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Giving
Hope
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

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The Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship Program in Dongi-Dongi, Indonesia.



EMPOWERING MINDS, SHAPING TOMORROW: Supporting Education in Indonesia

By Major Heather Matondo

Amidst Indonesia's vast education system, The Salvation Army is actively committed to delivering high-quality education across its network of more than 100 schools. Some of these schools are in the most remote areas of the country with access to very little resources but The Salvation Army aims to provide the highest quality of education possible.

In the community of Dongi-Dongi, The Salvation Army currently has a three-room school that has been divided into six rooms to serve the 175 students in grades 1 to 6. Proper educational infrastructure in the classroom enables children to thrive both academically and emotionally.

Thanks to a partnership between the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship Program and the Indonesia Territory, three additional classrooms have been built to provide more space for the children to learn.

These new classrooms will not only transform the lives of the students but will also strengthen the community and contribute to the progress of Indonesia.

Together, we are building brighter futures one brick at a time.





Across the globe, acts of compassion continue to transform lives. In Angola, the newly built Damba Corps hall has become a sanctuary for worship and community, doubling attendance and strengthening bonds.

In Indonesia, education is being redefined in the remote community of Dongi-Dongi. A school that once squeezed students into three rooms is now expanding, thanks to new classrooms funded through partnerships. This investment is not just in buildings but in futures, giving children the opportunity to learn and thrive.

In Ukraine, new vehicles are helping The Salvation Army deliver aid efficiently as the conflict continues. Vans transport food, clothing and supplies to devastated communities while also offering support to families at border crossings. These vehicles are lifelines, enabling both immediate relief and long-term support.

From building sanctuaries to empowering young minds and responding to crises, these initiatives highlight the profound impact of collective generosity. Together, we are creating spaces of hope, renewal, and resilience while sharing the love of Jesus Christ, one person at a time. Thank you for being part of this journey to uplift lives and inspire change.

Sincerely,
Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray
 Director of International Development

VEHICLES OF HOPE: New Vans Help The Salvation Army Bring Aid to Ukraine

By Major Elaine Locke

The escalated conflict in Ukraine in 2022 caused a torrent of unrest, civilian casualties and widespread destruction of essential infrastructure that left communities devastated and countless lives disrupted.

In the face of immense hardship, The Salvation Army in Eastern Europe stepped up to provide relief assistance and hope across five countries: Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria and Georgia. Essential supplies were distributed, such as food, hygiene items and clothing that offered practical aid and comfort in a time of need.

The Salvation Army also provided emergency shelter and information services, ensuring individuals and families found support and guidance. Thoughtful touches such as children's activities helped bring a sense of normalcy, while human trafficking awareness and referral services underscored a deep commitment to safeguarding vulnerable lives.



During the response, it became evident that limited vehicle access hindered effective management and posed challenges in delivering timely support. The Salvation Army Eastern Europe Territory acted quickly, developing a plan in partnership with other territories, including Canada and Bermuda, to purchase four vans to strengthen relief efforts. Two eight-passenger vans were acquired specifically to transport people at border crossings, train stations and other critical areas. Additionally, two box vans were purchased for emergency services.

Together, these vehicles enable the efficient and timely transport of goods and people, enhancing organization and response activities. Although these vehicles were purchased to address the community's immediate needs in an emergency, they are also expected to serve as long-term assets providing support and assistance in the years to come.

Thank you to all our generous donors who supported the relief efforts in Ukraine. Your contribution has made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals and families who found themselves in desperate need. Because of your kindness, The Salvation Army has been able to offer hope and comfort through the means of essential services.

Your support reminds us that, even in the darkest times, compassion and generosity can light the path forward.



BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

By Robyn Goodyear

The city of Concordia, Argentina, which borders Uruguay, is one of the poorest cities in the country. As a result, many children drop out of school to find work on the streets. The Salvation Army has been active in this community for several years, working to combat this problem by supporting children between the ages of seven and 12 so they can continue their education.

At The Salvation Army's Concordia Corps, the Nomeolvides program aims to reduce the school dropout rate by providing tutoring as well as food and essential items. With regular activities four days a week, monthly outings and field trips, and special celebrations, programming encourages children to be creative, self-aware, conscious of others, and to value and care for themselves. Fridays and Saturdays, the corps offers workshops which teach valuable social and relationship skills. Tutoring lessons provided by the teacher complement their schooling so children can leave with solid foundations in reading and writing and be able to continue into secondary school. Snacks and hot meals served during each activity address food insecurity and nutrition among children, contributing to healthy living.

Macarena, a young girl who attends the tutoring program, has vastly improved her grades and is a standout student at school. Macarena and her parents are so grateful for the tutoring classes and for the difference in her self-confidence.

"Nomeolvides," which translates to "forget-me-not," seeks to provide a space where children can feel safe, loved, respected and listened to. This not only addresses immediate needs, but also prepares children for a promising and bright future.

In partnership with The Salvation Army South America East Territory, Canada and Bermuda provides funding for a qualified teacher, school supplies, equipment and practical operating support for the program. All this is made possible by your generous support of the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship Program.



A SHELTER OF FAITH:

The Transformation of Damba Corps Hall

By Kyle Mangio

For years, the Damba Corps community in Angola gathered under a makeshift shelter of iron sheets—a structure that offered little protection from the harsh tropical weather. Rain and wind frequently disrupted worship, leaving members feeling vulnerable and, at times, reluctant to attend. “Sometimes, I would come for Sunday service, but other times, I stayed home because of the shame I felt,” shared a member of the congregation. The situation became critical when the government condemned the shelter, marking it unsafe for gatherings. Without a proper hall, the congregation risked losing not only their place of worship but also the land itself, as failure to develop it could lead to a government claim.

But hope arrived through the dedication and compassion of The Salvation Army and its supporters. With generous donations, a new hall was constructed—a sturdy, welcoming space where the Damba community could worship, connect and grow together. Completed in December 2023, the hall now stands as a symbol of resilience, shielding the congregation from the weather and fostering a renewed spirit of unity.

Since the hall’s inauguration, the impact has been transformative. Attendance has nearly doubled, with many who had previously stopped coming now returning to join services and programs. “Once the new church hall came, we saw many people who weren’t coming start attending again,” one member joyfully reported. Beyond worship, the hall hosts youth programs, community meetings and educational workshops, enriching lives and strengthening local ties.

The new Damba Corps hall is more than a building; it is a home for faith and community, offering the people of Damba a place to gather, grow and dream. Through this hall, a legacy of hope has been built—a reminder that, together, we can create spaces that uplift, inspire and bring people closer to one another and to God.



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