



*re*imagine
ministry to women *usa south*
2020

refocus



reshape

reimagine

respond



reunite



2020 Ministry to Women Highlights

The Salvation Army - USA Southern Territory | Atlanta, GA

Special thanks to our Ministry to Women leadership,
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Major Susie Erickson | Editor Ashley Escobar | Administrative Assistant

reimagine 2020

When one holds a kaleidoscope to light there is a beautiful image. As it is turned, each changing view seems more spectacular than the one before. Similarly, was the process of reimagining mission and ministry to women in the USA Southern Territory.

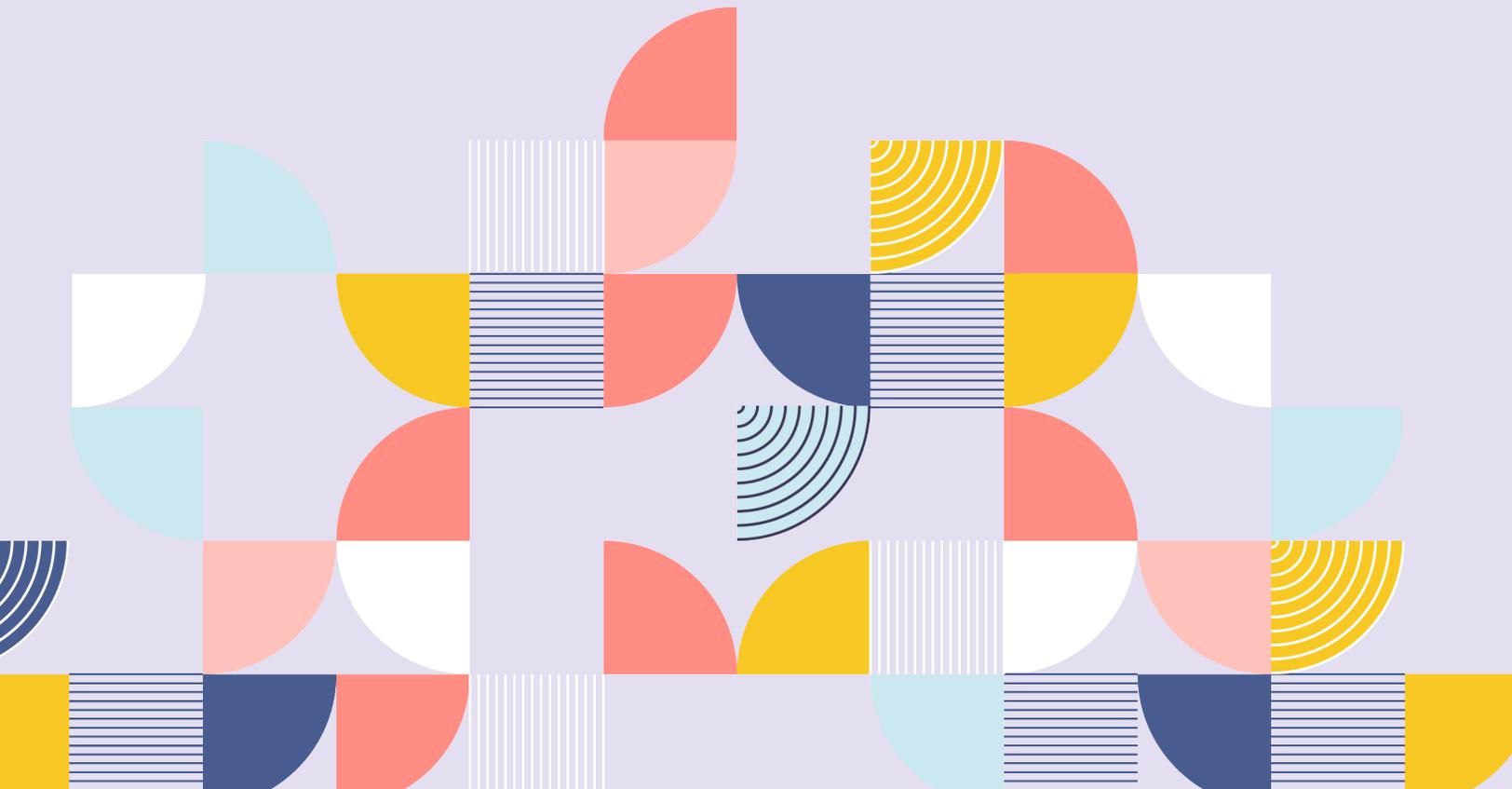
REIMAGINE 2020 challenged us to view ministry through the kaleidoscope of mission. Women were encouraged to try brave, innovative approaches; offered freedom and flexibility to be relevant in the 21st century; and given permission to future proof Ministry to Women within The Salvation Army for the next generation and beyond.

The result - vibrant, multidimensional expressions of Ministry to Women throughout the territory that engage, encourage, equip, and inspire women.

Women throughout the Southern Territory are finding connection, belonging, and community. The pages within are a sampling of the dynamic expressions of mission and ministry being served at our southern table.

There is a seat for every woman at our table. The offerings are vibrant, fresh, and sustaining for the next generation and beyond.

Ministry to Women Team
USA SOUTHERN TERRITORY





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refocus

Refocus our vision of mission and ministry to women by discovering new ways to engage, encourage, equip, and inspire women to become all God created them to be

In 2019, we had a vision that would refocus the method in which we were ministering to women in the field. We wanted to give Corps officers and leaders permission to think outside the box when it came to building relationships with women. As a result of the vision, USA Southern Territory created an original resource entitled, *Gather*.

- ***Gather* is a resource guide** for women in mission and ministry. It is designed for those who lead – to cast vision, realign ministry to mission, develop mission focused ministry, teach, and develop leaders.

- ***Gather* encourages** Corps to custom create ministry based on the needs of women in the community. It provides a framework with guidelines, structure, accountability, and resources.

- ***Gather* empowers** Corps to try brave, innovative approaches. Gives freedom and flexibility to be relevant in this 21st century. It gives permission to future proof Ministry to Women within The Salvation Army for the next generation and beyond.

- Women are coming to on-site, off-site, and virtual tables across the USA South.



reshape

Reshape how we engage, encourage, equip, and inspire women with resources and opportunities to become all God created them to be.



- **Florida Division** hosted a virtual Women's Retreat. The theme, "Out of the Blue", focused on trusting the Lord in unplanned circumstances. The divisional team packed retreat boxes for each registered delegate to enable women to enjoy a retreat experience at home. "Women's Retreat Wednesdays" promoted the event, which doubled in attendance over the previous year.

- Virtual gatherings in the **Texas Division** gave women opportunities

to learn new skills. Lt. Laura Gesner used her skills in the visual arts to teach painting classes. Gabriella Broome taught viewers how to make Empanadas and Emma Bell guided her viewers in making Kentucky Derby pie.

- Captain Sheena Marquis from **Martin County, FL Corps** used her beautiful voice and to lead viewers in live worship."

- Ministry-in-a-Box provided a fun way to engage, encourage,



equip, and inspire women during the pandemic, particularly those without internet access. Boxes included weekly devotions, handwritten notes of encouragement, sweet treats, and activities based around a theme.

- Major Jamie Spalding of **North Little Rock, Arkansas Corps** hosted a weekly interactive meeting on Facebook called “Women’s Ministries LIVE”. This online gathering included a balance of fun moments as well as a thought-provoking message to inspire those attending.

- Women across the USA South celebrated milestones and holidays with their Corps families by providing holiday care packages. Families with small children received “Easter-In-A-Bag”. The bags contained videos, activities, and supplies for an Easter Egg Hunt. High school seniors received a gift bag in their school colors with party supplies to host their own graduation party with family. Mother’s Day gifts were delivered to each doorstep of the moms in the Corps.

- **Fayetteville, Arkansas Corps** provided help for moms through video devotions and related activity for families.

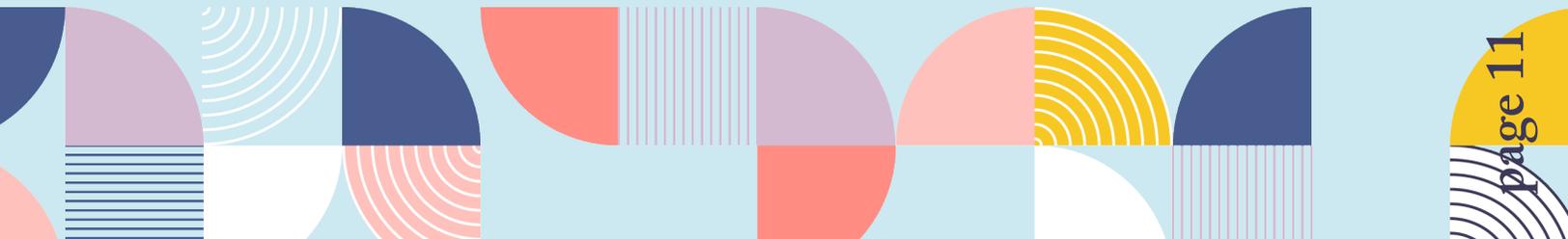
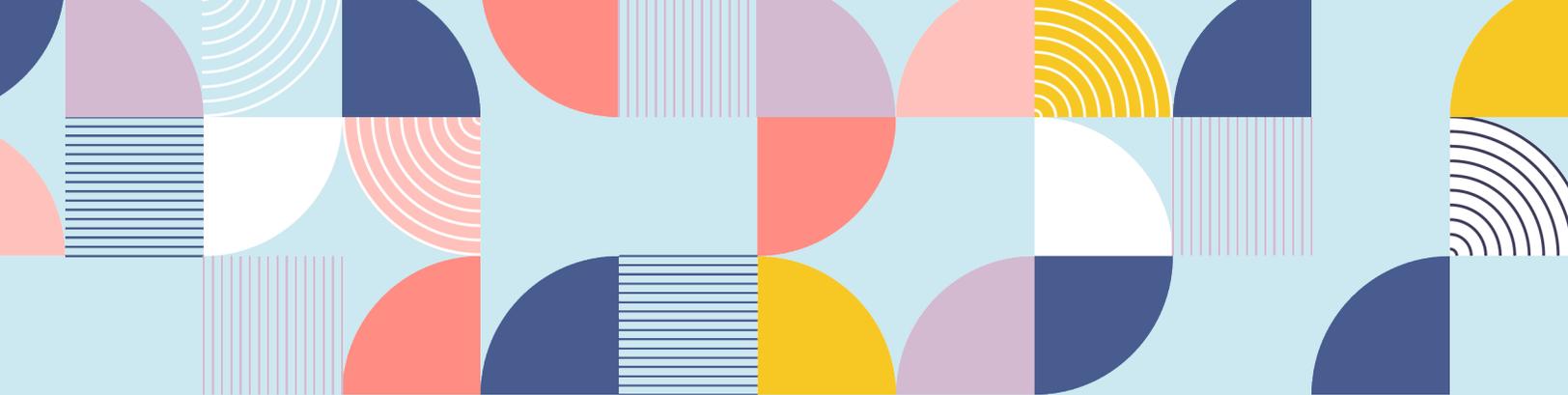
- **Baton Rouge, Louisiana Corps** served 3,000 people during a Community Thanksgiving Meal. Women showed Christ’s love through their selfless service.



- In **Macon, Georgia**, “Shelter-In-Place” activities were provided at the women’s shelter. The activities included exercise, crafts, beauty make-overs, and Bible study. This prolonged time together provided greater opportunity to speak truth into the women.

- **Hampton Roads Kroc Center, Virginia** mailed weekly worship and activity packets to women. They also stayed connected through weekly phone calls, meal deliveries, and outside outings.

- Lt. Carla Raymer of **Frederick, Maryland** created small groups within the larger Ministry to Women group. Lt. Carla explains, *“The point is to be intentional in our gatherings and to invite those who are not church-ed into these groups. Our prior gatherings were becoming mundane and repetitive. Gathering twice a month (once in a small group and once in a large group) makes this more intentional and meaningful, leaving more room for discipleship.”*





respond

Respond to our call to mission
focused ministry.

- **Atlanta Temple Corps** of Atlanta, Georgia participated in “March on Atlanta” in observance of Juneteenth, a day that commemorates the liberation of African American slaves at the end of the Civil War. They distributed 14,000 bottles of water, prayer, and participated in a worship service at Centennial Olympic Park. They joined other community leaders in a peaceful march to the Georgia Capitol, where the state legislature was considering a hate-crime bill.

- Lori Thurman of **Owensboro, Kentucky** is a schoolteacher who leads the Corps teens in CANteen ministry. Lori saw the needs of hungry children during the pandemic, so she expanded the CANteen ministry to two nights a week. She reached out to

honor society members who donated food and hygiene items. She went the extra mile by distributing milk and donuts so the children would have food over the weekend. Lori Thurman is being the hands and feet of Jesus during the pandemic.

- **Conway, South Carolina Corps** has a strong sense of mission. Ministry to Women members assisted with Christmas applications and food pantry distribution. In addition, over 40 baby blankets were knitted for families in need.

- **Landmark Corps** made over 1,000 face masks and hundreds of meals for people of need. The women of the Landmark Corps have also ministered in the city of Annandale, where many



men and women have lost their jobs in construction and the service industry. They have been the hands and feet of Jesus during the pandemic.

- In **Asheville, North Carolina**, Ministry to Women members came together to provide for a single mother in a tangible way when they helped furnish her new home.

- Helen Poust of **Leesburg, Florida** was schedule to be enrolled as a Senior Soldier in the Corps when she became ill. Lts. Chris and Elyse Doborwicz had the honor of enrolling Helen as a Senior Soldier from her hospital bed in CCU. Six weeks after Helen's stay in CCU, she was able to attend the Corps fully dressed in her uniform. This fall, Helen mustered everything she had to take part in her soldier enrollment at the Corps and a week later she went to rest in the arms of Jesus. It was an incredible honor for



Lt.'s Doborwicz to know Helen, full of love and feistiness. Well done, good and faithful servant!

- Sophia is the mother of four kids on the autism spectrum. She found support for virtual learning through the tutoring program for Spanish speaking families at **Atlanta Temple Corps** in Atlanta, Georgia. Although Sophia doesn't speak English, she is navigating virtual learning through the support of the Corps.

- At the **Frederick, Maryland Corps**, Marlena and Maya joined the ranks as Senior Soldiers. The original enrollment was postponed during the pandemic. It was an exciting day in August when they finally were able to join the rest of the Corps to highlight something great during such a difficult season. Marlena and Maya are just a couple of women out of many enrolled as soldiers this year.





There have been so many stories for Corps where women have engaged through online small groups and worship services, however, not everyone has easy access to internet. Despite this challenge, there have been many beautiful ways in which God has taken over these challenges and turned them into opportunity. For example, new types of ministry have seemed to emerge, such as "Ministry in A Box!". This includes weekly devotionals, handwritten notes of encouragement, sweet treats, and activities based around a theme. These are prepared particularly

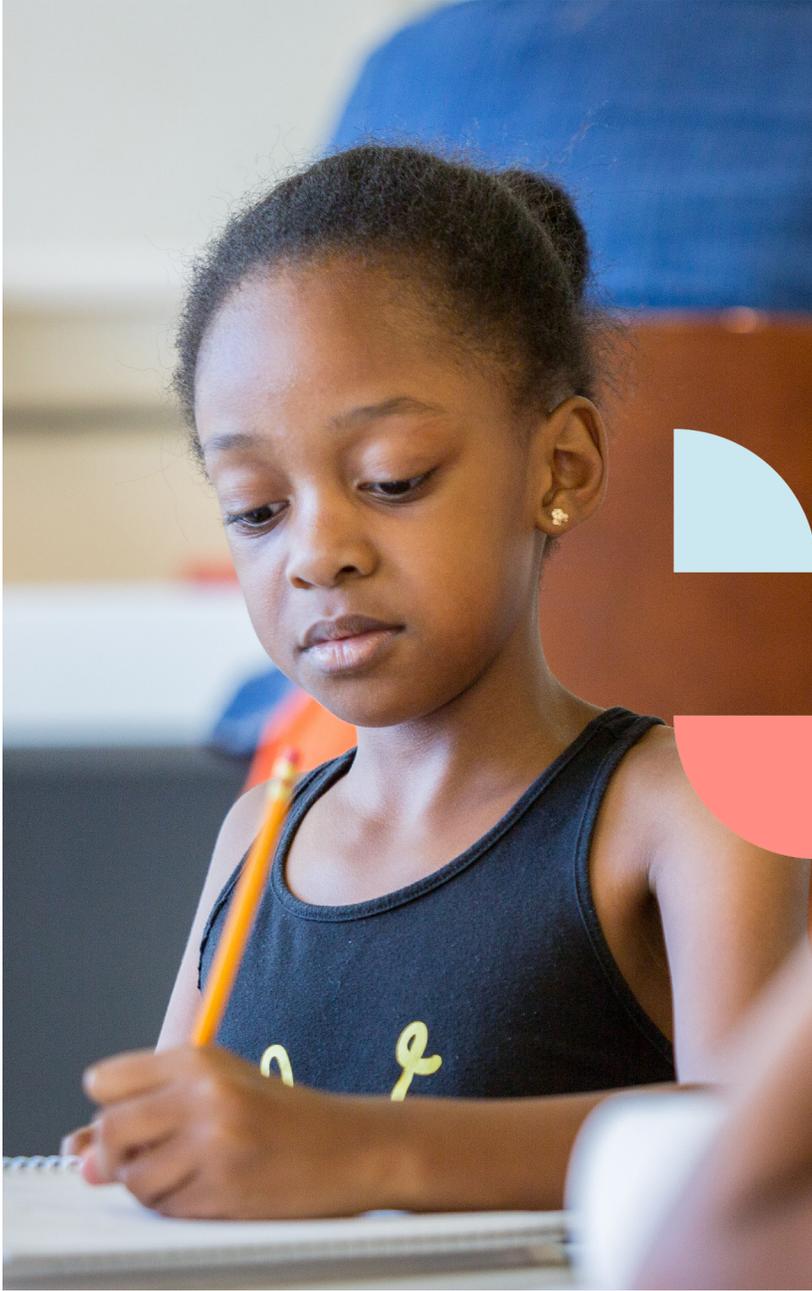
for Corps where women have no access to internet. For some Corps, these boxes were prepared each week and placed at the front door for each woman to help keep them connected. This kind of engagement has had huge impact and engages women who might otherwise be alone. The handwritten notes and devotionals inside the box have challenged women to refocus their eyes on God and renew a personal relationship with Jesus.

reunite

Reunite as a community
of women in new and
creative ways.



- The women of **Baltimore Hampden, Maryland** came together in a powerful way to provide support when a member went into labor three months early. They helped with transportation, errand, and meals.
- In **Baltimore Middle River, Maryland**, women demonstrated love in action when their Corps Officers contracted COVID-19. Captains Katie and Jumaine Bernabe were the recipients of care packages left on their porch during the weeks of quarantine and healing. While the Corps men deserve the credit as well, the women took on leadership in caring for the Officers in their time of need.
- Lt. Carla Lawson of **Pascagoula, Mississippi** developed a program called “Be the Church Box”, that included materials for the weekly Ministry to Women meeting. These boxes included supplies for a recipe exchange by mail, a DIY table tray craft, and a board game they could play at home. These women have missed being together but through the consistent contact, they have found their spirits uplifted, despite the circumstances.
- Major Luci DaSilva of **Williamsburg, Virginia** hosted table gatherings at different restaurants to give women an opportunity to reconnect after long periods in quarantine. Major DaSilva was unsure how the women would receive the invitation. To her surprise, the turnout was quite positive. The women were excited to gather again.



A single mother who attended the corps in Asheville, NC had the opportunity to finally move out of the projects and into a more stable housing situation just down the street from the corps. Even in a pandemic, this was such a huge blessing and exciting moment for her and her child. When asked by the women at the corps what she needed in order to have a smooth transition into her new home, she hesitated to say anything because she was “just so grateful for God’s provision already.” However, the women at the corps found out the single mother had no bed for herself. Through their kindness, she received a full and complete bedroom suite. When the Salvation Army truck pulled up to deliver the furniture, there was so much joy in the mother’s eyes as tears were streaming down her face. Through the servant hearts of the women at the Corps, God displayed his provision for a single mother in need.

impact story





impact story

A group of women gathered at the Corps on Friday night to paint. It had been over six months since they had met in person. The months of isolation were difficult for the women financially, mentally, and emotionally. That night was so much more than painting – it was painting together. “Air hugs” were exchanged from across the room as they gathered. There was a sense of joy and happiness as laughter became the soundtrack to their painting.

Marikza Santiago’s future was bright before the pandemic. She was a new convert, attending soldiership classes, and recently started a new job at The Salvation Army a few weeks before the

pandemic. Her sisters in Christ were her support system. She was eager to gather with them to paint.

Marikza asked if she could bring her mother who was battling depression and anger. On the night of the gathering, she showed up with her mother and daughter. Marikza’s mother felt loved and accepted beyond anything she had experienced before.

Her mother returned with her to Sunday Service and lifted her hand for prayer during the time of commitment. She found a place of belonging, connection, and community at The Salvation Army – just like her daughter.



social media

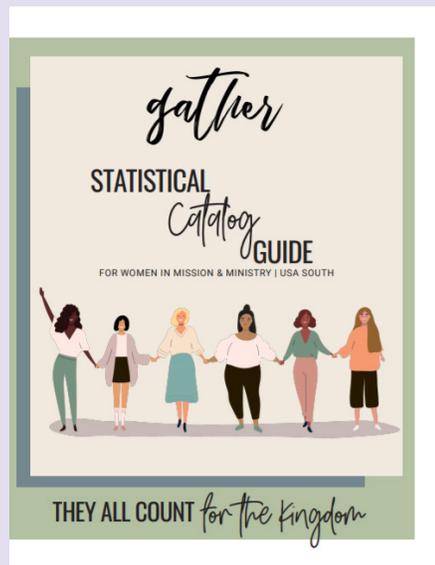
Our social media page is designed to engage, encourage, equip and inspire women through. We created several web-based resources, including:



Gather



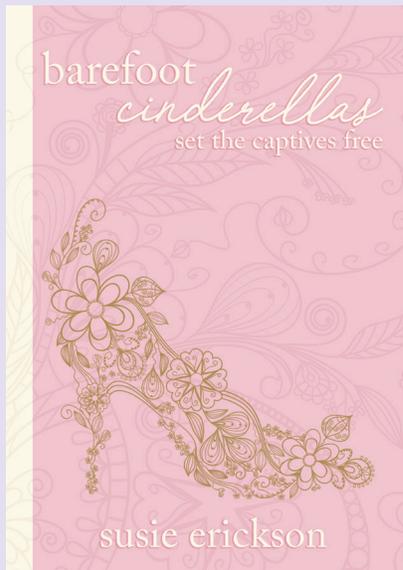
Mission Moving
Women



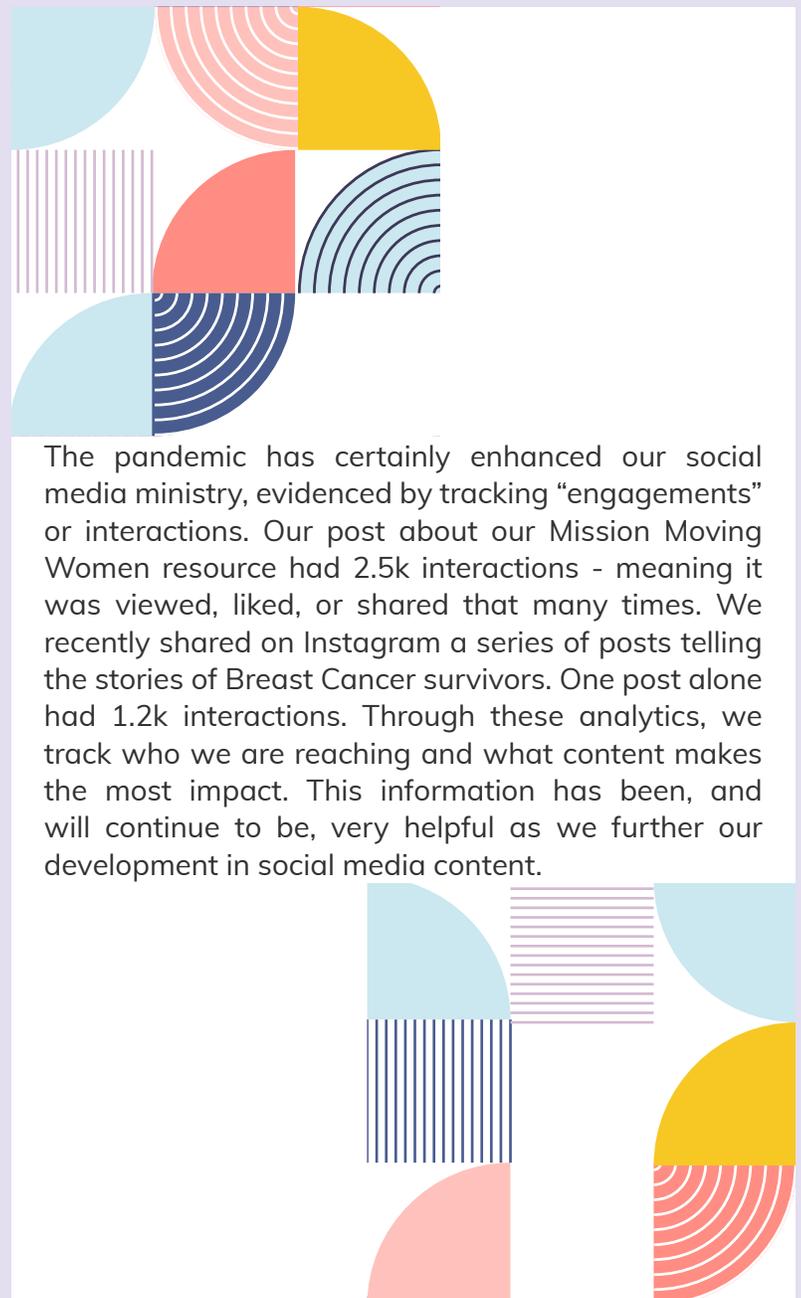
Gather Statistical
Catalog Guide



“DIYing The Most Good” video tutorials



Barefoot Cinderellas Podcast and Facebook Group



The pandemic has certainly enhanced our social media ministry, evidenced by tracking “engagements” or interactions. Our post about our Mission Moving Women resource had 2.5k interactions - meaning it was viewed, liked, or shared that many times. We recently shared on Instagram a series of posts telling the stories of Breast Cancer survivors. One post alone had 1.2k interactions. Through these analytics, we track who we are reaching and what content makes the most impact. This information has been, and will continue to be, very helpful as we further our development in social media content.

anti-human trafficking report

- Migrant outreach and collaboration with legal service providers to **IDENTIFY AND SERVE SURVIVORS** of labor trafficking across the U.S.
- **46 ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS** across the nation
- **157 STAFF MEMBERS** holding anti-trafficking positions
- Anti-Human trafficking staff in **EVERY TERRITORY** across the nation
- Office for Victims of Crimes (OVC)-funded programs **ACROSS THE NATION**
- Drop-in centers and residential programs **SERVING SURVIVORS**
- **EXPERT TRAINING AND AWARENESS** to individuals across the nation in various disciplinary backgrounds such as law enforcement, social services, health care, businesses, faith-based communities, and educational institutions
- Representation from each territory in the North American Anti-Trafficking Committee **WORKING TO STRENGTHEN** The Salvation Army's initiatives.



current programs & initiatives in the southern territory

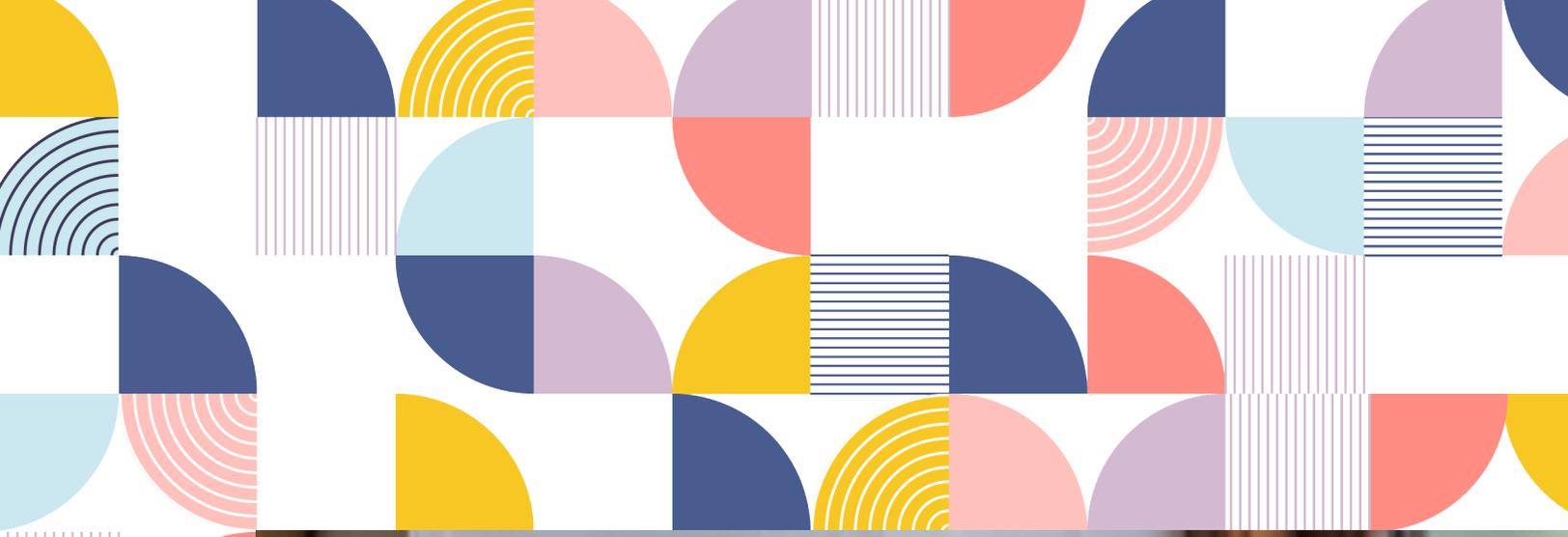
- Atlanta, GA - The Salvation Army Haven ATL
- Baltimore, MD - The Salvation Army Catherine's Cottage
- Dallas, TX - The Salvation Army Harbor Drop-in Center
- Fort Worth, TX - The Salvation Army Mabee Center
- Houston, TX - The Salvation Army AHT program
- North Carolina Statewide Program - The Salvation Army Project FIGHT
- Asheville, NC
- Charlotte, NC
- Greenville, NC
- Jacksonville, NC
- Raleigh, NC
- Roanoke, VA - The Salvation Army, Turning Point
- Sarasota, FL - The Salvation Army Safe Stay Program
- Tampa, FL - Emergency Housing Program

statistics

- 10,035 individuals trained
- 1,095 staff trained
- 81 Corps Cadets trained
- 20 Girl Guards and Adventure Corps Rangers training

survivor services & recovery impact

- 4,012 survivors served
- 24,774 nights of housing provided
- 210 program graduates





survivor story

At an early age, Nicole had been in and out of homeless shelters with her family. When she was only 13 years old, Nicole's mom married a man who they moved in with. Her stepfather physically and sexually abused Nicole, while her mother ignored the problem. Nicole ran away many times trying to escape her childhood. At 18 years of age, Nicole met a 30-year-old man who flattered her in all the right ways and met her basic needs. After several months of happy dating, her new boyfriend began forcing her to take drugs and sexually exploiting her.

For an entire year, Nicole experienced this abuse, never getting paid, only receiving food and a place to stay. Nicole's only survival skill was to be agreeable. One day, however, law enforcement discovered Nicole while running a sting at a local

hotel. They realized that she was a victim of human trafficking and contacted The Salvation Army Project FIGHT through the 24-hour hotline.

A case manager from Project FIGHT met Nicole at the hotel. They assessed her immediate needs and were able to provide her with a safe place to stay, new clothes, and food. From there, Nicole and her case manager developed a case plan to help her get back on to her feet.

Through The Salvation Army Project FIGHT case plan, Nicole is now living independently and working full time. She is learning self-confidence while attending therapy to deal with her ongoing trauma. Today, Nicole is a member of her community where others do not know her past. She feels like her dignity has been restored and she now sees a hopeful future.

sweet mondays



The THQ Women's Ministries Department offers "Sweet Mondays", a monthly opportunity for women employees and officers to gather and enjoy lunch and fellowship together. The women usually bring their own lunch and a special dessert is provided. Since it takes place at THQ during the lunch hour, it is kept short. Different types of activities or programs that appeal to a wide variety of women are offered each month.



goals



completed goals for 2020

- Reinforce the purpose of mission and ministry to women through Reimagine 2020.
- Adopt the name “Ministry to Women” to become more culturally relevant and mission focused.
- Train divisional leadership teams on new guide for women in mission & ministry entitled, *Gather*.
- Reproduce and distribute Gather resource to the field.
- Train Cadets on new guide for Women in mission and ministry.
- Clarify guidelines, accountability, and expectations of Ministry to Women through *Gather*.
- Reinforce statistical reporting through the online resource, *Gather Statistical Catalog Guide*, and monitor the ongoing training and enforcement of statistical reporting.
- Support divisions in training *Gather* as needed and monitor ongoing training of *Gather* throughout the territory.
- Support divisional retreats for women.

target goals for 2021

- Provide a platform and new initiative for the voice of Young Adult women to stand up, step out, speak out, and speak boldly.
- Expand the reach of our social community to include topics related to families.
- Equip the field with resources on inter-generational ministry to women through web-based resources.
- Provide training modules on integrating Millennials and Generation Z into mission and ministry to women through web-based resources.
- Translate all current resources into Spanish and Korean languages.
- Expand our reach through online Bible studies and podcasts.
- Develop a webpage for women in leadership.
- Develop a resource for the soul self-care of women in leadership.



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