



NEWS BRIEF

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THE SALVATION ARMY ASKS CHICAGOANS TO HELP TAKE A BITE OUT OF HUNGER

Donut Day Fund-raiser Set for June 5, 6

CHICAGO, IL (May 27, 2009)—An army of volunteers will fan out across the Greater Chicago area June 5 and 6 as part of The Salvation Army's annual Donut Day campaign to raise funds to feed the poor and the hungry. Hundreds of taggers will be collecting donations at street corners and on sidewalks throughout the city and the suburbs to help fund The Army's feeding programs for children, seniors, the homeless, and families in need.

Chicago media personalities will help The Army launch Donut Day with a musical celebration at the James R. Thompson Center Plaza on June 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteer taggers and mascots from several Chicago sport teams also will be on hand to solicit donations—large and small.

A recent study by the Heartland Alliance shows that more than 936,000 people were living in poverty in the Chicago Region in 2007, and estimates that since then another 253,000 more Chicago-area residents may have become poor—87,000 of them children.

The Salvation Army Chicago Metropolitan Division each day receives hundreds of requests for assistance from people who never before asked for help—including middle class families. Requests for groceries are up more than 100 percent at some Corps community centers, compared to a year ago, as more and more people find they can't provide enough food for their families without outside assistance. For just \$33, The Salvation Army can provide enough groceries to feed a family of four for a week.

In addition to food pantry distributions to those in need, funds raised during Donut Day help underwrite the cost of prepared meals for seniors and the housebound, for children in day care and after school programs, and for the homeless through the Mobile Feeding Program.

“For many people, we are their last hope,” said Colonel David Grindle, divisional commander, Salvation Army Chicago Metropolitan Division. “Even in these difficult economic times, we are committed to helping all who come to us for assistance.”

Eighty-nine cents of every dollar donated to The Salvation Army Chicago Metropolitan Division is spent on services and programs that directly benefit people in need.

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