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Lilly Endowment gives Salvation Army \$5 million for Hurricane Charley relief

Lead gift in fund-raising outreach to offset \$10.5 million for support, clean-up in Florida

ALEXANDRIA, VA – (August 23, 2004) The Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc., has provided a \$5 million gift to The Salvation Army to assist with on-going relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley.

During the past week, The Salvation Army has mobilized hundreds of officers, staff and volunteers from Florida and across the United States to help with the clean-up and continuing needs of residents and agencies in the areas ravaged by the hurricane.

The logistics for the Army's response are being directed from a state-of-the-art emergency management center in Tampa, built specifically for this type of response. In the hurricane's aftermath, the center has directed the placement of two, 54-foot mobile kitchens that can prepare and serve 20,000 hot meals daily and dispatched 57 mobile canteens (kitchens), from which 1,500 meals a day, per canteen, can be served. The Center manages an around-the-clock workforce of 350 people working daily throughout Florida on hurricane relief and directs the receipt and storage of emergency relief goods for those impacted by the hurricane.

To date, the Army has provided in excess of 300,000 hot meals to residents and emergency relief workers, as well as other types of emergency assistance through mobile comfort stations.

Commissioner W. Todd Bassett, national commander of The Salvation Army's operations in the United States, is estimating that the efforts in Florida will cost the organization in excess of \$10.5 million.

"Our prayers first go to those suffering in the wake of Hurricane Charley, and then to the many people, including many of our own, who are working to help residents rebuild lives so terribly shaken by the storm, and we pray for God's grace upon the Lilly Endowment for its gift," Commissioner Bassett said.

He added that the \$5 million will be the lead gift in an Army fund-raising campaign to seek donations for use specifically on Hurricane Charley relief efforts. One hundred percent of every dollar contributed to The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Relief Fund is sent directly to the disaster location.

"At times like these, financial donations are always a critical need, and can be put to use much more directly and effectively," Commissioner Bassett said. He emphasized that all financial donations to the Hurricane Charley disaster relief operation will quickly be used for the purchase of specific items needed by the thousands of families affected by the storm.

Under federal agreement, The Salvation Army provides mobile feeding, shelter support, supply coordination/distribution and other forms of relief, recovery and restorative assistance in cooperation with local and state emergency management operations.

Lilly Endowment is a private foundation in operation since 1937 that focuses its giving on community development, education and religion.

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