



## DAVID JEFFREY

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the year just ended and the many ways The Salvation Army has opened its arms to people in need, a verse from the Book of Isaiah comes to mind. In it, the prophet says of the Lord, “He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart.”

It’s a sweet image, a beautiful reminder of the Lord’s gentleness in caring for the vulnerable. At The Salvation Army, we try very hard to follow His example of gentle care, opening our arms and our hearts to every human need.

The issues of life we confront, however, are far from gentle. Poverty and hunger, loneliness and despair, addiction and infirmity, natural and manmade catastrophes of every kind do great violence to the bodies, minds, and spirits of children, women, and men. Faced with harsh and intractable problems, we need to remind ourselves, as the Bible reminds us, that we fight with spiritual weapons — love, hope, faith, courage, compassion — and they are mighty.

I thank God that such virtues, expressed through those on the front lines of our work and through the inspiring generosity of our donors, enable The Salvation Army year after year to accomplish great things in His name. He speaks His word of hope, of healing, of forgiveness. Actions bring the word to life. We in The Salvation Army are blessed with friends and supporters who are very much people of action.

This year, they helped us provide material and spiritual resources to more children and families in need. They helped us link up with other humanitarian organizations in a renewal of our country’s now 50-year-old war on poverty. They helped us turn an abbreviated Christmas fundraising period into a banner season, enabling us to pursue with greater vigor our calling to serve our neighbor.

We are deeply grateful for the diligent work and the sacrifice that made these victories possible.

Finally, another word of thanks as Charlotte Jones Anderson completes her terms as head of our national board. During her five years as chair, she has been a tireless leader and passionate supporter of the Army, helping see us through a period marked by many challenges. We are grateful for her service as chair and pleased that she will continue to serve as a board member.

Yours in His service,  
David Jeffrey, Commissioner,  
National Commander



## CHARLOTTE JONES ANDERSON

Dear Friends,

Sometimes it is hard to ask for help. And it can be hard to receive help, too. It's just human nature.

Think of a family, accustomed to working hard and proud that they have always pulled their own weight, suddenly finding themselves at the end of their resources because of a job loss or illness. "But we shouldn't need help," they may say.

Or consider the man or woman struggling with addiction, stuck in a hopeless cycle of failed attempts to quit, ashamed to ask for help and afraid of being judged.

And then there are the ill-treated ones, the youngest and most vulnerable who have learned, with good reason, to be suspicious of others' motives and intentions. Who can they trust?

Because help can be so hard to ask for and accept, that's one reason it matters so much that The Salvation Army meets every person in need in a loving spirit of acceptance – with open arms. In everything we do, we make our message one of unconditional love. Whoever you are, whatever your need, you are safe here; you are accepted here; you will find true help here.

The open arms of The Salvation Army are an invitation, not a demand. They are embracing, not manipulating. And because our open arms are backed by 150 years of compassionate, faithful service, they are a promise of help the timid and fearful, the lost and the hurting can trust.

This past year, as in all my years of involvement with The Salvation Army, I have marveled at how tirelessly our wonderful officers and volunteers have undertaken the work, how lovingly and fearlessly they have embraced the needy and their needs, and how wisely they have developed and implemented solutions for those needs.

As my term as board chair draws to a close and I return to my regular board post, I wish to express my admiration and thanks to those who serve so faithfully in the Lord's name. To serve alongside them is one of the greatest blessings of my life. It builds up my own faith. My prayer is that God will continue to strengthen their arms – their loving, open arms – for the great work still to come.

With gratitude,  
Charlotte Jones Anderson  
National Advisory Board Chairperson