



Press Alert

For Immediate Use

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Attn: Main News / Feature

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Salvation Army of Long Beach in Desperate Need of Supplies To Keep Food Pantry Open for Service

Over the course of the last few months, The Salvation Army has assisted a record number of individuals and new families as many of them struggle to cope with the loss of employment, a foreclosed home or other challenging personal situations.

Due to the record number of individuals coming through the doors, The Salvation Army is running exceedingly low on food supplies for their food pantry; a service that provides individuals and families with canned foods and other perishables to help propel them through hard times. As more and more of these families are turning to The Salvation Army for assistance the supplies continue to dwindle and the food pantry is in danger of shutting down completely.

In August alone, 93 new families requested assistance (as compared to 31 new families in August of 2007). In the month of August, 570 bags of groceries were supplied to needy families, 400 bus tokens were distributed and 18 vouchers for school clothing were issued. Since August, we have seen the number of families needing assistance rise each month and the food pantry is in danger of closing due to lack of supplies. And this trend looks to be continuing with already 15 new families requesting assistance in just the first few days of October.

While the needy families are reluctant to speak publicly about their situations we would like to share the story of just one new family that recently came to us for assistance with food. They are a family of three, the father is a school teacher, and mom stays at home with their child. They never thought they would be coming to The Salvation Army for food assistance but they are - with rising housing and fuel costs, and now some unexpected medical bills they are not able to make ends meet. This is the type of situation that The Salvation Army is hearing and seeing over and over again.

Currently the food pantry is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Earlier this summer The Salvation Army had to cut the hours back due to the increased need and decreased supplies.

The Long Beach Community is rallying with local food drives and some donations are coming in, but more help is needed. We encourage you all to donate your canned goods so that we can continue to provide for those in need. For more information on how you or your business can start a canned food drive or donate canned food, contact The Salvation Army Office at (562) 426-7637.

PRESS CONTACT – For more information about arranging a story to help The Salvation Army please contact Evan Lamont at (562) 537-6936 or Evan@lamontgroup.biz.