FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIRD YEAR OF FUNDING HOMELESS FEEDING BEGINS CHRISTMAS DAY

Muslim Lakhani’s concern for less fortunate reasons for funding GRATE Patrol; Recognized as 2010
Compassionate Citizen by The Salvation Army

WASHINGTON, DC, December 13, 2010 – The Salvation Army National Capital Area Command is receiving an early Christmas present from a DC-based philanthropist that will continue to assist homeless men and women living on the streets of the nation’s capital. Social Vision, the philanthropy division of ML Resources, and its Chairman & CEO Muslim Lakhani is renewing its pledge for a third year to fund The Salvation Army GRATE Patrol Program in its entirety.

The continued financial support for the year-round homeless feeding program begins its third year on December 25, Christmas Day. The agreement is worth an estimated $130,000 to $140,000 annually for the program which feeds approximately 100 – 150 homeless people every night of the year.

Over the past two years, The Salvation Army has served around 54,750 meals annually, to men and women on DC streets without a place to call home.

Salvation Army National Capital Area officials began working closely with Muslim Lakhani, a Pakistani Entrepreneur who relocated his family to the United States in 2006. Since then, he has not only pledged to solely support GRATE Patrol, but has offered assistance for a number of other projects including Salvation Army efforts in his home country, further emphasizing his belief that people from all faith backgrounds must come together to address poverty and hunger.

National Capital Area Commander Major Steve Morris says “We are grateful for the gift from Muslim Lakhani and his family and for all they do for The Salvation Army. Just knowing our homeless feeding program, and the men and women who depend on it, will continue to operate without interruption is truly a blessing and at this time is very good news. I believe Muslim’s decision to continue funding GRATE Patrol beginning Christmas Day shows his willingness to reach across faith lines that have in the past been made of stone. Without a doubt, Muslim is Doing the Most Good by helping people that need help, and in that vein, we are one with his mission.”

According to those close to Lakhani, this sort of generosity is nothing new for him. In fact, he and his family are no strangers to lending a hand to people in need. Before coming to this country, he committed himself to helping the poor and needy in Pakistan through socially responsible partnerships and charitable projects, which continues under ML Resources Social Vision. Once in Washington, Lakhani decided to continue the same “spirit of sharing”. He says, “ML Resources combines the spirit of enterprise with the spirit of sharing. We truly believe that wealth is transient, therefore it’s important to remember to help those who are less fortunate.”

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This past September, Major Morris presented Muslim Lakhani and his family with the 2010 Compassionate Citizen Award for their significant contribution to the city’s homeless population and The Salvation Army. The event was recorded to video during The Salvation Army Women’s Auxiliary annual Fashion Show and Luncheon held at the Ritz Carlton in downtown Washington DC on September 29 and attended by over 700 people. To view, please click on this link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdCp9CkyQLU

About the GRATE Patrol

The GRATE Patrol began 25 years ago as a nightly feeding program giving homeless men and women an evening meal and fellowship, and the opportunity to receive professional help. Since 1985, the program has operated in downtown DC from a Salvation Army van. The mobile unit makes at least a dozen stops through each evening. A Salvation Army outreach coordinator works directly with individual clients to help them locate medical, dental or mental health services to name a few.

About The Salvation Army National Capital Area Command

The Salvation Army National Capital Area Command assists individuals and families throughout the year by providing a diverse range of social services. They include feeding for the hungry, disaster relief, disabled assistance, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing and shelter to the homeless and opportunities for underprivileged children. The National Capital Area Command consists of Washington and Alexandria, and Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. To receive help or make a donation, please visit SalArmyDC.org or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY. Visit us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Wordpress or Picasa at keyword SalArmyDC.

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