

OTTAWA 2023 IMPACT REPORT

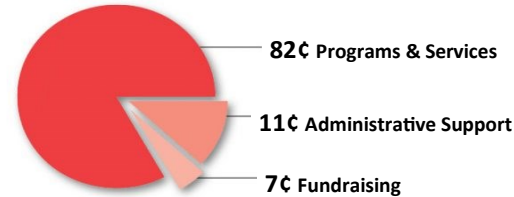
815-433-0798 saottawa.org Serving LaSalle County since 1894

Capt. Yanet & Lt. Wayne Strayer

YOU CAN **TRUST THE SALVATION ARMY**
TO MAKE YOUR GIFTS GO FURTHER.



82 Cents of every dollar
spent is used to sustain
life changing programs
that bring hope to
hurting souls



OVER 3,300 PEOPLE SERVED

DOING THE MOST GOOD

3,839

Meals &
Snacks
provided to
Youth

2,613

Hot meals Provided

272

Food Boxes Provided

334

Community
Care Packages

969 Education Classes

2,156 Education Attendees

65 People received Utility Assistance

693 People Received
Transportation Assistance

**HOLIDAY
SERVICES**

831 Toys & Gifts
Distributed

541 Gifts for Seniors

532 Clothing Items
Distributed

**SOCIAL
SERVICES**

4,164 Interviews with
Caseworkers

1,506 cases managed

2,207 Referrals to other
Organizations

39 Individuals

26 Households
Helped through the
**PATHWAY OF
HOPE** Program



LOVE BEYOND . . . BOARDERS

In 2017 my world tilted off its axis, and I found myself and my two boys, 16-months and 4-months-old, living in Mexico. Before long I became pregnant with my third child and was so sick I could not fly home, nor could I afford to. I delivered my sweet Charlee Marie at 30 weeks. Born very ill, she succumbed to an infection a week before she turned three months.

Hurting, struggling, and scared, I stayed in Mexico a year and a half longer. I didn't want to leave where Charlee was buried or my husband, who was the glue that held us all together, but I was at my lowest point and needed to make things better for my family. I was desperate and started seeking the Lord's guidance. I asked Him to lead the way and to place the people I needed in my path.

Finally, I got the strength and courage to come back to the United States with my sons. I tried to do it all and felt like I was drowning, but God led me straight to my new family at The Salvation Army. My life has changed profoundly. The caseworker, officers and other members of the corps and Pathway of Hope have provided me with so much support, love, and hope! I am now an active church member and fulltime student.

One of my and my husband's priorities is a better future for our boys, and with the help of POH I have the tools I need. The most important gift I have received is my spiritual growth. My relationship with God has never been stronger.

Even though my family is still apart, God gives us the strength and faith to stay as one through Him. My boys also have been affected by POH. Through Jesus and our faith, they can cope better with their dad not physically being here, and some of their anger and fears have been alleviated. That's all a mother can really ask for — that the load be lightened for her children.

Being a part of Pathway of Hope and The Salvation Army has changed my life. It has been a long road, but I believe God has been with me every step of the way.



LOVE BEYOND . . . FEAR

Fear of the law kept Benjamin*, a Veteran, from finding better housing. With several warrants out for his arrest, he first met Amber while living in a tent. Amber, a case manager for The Salvation Army, and the local Fire Department were making check-in visits to the homeless camp. She invited Benjamin to come see her at The Salvation Army that night. Much to her delight, he showed up. After talking, he decided to turn himself in; he served 6 weeks in jail and worked with Amber to obtain his ID and get his life back on track. He's clean, sober, working and moving into permanent housing today.



LOVE BEYOND . . . EMPTY CUPBOARDS

Vivian a resident of a local senior apartment complex regularly brings a friend or neighbor who are also struggling due to the rising costs of food and utilities. She recommends they visit The Salvation Army Food Pantry to see what is available and then afterwards, go to the grocery store to use their SNAP benefits for what is still needed. She is very excited to help her friends stretch their resources.



THANK YOU FOR GIVING. YOUR DONATIONS CHANGES LIVES

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