$4 Million Renovation Underway at The Salvation Army’s Purdue Center of Hope

Additional Money Raised to Complete Project

Memphis, Tennessee (January 8, 2020) – The Salvation Army Memphis Area Command has begun a $4 million renovation to its Purdue Center of Hope after raising more than the additional $250,000 needed to complete the project.

The Purdue Center of Hope provides long-term residential trauma-informed care for women aimed at eliminating poverty, homelessness, addiction and violence, while providing programs to help them find educational and job opportunities.

Over the last 20 years, more than 13,000 people have sought shelter and help at the Purdue Center of Hope.

Since we offer support 24/7/365, the facility is in urgent need of renovations in order to continue and expand programs and services. This project will help us upgrade the facility and operationalize underutilized spaces.

Twenty-five percent of single women, 36 percent of children and 34 percent of families experiencing homelessness in Shelby and surrounding counties are served every day at the Purdue Center of Hope, getting assistance from one of four specialized programs:

**AutoZone Single Women’s Residence** – Residential assistance program for single women experiencing homelessness because of underemployment, education or general life circumstances

- Currently houses up to 20 women for up to nine months
- Renovations will allow addition of 10 beds

**Purdue Family Residence Floor** – Renovations for two programs will expand number of bedrooms from 34 to 41, allowing addition of seven families

- **New Directions Family Residence** – Provides individualized services for homeless women and their children, which addresses the root causes of poverty and displacement by helping families
overcome unemployment, unstable housing and lack of education to lead families down a path of increased stability and self-sufficiency

- Currently houses up to 19 families for one year

- **Renewal Place** – Two-year residential recovery program for chemically-addicted homeless women and their children, which keeps families together while they work toward sobriety, employment, positive parenting and financial literacy
  - Currently houses up to 14 families for up to two years

**Intensive Outpatient Program** – Encompasses all three programs to allow clients to seek treatment while maintaining work or school demands, as well as providing a tutoring room, business center and flexible meeting spaces for ongoing life skills and job-readiness training

Construction on the Purdue Center of Hope is expected to be finished by the end of 2021.

Once completed, the project will result in a 33-percent overall increase in the number of women and children we can house and help. We are always grateful for additional donations, which will help us with operational costs.

**Interviews this morning at 696 Jackson Avenue were with:**

- Venus Austin, Renewal Place Program graduate
- Maj. Marion Platt, The Salvation Army of Memphis and the Mid-South Area Commander

For more information, please contact Nina Harrelson or visit us at [www.salvationarmymemphis.org](http://www.salvationarmymemphis.org).

###

**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 130 years in the United States. Nearly 30 million Americans receive assistance from The Salvation Army each year through a broad array of social services that range from providing food for the hungry, relief for disaster victims, assistance for the disabled, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing and shelter to the homeless and opportunities for underprivileged children. 82 cents of every dollar The Salvation Army spends is used to support those services in 5,000 communities nationwide. For more information, go to [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org).