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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE SALVATION ARMY USA LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE SUPPORT HOTLINE**

*National COVID-19 Emotional and Spiritual Care Hotline available to everyone impacted by pandemic*

Fort Smith, AR 4/15/2020 — In response to the rising levels of anxiety, uncertainty and fear resulting from this unprecedented pandemic, The Salvation Army has launched its first nationwide hotline to provide emotional and spiritual care to anyone impacted by this crisis. If you're looking for spiritual guidance or local services, or if you just need someone to talk with, Salvation Army officers who are pastors and emotional-care personnel are there to listen.

The phone number is **1-844-458-HOPE** (4673). Staff are available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST and will answer calls made from anywhere in the United States. Counselors speak English and Spanish, and callers are encouraged to leave a message if they call after hours.

As the nation's largest social services organization with a presence in almost every ZIP code in America, The Salvation Army of Fort Smith has expanded its efforts to meet the overwhelming need caused by COVID-19. Uniquely positioned to assist those vulnerable in Arkansas communities, the Army's current response is focused on:

Food bags given away Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9-11am - Must have valid Identification  
Hot meals served every evening at 6pm - Wednesdays and Sundays at 5pm  
Emergency nightly shelter for men and women and children

Though The Salvation Army Fort Smith is committed to meeting need wherever it exists, COVID-19 will greatly increase the number of service requests received for months – if not years – to come. As a result, ongoing public support will be critical in ensuring no one is turned away or overlooked.

People can join the fight for good and support their local Salvation Army and community by visiting [salvationarmyusa.org/COVID19](https://salvationarmyusa.org/COVID19).

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please visit [www.salvationarmyusa.org](https://www.salvationarmyusa.org) to find your local Salvation Army service center.

**About The Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army annually helps nearly 23 million Americans overcome poverty, addiction and economic hardships through a range of social services. By providing food for the hungry, emergency relief for disaster survivors, rehabilitation for those suffering from drug and alcohol abuse, and clothing and shelter for people in need, The Salvation Army is doing the most good at 7,600 centers of operation around the country. In the first-ever listing of "America's Favorite Charities" by *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, The Salvation Army ranked as the country's largest privately funded, direct-service nonprofit. For more information, visit [SalvationArmyUSA.org](https://SalvationArmyUSA.org). Follow us on Twitter: @SalvationArmyUS and #DoingTheMostGood