



Stories of Hope through Collaboration

Single Father with three children homeless



A man had worked as a stay at home dad for 6 years while his wife worked outside the home. His wife began using drugs and when her problem quickly became out of control she abandon both him and their three children; ages 3, 4, & 5. (Typically this

situation would be more common place for a stay at home mother, but as times change there is an increasing number of stay at home fathers.)

Being out of the job market for 6 years and with no source of income he did not know what he was going to do. With no one he could move in with he moved into a low cost motel. He quickly ran out of money, but was lucky enough to receive a few vouchers for a few more nights. When those were exhausted, desperate and penniless he checked his three small children and himself into the local shelter.

He said, "It is very difficult living at the shelter with small children. I could handle it myself, but for my children it is too much for me. I worry about the safety of my children with some of the other adults at the shelter. You see we sleep all together in one room."

While in the shelter he and his children had to leave daily in the morning and could not come back until late afternoon until staff was on site. He attempted to look for work during this time, but found it difficult to go on job interviews

with his 3-year old with him. He came to The Salvation Army looking for help. The Salvation Army got his child in their low income state preschool, where he will not have to pay for tuition for 60 days, while he finds work.

He continued to look for work and saved his limited checks he received from the government to pay for a deposit for an apartment. Once he saved up enough money for the deposit The Salvation Army helped the family by paying the first month's rent.

The Salvation Army is advocating for his family to enter a city program that will help with his rent for six months to a year. This money will be gradually decreased as he finds a job and has more income. He is aggressively looking for work, but is finding it difficult with the current shortage of jobs and the gap in his employment history.

The Salvation Army became aware of a father with two children from a letter from an out of state friend. She was worried about her friend because he and his children were homeless, and he was in the middle stage of ALS, Lou Gerhrig's disease. The Salvation Army felt compelled to advocate for him, and his two children, in order to make the remaining time he had left more comfortable for both himself and his family. He is only in the middle stages of the disease and he has already

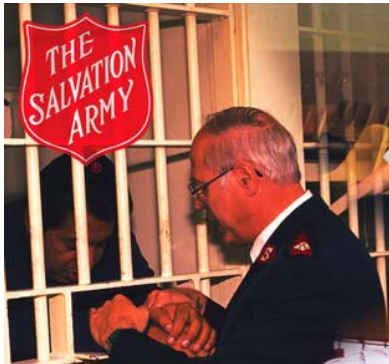
ALS is a disease of the muscle nerve cells (motor neurons) in the brain and the spinal cord. Motor neurons reach from the brain to the spinal cord and from the spinal cord to the muscles throughout the body. Slowly the motor neurons die, inhibiting the ability of the brain to control muscle movement.

lost of the use of his arms. They simply hang limply at his sides. He will then eventually lose the use of the rest of his muscles as his motor neurons continue to die, as a result of the disease, and he will become paralyzed. Then the motor neurons that communicate from his brain to his heart will die causing his heart to stop. The Salvation Army was moved by his story and strongly advocated for the family to get into the City's long term Rental Assistance program. In addition they helped him to receive a handicap phone, a hospital bed, no cost tuition to The Salvation Army and state funded pre-school for his youngest child, food for the family, counseling, and transportation. They worked with

businesses and a private foundation to get appliances such as a washer, dryer, refrigerator, and other household items for the family's new house. While this story will probably not have a traditionally happy ending, at least he will be able to live out the final time he has left in dignity and know that he has provided for his family.

A New Beginning

A man was released from prison in early August. He was living at the Path of Life Shelter. The man desperately wanted to change his life. He applied to



Riverside Community College (RCC) and was accepted on a scholarship in late August. He will work at the RCC Cafeteria as part of his scholarship. Catholic Charities helped him to get his food handler's card as well as a T.B. test which he needed to work in the cafeteria. This man was well on his way, but still did not have the funds to buy the books

for his classes. He came to The Salvation Army and met with the family service worker. Together they were able to get him funds through a private foundation for his books. This man is now furthering his education because of his desire to better himself.

Desperate and Out of Options

A woman with children had left her abusive husband. She was working for her husband's sister under the table, because she did not have a work permit. When her sister-in-law heard that she had left her brother she fired her. Desperate and not wanting to have to go back into a volatile situation she came to The Salvation Army for help. The Salvation Army helped her find a job at a facility that will get her a work permit and with rental assistance to keep her and her children from becoming homeless.

