



“ I was just a kid
when my mother
made me join
the bell ringers. ”

“ Though I was
reluctant at first,
I think that's where
my appreciation
for the
Salvation Army
began. ”

Every story has a beginning. We're
collecting the stories of the moment when
people first became aware of the Salvation
Army and what it meant to them.

Where did it begin for you?
Would you take a moment
to share *your* moment with us?
If so, you can call me at 1-866-338-2769.

Sincerely,

Meredith Johnson
Salvation Army

P.S. I'd like to share one of my moments with you. Just look on the back of this card.

“ When I was in college, on a whim, I joined the bell ringers for the Salvation Army at Christmas. The most memorable moment of my bell ringing career took place at a very busy Kappy's Liquor Store. A customer came in and immediately offered me a generous donation if I would agree to silence my bell while he shopped. While it was amusing, that interaction made the task more meaningful. Or rather, it made me more thoughtful about what I was doing and why.

Years later, I found myself at a crossroads, searching for "a job with meaning". The wife of the orthodontist who purchased my father's practice was head of the Massachusetts Salvation Army's Planned Giving program, and through her interaction with me, thought I would be the right complement to her growing team. We worked together until her retirement, when I moved into her position.

I still smile remembering that customer at Kappy's. I suspect that was his intention - to make me smile - but little did he know how his off-handed request would start me thinking, preparing me for the most meaningful career decision of my life when I joined the ranks of The Salvation Army. ”



“

I'd always dreamed of a career in art. I had a chance to go to a design school in New York City, but I couldn't afford a place to live.

”

“ Through my school, I learned about
The Salvation Army's young
ladies home. I lived there while I got
my career off the ground. Eventually,
I owned my own picture-framing
business for 20 years!
But I've never forgotten
who helped me get my start. ”

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“ Over my long career with the railroad, I was present during a couple of disasters. The Salvation Army canteen was always first on the scene—sometimes even ahead of the police and firemen.

”

“ Once, after I'd been working non-stop for many hours, one of the Salvation Army people came over to me with a hot meal and found me a place to rest. I've never forgotten that kindness. ”

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“ When I was growing up in North Adams in the '30s, times were tough for everyone - but a neighbor family with three kids had it particularly rough.

”

“ One Christmas, the
Salvation Army arrived
with a bike, food baskets,
and gift certificates.
I was tickled pink that
they gave this
family a Christmas.”

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