

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Salvation Army and Toy Recall

Houston, TX (November 29, 2007) – The Salvation Army is committed to the safety of our customers, clients and employees, and therefore is concerned about the recent series of toy recalls that have been announced. The Army is taking steps locally and nationally to remove recalled products from circulation in our Thrift and Family stores, and from our other social service programs that may also be affected.

Thrift Stores and Social Service Programs

The Salvation Army is working within government guidelines and standards to identify and remove affected toys from retail circulation. The Army also has engaged toy makers to develop a return process for second-hand stores and social service programs so that harmful items can be disposed of according to the manufacturers' direction at no cost to the organization. The Army is encouraging parents to double-check the toys their kids are playing with to ensure that they are not on the recall list. We are also asking for help from donors, parents and shoppers to avoid donating recalled products to our Thrift and Family stores and other programs.

In addition, there are specific efforts underway locally to deal with this issue. These efforts include:

- New in-store signage warning parents and shoppers about the recall and directing them to manufacturer's Web sites
- Calls for new volunteers to help sort toys at our facilities
- Ongoing collaboration with the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission to be aware of any recalls, for toys or other products
- Alerting our social service clients, many of whom may be unaware of the recall, to ensure that their children are not exposed to unsafe toys
- Local Thrift and Family stores have pulled all used toys from the shelves and are no longer accepting donations of used toys.

The Salvation Army Needs Toys this Christmas

This Christmas, the Army needs donations of NEW, UNWRAPPED toys for our Angel Tree program and toy drives in the greater Houston area benefitting The Salvation Army. Since our Angel Tree program only accepts NEW items, retailers help act as a first line of defense to prevent unsafe toys from reaching children and families in need this Christmas. Moreover, because toys collected in the toy drive are all distributed to families in need at the end of the drive, we have the opportunity to check for dangerous products prior to distribution should new recalls occur.

For more information about The Salvation Army, visit us online at www.SalvationArmyHouston.org.

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