gather over a family meal and exchange meaningful gifts while being reminded of the hope and light the holiday season offers. For far too many, Christmas means something entirely different. As we enter the holiday season, the stress of not being able to provide a gift or a family meal weighs heavily on the hearts and minds of those who are already struggling to stay afloat financially. Parents face difficult decisions about whether to make a payment on a past due bill or to give their child a gift on Christmas morning. Everywhere they turn, there is a reminder of a happy Christmas scene far different than their own reality.

For more than 130 years, The Salvation Army has been active in our community, helping those in need, bringing hope and the grace of salvation. The generosity of our donors and the help and prayers of our volunteers and officers bring relief and joy to thousands of families each year, particularly during the holiday season. Below are just a few stories that inspire the spirit of giving as we celebrate Christmas.

• As with Mary and Joseph long ago in Bethlehem, many families still search for safe lodging on Christmas Eve. There has been more than one Christmas Eve when a distraught young mother and newborn arrived at The Salvation Army’s Emergency Family Shelter directly from the hospital, or a homeless teen, sleeping on a friend’s couch, showed up at Booth House on Christmas Day seeking companionship. The Salvation Army is there to provide shelter, food, clothing and, most importantly, a sense of belonging for those who are feeling lonely and vulnerable.

• Living in a shelter with children in the days before Christmas can be a tough time, as Renee learned. While television and media depicted happy holiday events, she had no money for presents. For the last few years, a family from Liverpool and their friends have volunteered at our Emergency Family Shelter to make sure the holiday spirit is not lost for the children and parents who stay with us. In addition to donating their time, these volunteers have provided a wonderful party for the 80 shelter residents that included bus transportation to an offsite location complete with Santa and elves and food and gifts for the children and parents. Shelter staff have been able to secure framed prints of the children with Santa, which was a special treat for Renee and the other parents at the shelter.

• Our Family Shelter’s Resident Manager, Ellen, has played the role of Santa’s helper by delivering new donated bicycles to children of families who have recently left the shelter. “We brought Christmas Bureau to them,” Ellen said.

• Christmas is often a sad time for those who attend our Senior Center. Some are estranged from their loved ones and others live far away from their families, making them feel lonely during the holiday season. Our staff and volunteers work to make the holidays brighter with special trips, music, meals and presents.

• Samantha is a single mother of two who works 25 hours/week as a nurse’s assistant, earning just enough to feed her children and pay the rent. Samantha heard about the Christmas Bureau program through a friend. At the registration site, Samantha cried when she realized she was going to have a turkey to feed her family but was afraid she wouldn’t know how to cook it. After a conversation with a long-time program volunteer who talked her through the process of cooking a turkey, Samantha left excited and hopeful. On Distribution Day, Samantha received a toy, book and bag of stocking stuffers for each of her young children. She was thrilled to also receive a board game to play with her family. Samantha was very grateful for the help she received and hopes that someday she’ll be able to give back by volunteering at Christmas Bureau.

• Jane is a school librarian who volunteers each year at Christmas Bureau, witnessing firsthand the impact of donated toys and books on the families who receive them. Without Christmas Bureau, she knows that many children in her school would not receive anything at Christmastime, and they would be embarrassed to return to school where other children are talking about the gifts they received.

Your incredible generosity makes our programs and services available to those most in need, during the holidays and throughout the year. The compassionate staff at The Salvation Army helps to provide immediate needs of food, clothing and shelter and work with clients to develop a long range plan that will help to end of the cycle of poverty.

Your involvement makes a big difference to those who are struggling. Money collected at the Red Kettles, gifts purchased through the Angel Tree campaign, food and toy drives, and the thousands of hours of donated time we receive each year help thousands of individuals in our community – people who are in real need all year long.

Thank you!

See Next Page for Ways to Get Involved
Please share your #RedKettleReason at RedKettleReason.org
Holiday Campaign 2015

Please join us this season to make the holidays brighter for individuals and families in our community.

GET INVOLVED! CALL 434-1395 OR VISIT SASYR.ORG

Ring bells at our Red Kettles
Sponsor a food or toy drive
Host a mini Red Kettle in your place of business
Set up your own online Red Kettle
Adopt a Salvation Army program
Conduct an Angel Tree gift campaign
Support our holiday turkey drive
Volunteer for Christmas Bureau Distribution Day

THANKS TO OUR CHRISTMAS BUREAU PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS
Working together to make sure that no one is left behind at Christmas

- 174th Attack Wing
- C&S Companies
- Catholic Charities of Onondaga County
- CNY Central Contact Community Services Helpline
- Delaney Moving & Storage
- Dot Foods
- Food Bank of Central New York
- G&C Foods
- InterReligious Food Consortium
- NewsChannel 9 WSYR
- Onondaga County Department of Social Services
- Onondaga County Sheriff’s Department
- Success by Six
- Syracuse Fire Fighters
- The Hayner Hoyt Corporation
- The Oncenter
- The Post Standard/Old Newsboys
- The Salvation Army
- Twin Farms
- United Parcel Service
- United States Marines
- United Way of Central New York
- Wegmans Food Markets

Others

Committed to human dignity, diversity, client empowerment and professional excellence.

677 South Salina Street
Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: (315) 475-1688
Fax: (315) 475-6307
sasyr.org

Majors Darline M. and Ronald R. Foreman, Divisional Leaders, Empire State Division
Major Karla Clark, CEO, Onondaga County
Captain Brian Clark, Executive Director, CNY Region
Linda M. Wright, ACSW, Executive Director for Professional and Community Services
Peter C. Irwin, Director of Advancement, Empire State Division
Greg Meitus, Media & Corporate Relations Manager
Others is published four times each year and is available online at sasyr.org.
Your feedback is always welcome. Please direct questions and comments to Gregory.Meitus@use.salvationarmy.org or contact Greg at (315) 430-0749.
The Christmas story is an astonishing gesture of an infinite God to dwell among his people. Mary, a virgin, engaged to Joseph, immaculately conceived a Savior who would be called Immanuel, meaning, “God with us.”

Nearby, in a field, shepherds were watching their sheep, and an angel appeared and said, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” The shepherds travelled to Bethlehem to see what the angels had described.

Shepherds at the time of Jesus’ birth, were poor, the lowliest of workers, on the bottom rung of the social and economic ladder. While many would have notified the wealthy or powerful of such an event, God chose to send His message to the lowly; the marginalized. What was the message of this extraordinary visit from the Angel to simple shepherds on that cold evening? Simply, that God was with them.

In the Syracuse area, many of the people we work with face overwhelming situations that leave them feeling invisible and alone. The Salvation Army stands as a reminder that God is with them in the midst of their circumstances and suffering. Our officers, staff and army of volunteers live this mission by doing the most good for those in the most need at Christmastime and all year long. Your continued support of our many programs and services allow us to extend a hand to those in need whether they be hungry, homeless or lost. God has not left any of us alone.

As the new Chief Executive Officer for The Salvation Army of Onondaga County, I welcome the opportunity to work with our community as The Salvation Army continues to bring light and hope to those in need. As we prepare for another holiday season, thank you for all you do to support our ability to serve nearly 40,000 individuals each year.
Gifts That Give Twice
(Gifts recorded from August 16, 2015-October 25, 2015)
Those who make Memorial or Tribute Gifts to The Salvation Army have chosen a meaningful, tangible way to demonstrate how much they care about someone while also helping the people we serve. These gifts may be sent to the Development Office at 677 South Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13202.

MEMORIALS
IN MEMORY OF
Given By
ELIZABETH BALCUM
Ms. Mary C. Lindley
KAY EGGLESTON
Ms. Velda Bumpus
G. RICHARD KELLEY
Mr. Michael W. Farrell
BRIAN KENT
Mr. Joseph Arena
CAROL C. LIPPENCOTT
Mr. and Mrs. Barry L. Lippencott
LINDA MCNALLY
Mr. and Mrs. Art Delaney
Dr. Donna J. DeSato
Mr. Tim Fox
Mr. and Mrs. Verne L. Harrison
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin S. Reed
Ms. Marilyn K. Wayciesjes

Please Support The 2015 Turkey Drive
Providing holiday turkeys for more than 2,500 families at Christmas Bureau Distribution
3 WAYS TO DONATE: Tim Hortons Mini Kettle Campaign • 434-1380 • SASYR.ORG
Thanks To Our Turkey Drive Sponsors
For each $15 raised through the Turkey Drive, G&C Foods will contribute one turkey for a family at Christmas Bureau

Stay connected to your Salvation Army: sasyr.org