

Monroe County Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Gala

By Dee Callander

EAST STROUDSBURG - The Christmas season is a time for sharing with family and friends, but for many, the realities of life under the shadow of COVID continues to make it difficult to make ends meet. The Salvation Army in The Poconos brings hope to hundreds of local families who desperately need a helping hand. Major John R. Wheeler, the new commanding officer of the East Stroudsburg Salvation Army Corps said, "As we have done for over 150 years in The States, The Salvation Army will continue to provide food, shelter, and emergency assistance at Christmastime to people in desperate need in our community.

The substantial fiscal burden of the COVID pandemic has tasked us with raising \$150,000 towards our shortfalls."

Knowing the great needs of the Salvation Army, eight years ago local business owners Charlie Lynn and Vincent Trapasso offered to help by donating their Desaki Restaurant for the Red Kettle Gala. This year's event is being held on Friday, December 3, 2021. Wheeler continues, "All of our in-person fundraising events were cancelled since the beginning of 2020. During the pandemic, we provided over 2 million meals to those in need in the region.

The generosity of the Trapassos comes at a time when we are once again able to gather together to raise much needed funds. Their all-expense event donation allows us to put all monies raised towards achieving our Christmas campaign goals." The evening will include a social hour, hors d'oeuvres, beef filet and lobster tail dinner for \$150 per person.

The Salvation Army's local programs such as food baskets, hot meals, nights of shelter, rental assistance, clothing, Christmas toys for children, nursing home visitation, and disaster service response rely directly on community support and giving. Wheeler concludes, "We are more determined than ever to help our neighbors bridge the gap between their resources and the cost of acquiring basic human needs. We continue to ask friends and neighbors for help in the form of cash contributions, dona

For information about the East Stroudsburg Salvation Army's programs, to request a Kettle to be placed at your business, reserve a table, make a donation, place an ad in the program for the Red Kettle Gala or to volunteer to be a bell ringer, please call the Salvation Army at (570) 421-3050. Desaki Restaurant is located on Route 611 in Swiftwater, PA. About The Salvation Army in The Poconos The Salvation Army, an evangelical part of the universal Christian church established in 1865, has been supporting those in need in Jesus' name without discrimination for 150 years in the United States.



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