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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MEDIA ALERT – Local Salvation Army Officer to Serve as Incident Commander during Hurricane Ike**

**\*\*\*\*FOR MEDIA INTERVIEWS WITH CAPT. ALONZO PLEASE CALL 832 724-9730\*\*\*\***

**Houston, TX – (September 11, 2008)** – While Hurricane Ike continues to churn in the Texas Gulf Coast, The Salvation Army already has been hard at work with preparations before the storm makes landfall. For the past few days, The Salvation Army has set up feeding sites for evacuees and other personnel across the state of Texas. Captain Edward Alonzo, head of the of The Salvation Army in Pasadena, was deployed early this morning to lead the Salvation Army Disaster Relief Effort in San Antonio, Texas.

As a precautionary measure for the arrival of Hurricane Ike, The Salvation Army has established a staging center for Emergency Disaster Canteens and personnel in San Antonio, Texas.

Emergency Disaster Canteens are mobile feeding units used to serve areas affected by natural disasters or other negative impacts. These canteens will await the passing of Ike in San Antonio, and once the hurricane has passed they will be deployed to offer emergency support in any affected areas throughout the state of Texas. Current activities by The Salvation Army include providing 1,200 daily meals to evacuees, bus drivers, and first responders at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio. Meals also have been provided to bus drivers in Texas City, Angleton and Beeville, Texas.

In Bryan/College Station, Temple, Killeen and Kerrville, The Salvation Army is delivering meals to evacuees in shelters spread across each city. The State of Texas has requested meals to be served in Faulkner Point and Marshall, Texas, and the cities of Paris, Dallas, Fort Worth, Amarillo, Lubbock, Tyler, Longview, Texarkana and Austin are on standby to take in and serve meals to evacuees.

Capt. Alonzo brings over 25 years of disaster relief experience with The Salvation Army, including serving as Chief of Operations over The Salvation Army's response at The Pentagon following the 9/11 terrorist attack on the U.S., serving as the Public Information Officer and Grief Counselor after the Oklahoma City Bombing, and heading the Army's efforts in Beaumont following Hurricane Rita in 2005.

The Salvation Army's most important need is financial donations to ensure it can maintain a long-term recovery effort. People interested in helping those affected by Hurricanes this year may call 1-800-SAL-ARMY or visit [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org).

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*In this community since 1889, The Salvation Army Greater Houston Area Command serves Harris, Montgomery and Fort Bend Counties through youth programs, shelter, disaster relief, counseling, senior programs and rehabilitation. The mission of The Salvation Army Greater Houston Area Command is to meet human needs without discrimination. Each year over 33 million Americans receive assistance from The Salvation Army. About 89.5 cents of every dollar raised locally is used to support those services in Houston and at close to 9,000 communities nationwide. For more information about The Salvation Army, please visit [www.salvationarmyhouston.org](http://www.salvationarmyhouston.org).*