



The Salvation Army giving back this holiday season

Angel Trees and Kettles making their way across the metro

While some may think it is still a little early to unpack the holiday decorations, The Salvation Army has been hard at work, planning Christmas programs for several months. Now, as the red kettles will be making their appearance outside stores and Angel Trees are being set up, volunteers are needed to help ensure men, women and children in need throughout our community experience the joys of Christmas.

Volunteer as a Bell Ringer

The Salvation Army needs volunteer bell ringers from November 24 to December 24, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. The annual Red Kettle Campaign is one of the Army's primary fundraising efforts of the year. Every dollar collected in the red kettles support the wide range of services and programs provided throughout the year right here in Central Oklahoma, including feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, offering emergency financial assistance, providing toys to disadvantaged children, and hosting after-school programs.

For more than 100 years, The Salvation Army's red kettles have been a symbol of good will during the holiday season. "We are excited to offer bell ringing opportunities for those who want to volunteer a few hours or adopt a day with family or friends," said Liz Banks, volunteer coordinator. "We want to assure the general public we are abiding by the necessary safety precautions to keep, not



only our volunteers safe, but also for those businesses who have permitted us to ring outside their storefronts this year".

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in addition to the implementation of basic safety procedures, all bell ringers will also be provided with daily PPE safety kits including a branded mask, disposable gloves, apron, and disinfectant. Strict safety protocols have been developed ensuring the health and safety of all potential donors and bell ringers.

Support the Angel Tree Program

Through the generous support of community donors, The Salvation Army will provide gifts for thousands of children and seniors this year in Central Oklahoma. The Salvation Army will have several Angel Trees up across the metro for individuals to adopt angels from. Currently, Guthrie's Territorial Christmas Foundation has a tree up in the Guthrie Tourism Office with angels ready to

adopt and Sam's Club #6267 located at 1117 W. I-35 Service Road in Edmond has a tree set up near their café. Beginning on Tuesday, November 17th, Angel Trees will be up at Quail Springs Mall (near Great American Cookie) and also at The Salvation Army Chesapeake Energy Center of Hope located at 1001 N Pennsylvania Avenue, Oklahoma City.

"We are really excited to have so many corporate partners who have raised their hands to say 'yes' we want to host an Angel Tree at our place of business," said Traci Jinkens, director of development. "We want to publicly thank Accident Care & Treatment Center, LLC; Baker Hughes – OKC Supercenter; Ben E. Keith Foods; Christ's Legacy Church; City of Oklahoma City; Continental Resources; Express Services, Inc.; Flywheel Energy; Grant Thornton, LLP; Guthrie Territorial Christmas Foundation; Jasco Products; LLR Concepts; Metal Container; Miller Architects, Inc.; Northrop Grumman; Oklahoma Wa-

ter Resources Board; Price Edwards & Company; Sam's Club # 6267; University of Oklahoma's Accelerated Bachelor's in Science of Nursing; and World Water Works, Inc. It truly takes an Army to help meet the needs of our community and we are thankful for their support".

Volunteers can sign up online to ring a bell at www.RedKettleVolunteer.org or contact Liz Banks at 405-246-1107. For Angel Tree, please contact Traci Jinkens at 405-246-1109. To make a gift to support the red kettle campaign, go online to OKCKettle.org.

About The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army annually helps more than 23 million Americans overcome poverty, addiction and economic hardships through a range of social services. By providing food for the hungry, emergency relief for disaster survivors, rehabilitation for those suffering from drug and alcohol abuse, and clothing and shelter for people in need, The Salvation Army is doing the most good at 7,600 centers of operation around the country. In the first-ever listing of "America's Favorite Charities" by The Chronicle of Philanthropy, The Salvation Army ranked as the country's largest privately funded, direct-service nonprofit. For more information, visit SalvationArmyUSA.org. Follow us on Twitter @SalvationArmyUS and #DoingTheMostGood. The Salvation Army of Central Oklahoma is a proud partner agency of the United Way of Central Oklahoma.