



NEWS BRIEF

The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division • 5040 N. Pulaski Road • Chicago, IL 60630

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Contact: Dee McKinsey
773.743-5808

THE SALVATION ARMY HELPS EVERYONE IN NEED – RED KETTLES OUT ON CHICAGO STREETS AND SHOPPING AREAS NOV. 19

Current economy often means former donors now become recipients.

(Chicago) Nov. 19, 2010 -- Family circumstances found Robert of Arlington Heights receiving help from The Salvation Army.

After running his own business, Robert's mom became ill with dementia. While he admits that his own business was not flourishing, it was the final straw. He could no longer afford the \$4,500 monthly payments to take care of his mother in a private facility and took her into his own home.

Then he could no longer work himself and look after his 88-year-old mom.

One thing led to another, it "snowballed" and Robert found himself needing help in the form of food. Some times when he receives his donation, there are toiletry items inside and he is appreciative. Some weeks he doesn't need help because he has found some temporary work.

Once he received a Bible for which he was genuinely thankful. He reads the Bible every morning and attends church regularly in Arlington Heights.

This former lawyer of 30-years believes that this experience has made him a better person. He doesn't sound bitter.

"My spiritual side has improved so much," he says. "I am a much stronger Christian than I have ever been. Sometime you need some pain in order to grow."

Before, Robert described himself as lacking spiritually: "In the past I took things for granted. I didn't see what is important."

He is working toward becoming a teacher. Just not interested in going back into the law, Robert says.

This former lawyer, businessman, and soon to be teacher, is like so many who are receiving help from The Salvation Army. Many former donors like Robert find the need for support in this economy.

(more)

Food distribution is supported, in large part by The Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign. With a goal of raising \$12 million, familiar Red Kettles will be on area streets and shopping areas beginning Nov. 19.

Since the Red Kettle tradition began in 1891 in San Francisco, the kettles are a familiar sight during the holiday season. Not only are they on the street, but now computer savvy givers can host a virtual red kettle, or sponsor a Red Kettle team.

To begin a virtual Red Kettle is easy.

Go to the online Red Kettle site through The Salvation Army website, www.salarmychicago.org. Register yourself, your group or business by completing the simple registration information. Next import your address book and send emails to friends, families, colleagues or team mates. You can also raise the funds through your Facebook site or send out messages on Twitter.

Salvation Army statistics show that the number of individuals needing assistance this year continues to be high as unemployment continues to be nearly 10 percent in the Chicago area, and the mortgage crisis has forced more individuals and families into financial instability. People who were once donors now are turning to the Army for assistance.

The chairman of this year's drive is James Pajakowski, executive vice president of Global Risk Solutions for Priotiviti. Pajakowski is also a member of The Salvation Army's Metropolitan Chicago Advisory Board.

The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division serves people in need in Greater Chicago, northern Illinois and northwestern Indiana. Among the assistance provided are youth programs; early childhood development services; feeding programs for homeless adults, children and seniors; emergency lodging for families and individuals in crisis; disaster relief; senior housing; spiritual counseling and substance abuse rehabilitation programs. For more information about The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division or to donate or volunteer, please visit www.salarmychicago.org or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-825-2769).

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