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Media Contact:

Major Lurlene-Kay M. Johnson
Divisional Secretary, Greater Cleveland Area Services
Cleveland, Ohio
216-623-7456
Lurlene.Johnson@use.SalvationArmy.org

Kimberly Kowalski
KeyBank Regional Communications Manager
Great Lakes Region
216-471-2615
kimberly_kowalski@key.com

The Salvation Army breaks ground on a new family shelter downtown

New building will enhance services for homeless families and adult human trafficking victims

CLEVELAND, Ohio (November 2, 2015) – The Salvation Army of Greater Cleveland joined City of Cleveland Chief of Public Affairs Natoya Walker Minor, Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland, and Jay Masurekar from KeyBank to break ground on a new facility to provide shelter for homeless families and adult human trafficking victims in Cuyahoga County.

“The Salvation Army will enhance our services with this project,” said Major Lurlene-Kay Johnson, divisional secretary for Greater Cleveland area services. “The Salvation Army currently provides 40 to 50 percent of the available beds for homeless families in Cuyahoga County, and our new facility will provide the space and flexibility needed to best meet the needs of homeless families and adult human trafficking victims.”

KeyBank provided an early gift of \$1 million to make this project possible.

"It is important for the community to come together to support solutions like this. By supporting The Salvation Army, we are stabilizing and bringing hope to those who need it most," said Margot James Copeland, CEO of KeyBank Foundation. "Individuals in our own backyard, who need stable shelter and have complicated needs, will find great comfort and help at the Zelma George shelter."

The Zelma George Emergency Family Shelter is currently housed within The Salvation Army's Harbor Light Complex downtown. The Zelma George Emergency Family Shelter offers 110 beds for families, structured in 35 individual family living units for enhanced privacy. The Salvation Army provides case management and housing specialist services, along with a series of programs to meet each family's unique needs.

The Salvation Army plans to build a new Zelma George Emergency Family Shelter on the property adjacent to the current Harbor Light Complex property, allowing both facilities to share resources. The new Zelma George Emergency Family Shelter will offer family living rooms, dining areas, classrooms, and a playground. The new shelter will also create an apartment-style area to house six adult human trafficking victims. The Salvation Army anticipates completing construction within 18 months.

This project is part of a \$35 million capital campaign to realign and enhance services throughout Greater Cleveland. The *Strength for Today, Bright Hope for Tomorrow* campaign will provide funds to upgrade four service facilities and expand services in the areas of greatest need. In addition to the Zelma George Emergency Family Shelter project, The Salvation Army is undergoing building projects in Collinwood, West Park, and East Cleveland. The Salvation Army has already secured \$25.2 million toward its \$35 million goal through a combination of philanthropic gifts and New Markets Tax Credits.

The Salvation Army continues to seek philanthropic support from the community for this historic project. To learn more about how to participate, individuals are encouraged to contact The Salvation Army of Greater Cleveland or visit www.salvationarmyohio.org/capitalcampaign.

The Salvation Army served more than 143,000 individuals throughout Cuyahoga County last year through all of its programs and services. The Salvation Army of Greater Cleveland provides emergency assistance such as shelter, food, clothing and utility support, along with wrap-around programs such as drug and alcohol detoxification and rehabilitation, education and youth development programs, and programs for the aging.

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About The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Nearly 30 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, and outreach programs for youth. For more information, go to www.SalvationArmyCleveland.org.