



Contact:
Juan Alanis, Media Manager
(832) 724-9730

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MEDIA ALERT – Despite loss of power and flood damages,
The Salvation Army continues feeding thousands: over 256,000**

*Specific Canteen Locations, Statistics and Downloadable Photographs are available at
www.salvationarmyhouston.org*

Houston, TX – (September 19, 2008) – One quarter of a million meals – and counting – have been served by The Salvation Army in the days before and after the passing of Hurricane IKE through Houston and Galveston counties. In fact, each day more than 51,000 people line up at more than 100 canteen locations throughout places like Texas City, Bacliff, Galveston, Houston, Pasadena, Beaumont, Hitchcock and Lufkin, among many others, to receive a hot meal from the hands of the hundreds of Salvation Army volunteers who day-in-and-day out turn out to feed as many people as possible.

The Salvation Army uses its mobile feeding units known as canteens to prepare and deliver meals to those affected by Hurricane IKE. What is most surprising about The Salvation Army's efforts, however, is not their commitment to providing relief efforts, but the fact that this work is being done despite the loss of power at many of the nonprofit organization's buildings and community centers, as well as the flooding of one of its buildings in Galveston.

Most severely affected by Hurricane IKE's landfall was The Salvation Army's Community Center in Galveston, which was submerged with up to 5 feet of water on its first floor. The building is seriously damaged and inoperable at the moment.

"Despite the ruin of The Salvation Army's Galveston Location, we will continue working to meet the needs of victims and first responders across Galveston and the State of Texas with compassion and dedication, no matter what obstacles may stand in the way," said Major Henry Gonzalez, Divisional Commander for The Salvation Army of Texas.

In Houston, several of The Salvation Army's buildings – including The Salvation Army International Community Center, located at 5757 Ranchester Drive; The Salvation Army Irvington Community Center, located at 4516 Irvington Boulevard; and even The Salvation Army Harbor Light Center, which offers immediate and long-term shelter for homeless and addicted men (located at 2407 North Main Street); among many others, were left without power in the aftermath of Hurricane IKE.

Power returned to the Harbor Light Center yesterday only to have the water go-off. Even still, the nearly 300 residents of the facility are keeping their spirits high and making the best of the situation. Until this Thursday, sandwiches were the main course at that facility. At the International Community Center, The Salvation Army has been operating a daily canteen service despite not having any light.

Expecting to continue providing hot meals for the foreseeable future, The Salvation Army is asking individuals and corporations to support their efforts by providing monetary donations to 1-800-SAL-ARMY (725-2769) or www.salvationarmyusa.org.

The Salvation Army is also looking for a 100,000 square foot warehouse located in Harris County with loading docks and bathrooms to store and distribute donations. The facility needs to have power, parking and easy access to tollways or major freeways. Anyone with an available warehouse meeting those requirements is asked to call (713) 650-6530.

###

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.