



PRESS RELEASE

The Salvation Army
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

May 11th Update **COVID-19 & The Salvation Army of Livingston County**

Livingston County, MI: As soon as the pandemic hit Livingston County in March and families began to be impacted, The Salvation Army of Livingston County immediately switched gears. They created new programs to ensure people were receiving food and adjusting their current services to safely continue assisting those in need.

Since March 17th, The Salvation Army of Livingston County has not only provided the normal assistance programs including utility, rent and pantry assistance, but also:

- Added a Mobile Lunch Program, that has already *served 6366 prepared meals* in just 45 days and will continue serving prepared meals daily until June 5th.
- Partnered with Howell Public Schools, providing *622 kids with 9084 pounds of food* to help with breakfast, lunch and snacks.
- *Almost doubled onsite pantry families* with a “drive-through” pick up assistance.
- Recently added a pantry delivery program, *providing 13 families with 926 pounds of food* in just 6 days
- Increased shelter assistance, *providing 850 bed nights to 200 families* experiencing homelessness.

However, we could not have done it alone and **THANK the 267 volunteers** that have provided over **735 valuable hours** to help others. Many helping hands have ensured that families all over Livingston County have been taken care of.

In addition to the many hours of service provided, we have also received financial support to help with the approximately \$50,000 of added expenses for the new and increased services. We would like to thank the community for coming beside us to support these services. Many individuals have responded to the ask, Thank You!

We have also received financial support from the following corporations and foundations:

- The Kiwanis of Brighton
- The Hartland Rotary
- Consumers Energy
- Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation
- Community Foundation of Livingston County

- Contract Engineering & Consulting Services, Inc
- The United Way of Livingston County
- MLM Foundation
- St. Vincent DePaul

“When news of the corona virus hit Livingston County, we jumped in to ensure people were being taken care of, that was our first and only thought.” Says Major Prezza Morrison “We knew it would increase cost to add additional programs and provide for more families. However, as the situation worsened and the number of people being affected grew, we became a little concerned. But we knew we had to take care of the community and would figure out a way” continues Morrison “With a few community asks, once again, everyone has stepped up. Possibly struggling themselves, individuals, organizations and companies have supported us financially. Food, toilet paper and other items hard to find have shown up at our doorstep. People have come out of their homes with mask and gloves to volunteer every time we have ask. The community we live in is such a blessing. We can’t do enough to thank them.”

The challenge is far from over and The Salvation Army of Livingston County will continue to be here until the end. Support is and will be needed throughout the entire pandemic to ensure struggling families, senior citizens and individuals are taken care of.

There are several ways to help support the programs and ensure that we keep our community strong:

- Monetary donations accepted online www.SalvationArmyLivingston.org, dropped off at the office 503 Lake Street, Howell or contact April Dertian 517-295-4344
- Pantry item donations can be dropped off at the no-contact box outside our office doors or ordered through the new Walmart event registry site. On Walmart.com, search event registry, The Salvation Army LC, shop our registry and it will ship right to our office.
- Other in-kind donations contact April Dertian 517-295-4344
- Volunteer visit our website www.SalvationArmyLivingston.org or call Darlene Howard 517-295-4347

For up-to-date information check out our Facebook page: Facebook @SalvationArmyLivingston or website www.SalvationArmyLivingston.org

For other assistance contact the office 517-546-4750. Please note the office has limited staff onsite and all visitors must have an appointment. Most services are being provided via telephone and email.

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