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# Press Release

The Salvation Army Oklahoma City Area Command

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**August 15, 2007**

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**For Immediate Release**

## **Big Fan of Cool Air**

### **Salvation Army, OG&E hand out fans to qualified seniors, disabled**

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – As temperatures continue to broil Oklahoma City, The Salvation Army Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area Command will hand out box fans to qualified citizens who need relief from the heat.

OG&E also donated 200 additional fans on Thursday to help with the fan giveaway.

By providing cooling box fans to needy and qualified senior citizens and the disabled, the Salvation Army Oklahoma City Area Command is hoping to prevent the heat-related deaths that Oklahoma experienced in past years. More than 20 elderly citizens died during the summer of 2006 due to heat-related illnesses.

From 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, the Salvation Army's Emergency Food Pantry will give free fans to qualified senior and disabled persons who qualify for the Army's Emergency Food Pantry. The program is available to assist seniors and disabled citizens during the hottest summer months to prevent life threatening situations from occurring (i.e., individuals with congestive heart failure who would have difficulty breathing without cool air).

"Heat poses a very real danger to our elderly clients and those with small infants in the home," said Toni Sanders, director of Social Services for the Oklahoma City Area Command. "These box fans literally can mean the difference between staying cool and dying from the heat."

"We are especially grateful to OG&E for their loyal and generous donations of fans. Without their help, we would be hard-pressed to be able to supply as many fans as we do for those in need," Sanders added.

The Salvation Army Oklahoma City Metropolitan Area Command anticipates handing out nearly 500 fans this summer.

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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. Nearly 33 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 83 cents of every dollar raised goes to support those services in nearly 9,000 communities nationwide. For more information, go to [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org).