

SALVATION ARMY TO UNVEIL PLANS FOR TINY HOME COMMUNITY AT RED KETTLE KICKOFF

BILLINGS, MONTANA—The Salvation Army of Billings will unveil detailed plans for its new William Booth Village of tiny homes at its annual Red Kettle Kickoff Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on November 12, 2022. The breakfast will take place at the Salvation Army offices at 2100 6th Avenue North in Billings.

The William Booth Village, when complete, will include 28 sleeping cabins in all plus a large commons center providing bathrooms, showers, and laundry facilities. Phase 1 construction, set to begin next year, includes the community center and seven adjacent cabins. The new supportive housing program will provide program participants with individual, safe, and peaceful sleeping cabins, along with intensive case management and other needed support, such as skill-based training in culinary arts and property maintenance.

Architect A&E Design of Billings is designing the complex, which has an estimated price tag of \$1.8 million. Phase 1 bids will be sought this winter with a groundbreaking expected by early summer 2023. Major funding for the project has been secured from the Billings Downtown Rotary and the Gianforte Family Foundation, and the Salvation Army expects full Phase 1 funding by early next year.

Lieutenant Felecia Pederson of the Billings Salvation Army says, “This will be one of the first developments of its kind in Montana, offering transitional, supportive housing to the community’s most vulnerable, including the chronically homeless and those with mental illness, disabilities, and past trauma. We believe it will be a blessing to the community.”

The supportive housing program will accommodate Tier 1 residents under a 90-day program; those needing greater stability will be served through the Tier 2, 2-year program.

Pederson says that homelessness in Billings is a growing issue. “This is exacerbated by the pandemic, mental illness, substance abuse, rising crime, inflation, and an influx of new residents to the area.”

According to a U.S. Housing and Urban Development report released earlier this year, Montana’s sheltered homeless population increased nearly 7 percent from 2020 to 2021, and 37 percent from 2007 to 2021. Nearly 1,200 Montanans in 2021 were sheltered homeless; many more are unsheltered, living in cars, tents, or on the streets.

“This development is so needed in Billings,” Pederson continues. “Though other nonprofits offer temporary shelter, many people don’t fit in with the services available—because of their disabilities, PTSD, addictions, or other issues.”

The Kickoff Breakfast, themed “Love Beyond,” is free and open to all who RSVP to Lt. Felecia Pederson at 406-281-7433. The organization invites volunteers, donors, and interested community members to attend.

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About The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army, an evangelical part of the universal Christian church, has been supporting those in need in His name without discrimination since 1865. More than 25 million Americans receive assistance from The Salvation Army each year through the broadest array of social services that range from providing food for the hungry, relief for disaster victims, assistance for the disabled, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing and shelter to the homeless and opportunities for underprivileged children. About 82 cents of every dollar raised is used to support those services in nearly 9,000 communities nationwide.