In the last year, The Salvation Army’s programs and services have touched the lives of more than 41,000 individuals. One of those individuals is Star, a 45-year-old woman who recently spent six weeks in our Women's Shelter.

Star has a bright smile and an engaging personality. While she has endured many hardships, including the loss of both parents early in her life, she does not perceive herself as a victim. She recently turned to The Salvation Army's Women’s Shelter due to unacceptable living conditions in her apartment building and an unscrupulous landlord who raised the rent beyond her means. “The entire building was infested with bed bugs and the landlord wasn’t doing anything about it,” said Star. "I am a very clean person, so it was very frustrating. When they decided to raise the rent, I knew I needed to make a change, but I couldn’t do it without some support. Staying at The Salvation Army's Women's Shelter gave me the chance to get things in order and make a plan.”

The Salvation Army's Women's Shelter provides this type of support for hundreds of women each year. It provides a clean, safe environment that feels much more like a home than an institution. The friendly staff members spend quality time with each woman and listen intently to her needs. This allows the staff to find the most appropriate community resources for each resident to promote independence.

Most of the women who come to the Women's Shelter suffer from some sort of mental illness. Star was diagnosed with schizophrenia as a young adult, but remembers dealing with the symptoms at a much younger age. “I would be sitting in class and would hear these voices. I was scared, so I’d sometimes talk to myself, which meant other kids thought I was weird. Things just kept getting worse until I finally got on medication.”

Star has also struggled with drug addiction, but has been clean for many years. She shared, “I knew that this was no way to live, but it seemed to help me escape the voices and my constant anxiety. I know now that if I stay on my medication, I can manage my illness and lead a productive life. I want to be there for my children, so I have a lot of motivation to stay clean.”

In early October, Star's planning came to fruition. She was able to move into a clean, affordable apartment and had saved enough money while living in the shelter to purchase her basic needs. “I don't need much to live well,” she says. “As long as I have a roof over my head with some basic furniture and enough to eat, I'm fine.” Star loves her four adult children and is grateful to her sister for helping to raise them. “I love seeing my kids, but I don’t want to be a burden to them. Now that I have a nice place, my family can come to visit me,” says Star. It was fortunate that 'The Women's Shelter could provide some stability, support and guidance during a rough patch in Star's life. We wish her the best in her new home and as she pursues her dream of working as a home health assistant.

For those of us who work at The Salvation Army, Doing the Most Good is not a slogan, but rather a promise we make to this community – that we will be here each and every day for all who need a helping hand during difficult times. Star’s words capture the spirit of our commitment. She states, “I have always been self-conscious about my illness, but at The Salvation Army, nobody judged me, so I was free to share my anxieties and fears. They just listened to me and helped me as I made a plan to change my life. I am thankful that the Women's Shelter was here when I needed it.”
Red Kettle Campaign Kicks Off at Dome Donation Day on November 11

Red Kettles and Food Barrels will be out at the Carrier Dome on November 11th when the SU Football Team takes on USF at 8:00 p.m. Starting at 6:00 p.m., volunteers from CXtec and TERACAI, along with SU students, will be on hand to collect non-perishable food items and monetary donations as fans enter the game. All contributions will be used to support families in need in our community through services such as our Food Pantry, Homeless Shelters, and Christmas Bureau Distribution, which provides food, gifts, books and stocking stuffers to more than 2,500 families each December.

Thanks to our Dome Day Partners CXtec, TERACAI, Delaney Moving & Storage, Syracuse University, Coach Doug Marrone, Pete Sala and the wonderful staff at the Carrier Dome.

Text-to-Give to your Salvation Army this Holiday Season

Starting on November 11th on Dome Donation Day and continuing through the holiday season, you can make a tax-deductible donation of $10 to The Salvation Army of the Syracuse Area using your mobile phone:

Text SYRACUSE to 80888

Ways to Help This Holiday Season

Food and Toy Drives: Join hundreds of local businesses, schools and community groups to collect food and/or toys for this year’s Christmas Bureau Distribution Day. Call 479-1321.

Angel Tree Gift Campaign: We send you gift tags for specific age groups and you purchase gifts for families from our programs. Call 479-1321.

Volunteer: There are many ways you can lend a hand during the holiday season, from ringing bells at our red kettles to helping us serve families at Distribution Day. Call 479-3668.

Sponsor a Program: Provide vital support to one of our 40 programs (see page one for more details) Call 479-1321.

Community Kettle Campaign: Call 479-1337.

Join Tom and Becky from B104.7 on December 10th at Great Northern Mall

As part of Christmas Bureau Distribution, The Salvation Army will provide turkeys to 2,500 - 3,500 families on December 22nd at The Oncenter. This year, Tom and Becky from B104.7 are partnering with YNN, Great Northern Mall, and Tim Hortons to help us raise the funds needed to purchase these turkeys.

From November 11-27, area Tim Hortons locations will help us by collecting donations from their customers for the Turkey Drive at their counters and drive-thru windows.

On December 10, from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Tom and Becky and YNN staff members will join us at our big red kettle at Great Northern Mall (near the Food Court) to encourage holiday shoppers to support the Turkey Drive. We hope you'll join us as well for some family fun and to support a great cause!
Turning Despair into Hope

Richard Sitnik - Creating a Legacy in Syracuse

Richard Sitnik has a deep understanding of the importance of organizations like The Salvation Army. Born during the Great Depression, Rich was the ninth of ten children and remembers his family’s struggles. “After our home was foreclosed on, we moved into a small house between two sets of railroad tracks with no hot water and no electricity,” recalls Rich. “When I turned twelve, I went to work on a muck farm for $1 per day. So many were in the same boat, and there wasn’t a lot of help back then.”

By the time he was 16, Rich dropped out of school and took a job with a foundry in Eastwood. At 17, he landed a job at Crucible Steel, where he remained for 30 years. Eventually, he created a business which became Hiawatha Fasteners. The company, with locations in North Syracuse and Watertown, is now run by his daughter.

Rich has never forgotten his humble beginnings and feels that it is important to support those who are less fortunate. Over the years, Rich has made many contributions to The Salvation Army of the Syracuse Area and he recently notified us that we are included in his will.

Rich shared some of his motivations with us. “I’m an avid reader and have always followed the work of The Salvation Army. In fact, when I returned from a tour of duty in Korea, I was greeted by Salvation Army officers who were handing out coffee and donuts. In Syracuse, I’m impressed by the number of services you offer and the number of lives you touch. I remember what it was like to be poor and receive assistance from others in the community. I am happy that I am in a position to help.”

Making Your Gift Go Further

Every $1 you donate turns into $4 in service

The Salvation Army applies for funding from all available sources in order to provide services to those in need. A significant percentage of our budget is money that we receive through government grants and contracts. Each one of these grants requires local matching funds. So every $1 we raise from the community can be turned into an additional $3 through money from Washington, Albany and right here in Onondaga County. That is a great return on your investment in The Salvation Army.

...and many local companies match their employees gifts!

Many companies in the Syracuse area have Matching Gift Programs, which encourage charitable giving by their employees. Under these programs, companies match gifts – often dollar for dollar or even two dollars to one – that individuals make to non-profit organizations like The Salvation Army. Please check with your company to determine eligibility requirements.

Syracuse Area Services names new Volunteer Coordinator

The Salvation Army of the Syracuse Area is blessed by the generosity and commitment of thousands of volunteers who step forward each year to help us in a wide variety of ways.

Since the summer of 2010, Bonny McCabe has done a wonderful job promoting our volunteer opportunities and coordinating volunteer assignments. Recently, she was offered an opportunity that she couldn’t pass up, to coordinate youth programs for St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Baldwinsville and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fayetteville. We are sad to see Bonny go, but we know that her passion for working with young people makes her the perfect match for this new life challenge.

Our new Volunteer Coordinator is Cheryl Metz, who has a long history of involvement with The Salvation Army. Cheryl has coordinated Red Kettle Campaigns in Missouri and has run youth programs for The Salvation Army’s Onondaga Tabernacle in Liverpool. We hope that you will join us in welcoming Cheryl to our team.

Stay connected to your Salvation Army: sasyr.org
Civic Celebration Luncheon Brings Together Community Leaders

On September 26th at The Oncenter, approximately 600 friends of The Salvation Army gathered to honor four community leaders who share our commitment to improving the quality of life in this region. County Executive Joanie Mahoney, Dr. Debbie Sydow, and Eric & Judy Mower all received Community Team Spirit Awards. Our keynote speaker was the former National Commander for The Salvation Army, Commissioner Israel Gaither, who gave an inspirational speech about The Salvation Army’s work here and around the world.

Thanks to our event co-chairs, Joe Gerardi and Scott Gucciardi, as well as Doug Logan, who did a great job as our Master of Ceremonies. Time Warner Cable, TK99, Sunny102 and the Central New York Business Journal provided wonderful support as our media sponsors, and Visual Technologies took care of all of our audio and video needs at the event. Thanks also to The Oncenter for hosting our 40th annual Civic Celebration.

Support The Salvation Army of the Syracuse Area when you purchase tickets to the 2012 Syracuse Auto Dealers Charity Preview.

Save the Date: February 15, 2012

As part of the Syracuse Auto Show, Charity Preview has raised over $1.7 million for Central New York charities since 1999.

For ticket or sponsorship information, please visit sasyr.org or call 479-1321.

Day Care Students & Families Enjoy Ice Cream Social

On September 6, smiles were abundant as our Day Care Centers held their annual Ice Cream Social, a chance for parents and grandparents to visit our centers and enjoy a treat with their children and grandchildren.

Thanks to Bill Byrne and Byrne Dairy for once again donating the ice cream for this special event.

Memorials

IN MEMORY OF

Given By

Mary Jane Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Albert M. Paparo
Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Phillips III

Murray A. “PoppY” Kaplan
Mrs. Janet A. Hess
Ms. Marianne Lanza

Philip Pinsky
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Schofield

Robert R. Schlichting
Mrs. Hazel Phipps

Jim Small
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Schofield

Tributes

IN HONOR OF

Given By

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Luke’s 60th Anniversary
Mrs. Ruth Henderson

Gifts That Give Twice

(Gifts recorded from July 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011) Those who made gifts in honor of another or memorial gifts to our Salvation Army of the Syracuse Area have chosen a meaningful, tangible way to demonstrate not only how much they care about someone they love, but how much they care about people in need. These gifts may be sent to the Development Office at 677 South Salina St, Syracuse, NY 13202.

Stay connected to your Salvation Army: sasyr.org