On Saturday, April 16th, Wake County saw overwhelming devastation as a result of tornadoes that came through our state. Many families lost their homes, not knowing where to go or what to do next. The Salvation Army responded immediately, with the help of your generous donations and volunteer support. In the first several days, The Salvation Army served thousands of meals, distributed hundreds of emergency food and hygiene kits, and traveled from neighborhood to neighborhood, assessing the needs and meeting them as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Thankfully, many of our faithful volunteers called to ask, “How can we help?” Within the week, volunteers were headed out into the affected communities, delivering much-needed supplies and serving the impacted families. Volunteer teams also helped staff a large distribution day on April 21st, giving out hundreds of boxes of food and hygiene products.

Currently, we are still partnering with other local organizations and agencies to help families get back on their feet, and our caseworkers are continuing to meet with families on an individual basis. Whether it is food, clothing, furniture or other needs, The Salvation Army is here to help.

We greatly appreciate the support of everyone who has pitched in to volunteer and donate time, resources and funds in response to this disaster.

We want to give an extra-special THANK YOU to the following organizations for their extraordinary help with our disaster relief efforts:

/ Harris Teeter
/ SAS
/ The Green Chair Project
/ Feed the Children
/ Mimi’s Cafe
/ Speedway
/ Children’s Charities
/ Food Lion
/ WRAL-TV
/ Curtis Media Group

GET IT FAST

Be the first to hear about our latest campaigns, events and the stories of hope they inspire. Sign up for our E-Newsletter and have our monthly updates delivered directly to your email inbox.

www.KeepTheBellRinging.org
Tempering the Wind

On Saturday, April 16th, tornadoes ripped through eastern North Carolina taking lives, leaving families homeless and causing millions of dollars of damage. And as I write this, I’m watching the news about even worse scenarios in Alabama and other Southern states—more lost lives, more destruction. Our hearts go out to all those families whose lives have been impacted by the storms.

I am grateful to the thousands of volunteers who contribute time, energy and resources to help The Salvation Army and dozens of other religious and human service agencies throughout our community to meet the needs of others. I am grateful for our friends in the media who tell the tragic stories, and for the individuals, small businesses and corporations who respond with donations to help in the response and recovery efforts.

A simple chorus written over a hundred years ago says, “He knows, He knows, The storms that would my way oppose.

He knows, He knows, And tempers every wind that blows.”

Often, we are the tempering of the wind. Our love, our response, our help and compassion make the storms of life less severe for those who are hurting. We cannot stop a tornado, hurricane or flood, but by the love of God we can uplift and support our neighbors in their time of loss and need.

May God bless us all as we embrace one another with His love.

Major Pete Costas, Corps Officer

Human Trafficking: Fighting A Hidden Traversy

The Salvation Army of Wake County is taking initiative against exploitation and human trafficking. The Salvation Army firmly believes that the abuse and exploitation of human beings through any form of human trafficking is an offense against humankind and against God. This belief, combined with our mission to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination, motivates us to work vigilantly for the prevention of human trafficking and for the restoration of survivors. And we have recently taken great strides to accomplish this end.

A conference, titled “Stolen Childhoods: Understanding the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of America’s Children,” was held on Friday, May 6th, featuring Alesia Adams, Territorial Services Coordinator Against Human and Sexual Trafficking. Over 80 social workers, therapists and others community stakeholders were in attendance, and it was a truly eye-opening, educational experience.

In addition, The Salvation Army of Wake County has recently received a grant to begin a new program focused solely on anti-trafficking initiatives. The program, which will begin this summer, will allow for a stronger focus on individuals who have been exploited and will seek to fight against human trafficking in our surrounding communities.

2011 Annual Appreciation Dinner

On May 19th, The Salvation Army of Wake County held its Annual Appreciation Dinner to show gratitude to those volunteers, donors and supporters who made a difference through The Salvation Army of Wake County in 2010. Nearly 300 of these supporters came out to celebrate the incredible impact The Salvation Army has had over the past year.

“Shine Your Light” was the theme for the dinner, and this year we heard from individuals whose lives have been touched by the work of The Salvation Army.

WRAL-TV reporter Gerald Owens was an excellent Master of Ceremonies for the evening, and many shared their stories – volunteers, board members, and those who have come to The Salvation Army for help – encouraging all in attendance to continue shining their light and serving those in need. It was an inspiring evening, filled with uplifting stories of hope.

For those friends in attendance, and those who were unable to make the event, again we say, “Thank You!”

DATING TO REMEMBER 2011

June 13: Summer Day Camp Begins at Community Center

June-August: Summer Basketball (Ages 8-13)

July 4: Offices Closed for Independence Day Holiday

July/August: Disaster Volunteer Training (Dates To Be Announced)

More information can be found online at www.KeepTheBellRinging.org.

TO MAKE A GIFT BY CREDIT CARD, please call toll free 1-800-SAL-ARMY or visit KeepTheBellRinging.org. We do not rent, sell or exchange mailing or email lists.
Beyond THE BELL

June 2011

Serving all of Wake County since 1887

DOING THE MOST GOOD

THE SALVATION ARMY
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