

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Salvation Army • Portland Metro
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The Salvation Army in Gresham Needs Bigger Facility

Need for Services Continues to Grow Making the Need for More Room Even Greater

Gresham, OR – The Salvation Army in Gresham distributes food to more than 6,000 families per year and serves over 43,000 individuals, all out of a 9,488 square foot building. With an impressive youth center and a large need for social services, this building is just not big enough to support the community's need. In 2008, Phase I of a building project constructed the current Salvation Army building in the Rockwood area of Gresham. **The Salvation Army is now ready to move forward with the construction of Phase II, which will include a 10,619 square foot Family Services Center and a 9,219 square foot Youth Center/Gymnasium.**

Did You Know?

- 62% of the residents of the Rockwood neighborhood, where The Salvation Army is located, live below poverty level.
- 23,000 children under the age of 6 are not getting their basic needs met.
- 31% of all children live below the poverty level.
- 19% of residents in East County live below the federal poverty level, with 7.3% of those living below 50% of the poverty level.
- More than 164,000 people in East County do not have enough to eat.

These statistics demonstrate the urgency for Salvation Army services in the Rockwood area and for the expansion of the current Salvation Army Gresham Center for Worship & Service, which will allow The Salvation Army to better serve the residents of Gresham.

The new Family Services Center will provide increased space for client intake, case management, and counseling services. It will include a kitchen that will be used for after school and summer children's feeding programs, life skills training, daily feeding programs, and disaster preparedness. A day center, laundry room and shower facilities will also be provided for the homeless. The new center will also include a warehouse that will store the tens of thousands of pounds of food distributed yearly, a multi-purpose room, and a women's ministry and counseling center.

The Youth Center/Gymnasium will hold a regulation size state-of-the-art indoor basketball and volleyball court. There will also be two smaller youth size basketball courts. This facility will provide community outreach, be used for after school programs, youth activities, league and tournament rentals, and will provide concert and banquet space.

For more information or to make a donation to this campaign, call Major James Sullivan at 1.503.560.6861 or e-mail him at james.sullivan@usw.salvationarmy.org. **Your support makes The Salvation Army's work possible.**

About The Salvation Army:

The Salvation Army, an evangelical part of the universal Christian church, has been supporting those in need in His name without discrimination since 1865. Nearly 33 million Americans receive assistance from The Salvation Army each year through providing food for the hungry, relief for disaster victims, assistance for the disabled, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing, shelter and opportunities for underprivileged children. The Salvation Army works in 122 countries worldwide. For more information, or to make a donation, visit us online at www.salvationarmyportland.org. People wishing to make monetary donations can do so by calling 503.238.GIVE (4483), or by mail, The Salvation Army, 8495 SE Monterey Avenue, Happy Valley, OR 97086-7844.

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