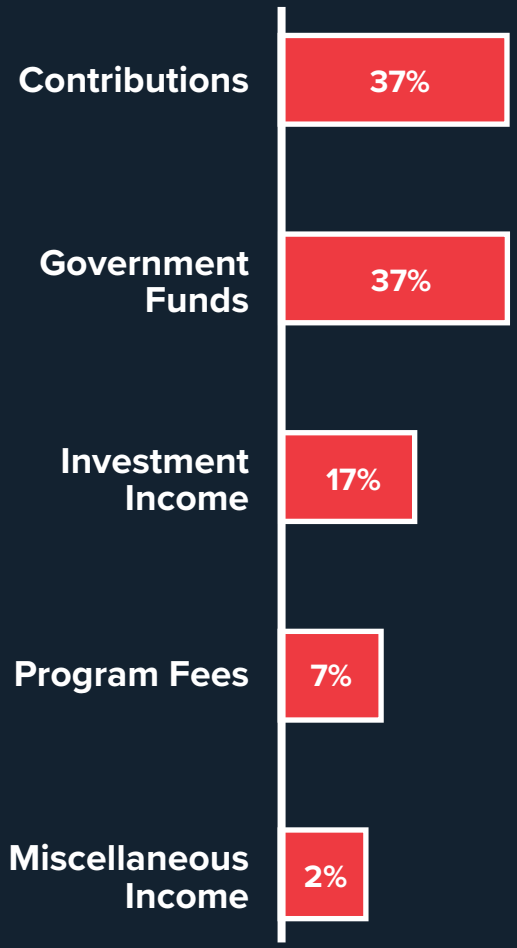
116,966
Families Served
(providing food, shelter, rent/utilities assistance and childcare support)

285,588
Volunteer Hours
(71,343 people volunteered for youth programs, senior meals, food pantries and during the wildfires)

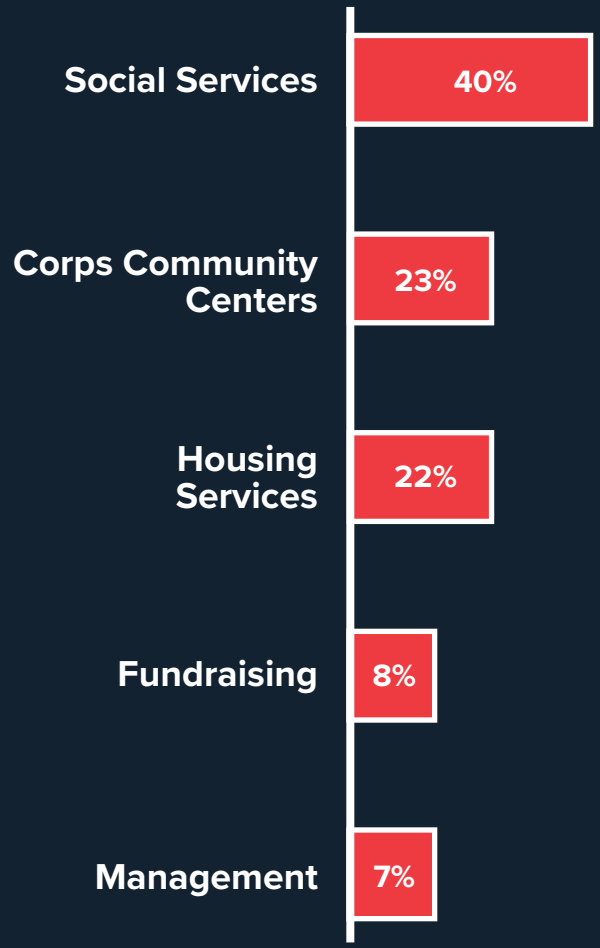
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Oct. 1, 2024 - Sept. 30, 2025

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE



PROGRAM AND SUPPORT SERVICES



Total Operating Budget:
$201,726,569



One Transformed Family

Chris became a widower and a single dad to six children overnight. When the family first came to The Salvation Army, they were tired, hungry, and without a home. Our staff immediately engaged them and within hours, they were welcomed through our shelter doors.

During those first 90 days, our team provided not only food and a safe place to sleep, but also stability and compassion. This year, Chris and his children moved into their own apartment through permanent supportive housing. They're thriving now: stable, hopeful, and united.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

in Southern California

The Transforming Lives Comprehensive Campaign is about more than change, it's about helping people rebuild their lives with dignity, faith, and hope. As homelessness and hunger touch every community, donor support makes it possible for The Salvation Army to deliver food, shelter, and recovery across Southern California.

The Transforming Lives Campaign is a bold initiative that will carry us through 2030 and beyond. This is a comprehensive, unifying campaign that will fund capital improvements, program sustainability, and endowment growth. It's about laying the groundwork now to ensure a strong, sustainable future for The Salvation Army, one that will serve generations well into the 22nd Century.

Scan the QR Code to learn more about how you can be part of this important work.


“Thank you for making it possible for us to celebrate the holidays. The Salvation Army was there when we needed it most.”
-Millie


EMERGENCY DISASTER SERVICES
THE SALVATION ARMY


THE SALVATION ARMY


“Being a single dad is challenging, but worrying about food made it even harder. Your support through the food pantry helped my family stay nourished and hopeful.”
-Robert
THE SALVATION ARMY


GA FIRE DEPT.
“I want to be just like my sister...she goes to the Red Shield Youth Club and so will I someday. They gave us pink backpacks!”
-Kira
Joseph
Athena



"I must go, not only to those who need me, but to those who need me most."
-William Booth

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