



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Melanie Scofield
Director of Public Relations, Salvation Army Metropolitan Division
Melanie_Scofield@usc.salvationarmy.org
773-205-3254 cell: 708-289-9047

David Bakker
Communications Manager, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois
David_Bakker@lcf.org
708-488-5532

WAYS TO WORK PROGRAM TO LAUNCH IN CHICAGO, DUPAGE COUNTY AND AURORA

National lending organization helps parents get to work and move up the economic ladder by providing loans for affordable cars; financial education; and hands-on support

WHAT: The Salvation Army and Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois will host a special event to launch the **Ways to Work** program, a nationally recognized transportation assistance program, in Cook County, DuPage County and Aurora. One of the first Ways to Work loan recipients will receive the keys to his Ways to Work vehicle and talk about the significant work and life challenges this program is helping he and his family to overcome.

Ways to Work offers low-interest loans for buying or repairing used cars that are needed by low-income parents to more easily meet job demands while raising children. This program is offered to working parents without a reliable car whose credit does not allow them to get a traditional loan or who could only do so at a very high interest rate.

WHEN: Monday, September 26, 2011
10 a.m.

WHERE: The Salvation Army Temple Corps Community Center
1 North Ogden Avenue, Chicago
(at the corner of Ogden and Madison St.)

WHO: Ways to Work Loan Recipient
Jeff Faulkner, President, Ways to Work
Gene Svebakken, President and CEO, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois
Lt. Col. Ralph Bukiewicz, Metropolitan Divisional Commander, The Salvation Army
Josh Cotton, Market Manager, Walmart Foundation
Joe Voccia, Program Manager, Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

BACKGROUND: Ways to Work, Inc. is a proven national project with 50 sites operating in 22 states. Ways to Work partners with local nonprofit agencies, such as The Salvation Army and Lutheran Children and Family Services of Illinois, to administer the program. Over the past 14 years, Ways to Work has loaned more than **\$58 million** to more than **27,000** families. Cook County, DuPage County and Aurora are part of an expansion of Ways to Work that includes nine additional cities, through a **\$2 million** grant from the **Walmart Foundation**. In Chicago, Ways to Work has also received funding from the **Chicago Community Trust**, the **Regional Transportation Authority** and the **Federal Transit Administration**.

###