ONE WORD THAT TOUCHES ALL LIVES.

Without it, the smallest of challenges become insurmountable. With it, a family can transform its future for the better. Hope changes everything.

Hope appears when a single mother receives the help she needs to obtain childcare, giving her the time to pursue her GED. Hope drapes over the shoulders of a job seeker when she finds the assistance to secure a suit for an upcoming job interview. Hope arrives in the form of an affordable apartment, when a family receives support to move out of their car and into a stable place to call home.

JOIN the PATH

Walk with Us

With your support, The Salvation Army can help at least 100,000 families achieve hope and stability by 2030. Our current partners have chosen to walk with us and our client families on the Pathway of Hope. With each step, we build momentum for a movement to eliminate poverty in the U.S. We believe in providing hope for those who need it most and, in turn, hope that you will join us on this path. Be one of us - reaching out to those who are committed to helping themselves help their children live happier lives with brighter futures.

To accomplish this goal, The Salvation Army will invest funds in these key areas:

• TRAINING existing and HIRING additional Salvation Army case managers as well as increasing the number of personnel who oversee and support case management and the ranks of volunteers that assist with these efforts.

• USING an integrated social services technology platform that monitors program implementation and achievements.

• INTEGRATING effective measurement and evaluation practices to ensure the initiative is having impact and is consistent nationwide.

• PROVIDING additional resources to deliver enhanced services to families as needed.

• CONVENING leadership and programming forums across our territories to advance field learning and devise best practices.

PATHWAY OF HOPE

Transformational Change: Significant Impact

"Hope is made up of three key things: First, it has a clear vision of the better future. Second, it has at least one path to get there. And third, hope has guts. It has that internal courage and will to give that path a try. Hope ignites muscles of action. When those three things come together, that kind of hope can change the world—your personal world." - Hope Rising by Scott Todd
THE PATHWAY OF HOPE

is a groundbreaking initiative of The Salvation Army. It allows The Salvation Army to work hand-in-hand with motivated families to propel them away from chronic, intergenerational poverty and toward a path to self-sufficiency.

As we serve 30 million Americans annually, we are keenly aware of the trials our clients face. We also know that their struggles will persist if we keep treating the recurring symptoms of the problem and not the source. Poverty is not an affliction of the unfortunate few. It is a national epidemic. 43.1 million people in the United States are in or below the poverty level (census.gov). Left unchecked, the poverty of today will impact untold families tomorrow. Youth who live in poverty for half of their adolescence are 32 times more likely to stay there; 42 percent of children born to parents in the bottom fifth of income distribution remain in the bottom -- a startling reality in this land of opportunity.

The impact of intergenerational poverty is seen, most acutely, in children, as over half of those adults who were poor in childhood currently live at or below the poverty line.

Our Response

The Pathway of Hope intends to address the root causes of poverty for at least 100,000 client families across the country. In addition to attending to families' immediate needs, we want to eliminate the substructures of poverty in their lives by opening doors to opportunity, building community alliances to expand access to resources in order to create transformational change for parents and their children.

To accomplish these ambitious goals, The Salvation Army has expanded its holistic approach, which serves the entire person; physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Laying The Foundation for Hope

The Salvation Army is well-positioned for this bold mission due to the wide scope of our engagement footprint. With 1,216 Salvation Army Corps Community Centers nationwide, we serve every zip code in the U.S. In the Southern Territory we operate 342 Corps and 75 Service Centers. There is no need for new infrastructure. We will be harnessing more than 150 years of program experience, social service expertise and unceasing faith in the ability of people to help themselves when provided with real opportunities. The initiative builds upon and expands our current strengths, as well as the ties we already have with families in the communities we serve.

Collaborative Coaching with Families

The typical Pathway of Hope family is composed of a single mother, in her mid-thirties, with two to three children. Every day, she is faced with the daunting task of deciding whether to pay for food, electricity or medical needs from her allocation of meager resources. She is employed in a low-wage, part-time position without benefits. Her average annual income is $13,549. Hunger and food insecurity are this family’s reality.

While Pathway of Hope is comprehensive and characterized by compassionate, concerted care, it is not for everyone. Applicants undergo a thorough evaluation to establish their readiness to proactively overcome behaviors and patterns that reinforce their impoverished identity.

Consistency of Programs through Robust Training and Evaluation

We are extremely dedicated to the consistent implementation of Pathway of Hope and the uniform tracking of its effects within the lives of those it serves. To ensure both high performance and impact across all implementation areas, The Salvation Army is investing in case manager training and the expansion of the information technology systems currently in use at Pathway of Hope locations.

Benchmarks of assessment include how many Pathway of Hope families achieve sufficiency, increase stability, report increased hope, reduce the number of barriers they face, decrease their use of emergency services and report an increase in income.