

146,227



13,447 VOLUNTEER



20,288 BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES



4,405 CLOTHING ITEMS DISTRIBUTED



8,858 WORSHIP & FAITH EXPERIENCES



REFERRALS FOI assistance

## STORY OF HOPE

While standing outside of The Salvation Army waiting in line for a hot meal, a young woman named Julie began to be mocked by the others in line. Unfortunately, Julie was being laughed at because her shoes were worn hand-me-downs that she had already been wearing for a long time. The young woman could not afford three hot meals a day, much less a new pair of shoes.

The laughter coming from the the crowd caught the attention of the Salvation Army officer, who came to see what was happening. The officer quickly assessed the situation and pulled the woman aside to check on her, but Julie brushed the mocking aside, telling the officer not to worry. The officer asked Julie for her shoe size, which she gave reluctantly. Immediately, the officer stepped back inside the corps and came back a few minutes later with a brand-new pair of shoes in her size.

Julie could not express her gratitude enough. She thanked the officer, saying how nice it was to finally have shoes that fit. This is just one of the many examples of how Salvation Army officers serve their communities in every situation.



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### **OUR MISSION:** 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.





Major Christopher Marques is the Northwest Indiana Area Commander for The Salvation Army. With 20 years of experience as a Salvation Army officer, his extensive knowledge and forward-driven mindset has helped his communities thrive. Other appointments with The Salvation Army include serving for 7 years in Japan and at community centers around the Midwest in leadership positions.

#### **CORPS COMMUNITY CENTERS**

In Northwest Indiana, the East Chicago, Gary-Merrillville, Hammond-Munster, and Porter County Corps Community Centers provide critical services for local families and individuals facing challenges. They aid those in need of food, housing, or emergency shelter, and help with utilities, prescriptions, winter coats, and back to school supplies. Programs offered include Christmas assistance, self-sufficiency guidance, job hunting resources, and youth activities with recreation, tutoring, and character building. The corps are also gathering places that provide worship services and spiritual growth opportunities.

- 4,712 nights of safe lodging provided to individuals in Lake and Porter Counties
- Northwest Indiana Corps Community Centers provided 228 households with energy assistance



Major Christopher Marques, Central Indiana Area Commander 812-664-0427 | Christopher.Marques@usc.salvationarmy.org

# THE SALVATION ARMY OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

2024 Impact













#### BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Pathway of Hope invites families to move from crisis to stability and self-sufficiency. Pathway Advocates mentor families, teach life skills and help them to set goals for housing, employment, budgeting, education and transportation. The families overcome barriers, restore hope and achieve their goals, thereby breaking the generational poverty cycle.

• Pathway of Hope participants on average experience a 60% increase in income

#### **EMERGENCY DISASTER SERVICES**

Salvation Army Officers, employees, volunteers and mobile food trucks provide emergency services to victims and first responders on a local, regional and national level. We provide spiritual and emotional counseling, emergency shelter, food, water, and financial assistance at crucial moments.

• 56,748 drinks, snacks, and meals provided

#### HIDDEN FALLS CAMP

Hidden Falls Camp is a 700-acre camp near Bedford. It features nature trails, an indoor pool, fishing, a high ropes course, an archery range and log cabins. Camp hosts kids and senior adults from across Indiana every summer participating in various camps (STEM, music, art, discipleship, age-specific camps), focusing on the body, mind and spirit. Campers have the opportunity to experience creation, learn new skills, meet peers and mentors, and hear about the love of God. Activities develop faith and introduce the Gospel to many for the first time in a safe, positive environment.

• Each camper pays just \$25 for a week at camp



Porter County

Lake

County



The Northwest Indiana Area Command Corps offer youth a unique opportunity to develop focus, confidence, discipline, and life skills in a supportive environment through archery. Under the guidance of certified instructors, students are able to learn the fundamentals of archery, safety protocols, and equipment handling through the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). This structured approach enhances physical coordination and fosters mental resilience and goal-setting abilities. The archery program is currently offered at the Porter County Corps and will soon begin in East Chicago as well.



The Salvation Army of Northwest Indiana brought joy and happiness to over 2,200 children in need throughout Lake & Porter Counties during its annual Angel Tree and Toy Shop programs. Christmas is a time of love, family, and celebrations thanks to our many community partners: Cargill, Cleveland Cliffs, Adams Radio Group, and many more. Angel Tree and Toy Shop have ensured that kids who otherwise might go without get to experience the magic of hristmas.

21,571 Christmas toys and gifts distributed

#### FEEDING PROGRAMS

Clients are able to come into any Northwest Indiana corps location to receive shelf-stable food and resources. The Porter County Corps gives recipe cards to give cooking ideas using ingredients from boxes. The Gary-Merrillville corps provides a choice food pantry allowing clients that have sensitivities to shop for specific items. The Hammond-Munster Corps recently began their evening food pantry for working individuals or families that cannot come during the day. In East Chicago, the corps also provides free hot lunches that are served every weekday allowing anyone, including individuals outside of their area, to receive a prepared, delicious, and nutritious meal. The feeding programs continue to help provide shelf-stable items for hundreds of clients across Lake & Porter Counties.



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