

# Salvation Army provides shelter, financial assistance to those in need

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Whether it's a safe place to sleep and a hot meal or sustainable financial planning, the Salvation Army of Norman is there to step in and help those in the local community who are in need.

Three ways the Salvation Army accomplishes this is through their emergency shelter, financial assistance and financial education, all programs the United Way helps fund, said Leona Chapman, Salvation Army director of social services.

"Our emergency shelter gives us the opportunity to serve 28 guests each evening, give them a safe place to sleep, showers, food and laundry," she said. "The United Way helps us with the staffing and case management so we can offer extensions to those who are saving up for their first month's rent and deposit."

As the only emergency shelter in Cleveland County, the Salvation Army is able to serve men, women and families. The organization provides shelter for five days, but individuals can get two-week extensions if they have an income and a housing plan.

For individuals who are working to get back on track financially, the Salvation Army will help them track spending habits and establish spending plans.

"We ask them to save 75 percent of their income to go toward housing when they're in the shelter with us," Chapman said. "Their spending plan has to support that. If there is a substantial debt, such as an outstanding electric bill, that has to be part of the plan."

The United Way also completely funds the Salvation Army's "Getting Ahead in a Just Getting By World" program, which is a 20-week program that looks holistically at the cycle of poverty and its impact on individuals.

"This is the second year of the program, and we've found that this was very beneficial and is quickly becoming one of the best practices for people helping break that cycle," Chapman said. "It's



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The Salvation Army provides temporary shelter assistance in Norman, while also working to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

information and resource building on how to move forward. The whole premise of the book is to build a future with action steps and examine how to reach it.”

Chapman said the program has a high attendance rate and 70 percent of individuals who graduated the program are making steps toward building their future.

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