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MOST GOOD®

THE RATHGEBER CENTER FOR FAMILIES

The Salvation Army addresses family homelessness in Austin with a new shelter

AUSTIN, Texas. (February 24, 2020) – In response to the growing population of family homelessness in Austin, [The Salvation Army of Austin](#) is thrilled to announce an expansion of services for those seeking shelter. The Salvation Army welcomes a new shelter in the Austin community, the 212-bed Rathgeber Center for Families. The Rathgeber Center for Families is located at 4613 Tannehill Lane Bldg 1, Austin Texas 78721 and anticipates opening and moving the first families from The Salvation Army's Downtown Social Services Center (501 8th St) on Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

The Salvation Army provides basic needs and “wrap-around” services to ensure homelessness is brief, rare, and non-recurring. The Rathgeber Center for Families will provide shelter and 100% housing-focused case management (to families with children who are experiencing homelessness) with a plan to return them to self-sufficiency. Families will be admitted without regard to gender of the adults.

The brand new 212-bed shelter will be a place of hope for families with children in Austin experiencing homelessness. Initially, the Rathgeber Center for Families will provide replacement shelter for the 55-bed Family Residence located in The Salvation Army's Downtown Social Service Center. The Family Residence will be repurposed to help single adults experiencing homelessness.

Where: The Salvation Army's Rathgeber Center for Families
4613 Tannehill Lane Bldg 1, Austin, TX 78721

On average, The Salvation Army has hundreds of individuals and children with families continuously on the waitlist for shelter. The Rathgeber Center for Families will start to accommodate families who are on the waitlist once all families at the Downtown Social Services Center are situated. The Salvation Army's waitlist numbers to get into shelter for January 2020 are 81 single adults, 51 mothers with 102 children. 234 total people.

Rathgeber Center for Families Capital Campaign

The Rathgeber Center for Families cost 12 million dollars to construct and was built off private dollars from our community.

Important completion information

The Rathgeber Center for Families has been built in two phases: 120-bed emergency shelter (Phase 1) and 92-bed extended stay shelter (Phase 2).

- Emergency shelter has 120 beds = 40 rooms
- Extended stay shelter has 92 beds = 23 suites
 - Extended stay units will shelter families with higher barriers who need additional time to be permanently housed.
- Total 212 beds

Estimated Metrics for the Rathgeber Center for Families:

At 100% capacity, the Rathgeber Center for Families would provide:

- 77,380 bed nights
- 664 total persons served annually, includes 434 children
- Over 200,000 meals will be served

Rathgeber Center for Families Services & Amenities:

- 100% housing focused client directed case management services
- Full service rapid rehousing programs on-site to assist clients
- Employment assistance and skills training
- Outsourced childcare
- Child and family therapist
- Computer learning center
- Teachers and tutors
- Private bathrooms in each room
- Laundry facilities
- Full-service kitchen and dining room
- A children's playground
- 40 Emergency Shelter rooms (120 beds)
 - **Average stay is up to 90 days**
- 23 Extended Stay rooms (92 beds)
 - **Average stay up to 6 months**

"We are beyond excited to open our doors and start providing wrap-around services for families experiencing homelessness. The Rathgeber Center for Families will provide all of the necessary tools and resources to help families get back into self-sufficiency and break the cycle of homelessness in each household," said Major Lewis Reckline, Austin Area Commander for The Salvation Army.

The new shelter will increase the current budget by \$4.7 million dollars a year to be fully operational. Funding to operate this shelter at full capacity is vital. The Salvation Army continues their fundraising initiative for FY 21. There are several opportunities for people to get involved: donate online at SalvationArmyAustin.org, or mail a check to The Salvation Army at 4700 Manor Rd, Austin, TX 78723. To learn more, contact Stacy Ehrlich, Director of Development, at Stacy.ehrlich@uss.salvationarmy.org.

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About The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army, an evangelical part of the universal Christian church established in London in 1865, has been supporting those in need in His name without discrimination for more than 131 years in the Austin area. Locally thousands of people receive assistance from The Salvation Army each year through the broadest array of social services that range from providing food for the hungry, to relief for disaster victims, rehabilitation for the addicted, clothing and shelter to those experiencing homelessness and case management to help people move from crisis to stability. Eighty-two cents of every dollar The Salvation Army Austin spends is used to support those services in Travis and Williamson Counties. For more information, go to SalvationArmyAustin.org.

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