



Giving  
Hope  
Today

## For Immediate Release

### **The Salvation Army Asks the Community to Lend a Hand During Flood/Fire Season**

**Friday, March 16, 2018** -- On Thursday, April 5 at 6pm, The Salvation Army will be hosting an information session at Kelowna Community Church (1480 Sutherland Ave.) for all those interested in volunteering with our Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) team.

2017 was an unprecedented year of both fire and floods for the Central Okanagan. During that time, we worked together with Emergency Support Services (ESS) and welcomed over 4,000 evacuees through our doors. We also sent two teams to Williams Lake to assist with their Reception Centre with meals. Kelowna Community Church (of The Salvation Army) served as the Reception Centre in Kelowna for those displaced by natural disaster. While ESS volunteers registered evacuees, and provided them with information that was available at that time, our team of volunteers filled various roles, including:

- Meeting and greeting evacuees
- Serving snacks and refreshments
- Preparing and serving meals both locally and provincially if deployed; as well as at times at the Reception Centres.
- Assisting in receiving and processing community donations
- Vehicle support including driving, maintenance, and set-up

None of this is possible without an army of volunteers who can respond to those facing disaster with a heart of compassion and desire to serve.

In our effort to be proactive this year, this information session has been scheduled ahead of the flood season, and will give you a better idea of:

- What is needed to volunteer with Emergency Disaster Services?
- Who can volunteer?
- What training is provided?
- When are volunteers needed?
- What are your next steps?

Emergency displacement for any reason is always a difficult and often traumatizing situation to be in. The Salvation Army has been known globally to be one of the first to respond on scene to an emergency and meet immediate needs during such crucial times. Our team is seasoned in being able to mobilize teams at short notice to provide what is needed. By being a part of our team, you will have a unique opportunity to learn how to walk alongside those facing disaster in practical ways.

This session is open to anyone above 19 years and we encourage all those interested to attend.



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Follow our story of hope on Facebook at The Salvation Army Central Okanagan and on our website  
[www.kelownasalvationarmy.ca](http://www.kelownasalvationarmy.ca)

**About The Salvation Army:**

The Salvation Army is an international Christian organization that began its work in Canada in 1882 and has grown to become the largest non-governmental direct provider of social services in the country. The Salvation Army gives hope and support to vulnerable people today and every day in 400 communities across Canada and more than 128 countries around the world. The Salvation Army offers practical assistance for children and families, often tending to the basic necessities of life, providing shelter for homeless people and rehabilitation for people who have lost control of their lives to an addiction. When you give to The Salvation Army, you are investing in the future of marginalized and overlooked people in your community.

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**PLEASE SET UP INTERVIEWS THROUGH**

**Dorothy Moreno**

*Executive Assistant / Events Coordinator*  
The Salvation Army Central Okanagan  
**dorothym@kelsa.ca**  
**250-860-2329 x336**