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## COMMUNITY PARTNER PLEDGES OVER \$100,000 TO FUND HOMELESS FEEDING PROGRAM FOR ONE YEAR!

### ML RESOURCES SOCIAL VISION PARTNERS WITH SALVATION ARMY'S GRATE PATROL TO FEED THE HOMELESS 365 DAYS A YEAR

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 17, 2009– The Salvation Army is pleased to announce a new partnership with ML Resources Social Vision, a division of ML Resources, a financial investment firm. During the next year, The Salvation Army's GRATE Patrol, a homeless outreach program which provides food and resources for the homeless 365 days a year, will be completely funded by ML Resources Social Vision. Mr. Muslim Lakhani, the CEO and Chairman of ML Resources and ML Private Investments, LLC, has long been committed to helping the poor and needy in Pakistan by developing socially responsible partnerships and philanthropic projects. As a relatively new member of the Washington community, (Mr. Lakhani and his family immigrated to the United States from Pakistan in late 2006), Mr. Lakhani decided he wanted to continue the spirit of sharing with his new community in Washington, D.C. According to Mr. Lakhani, "ML Resources combines the spirit of enterprise with the spirit of sharing - we truly believe that wealth is transient, so it's therefore important to remember to help those who are less fortunate. Moreover, in this economic environment, more families are losing their jobs, their homes, and their livelihood. Increasingly more people have become or can become homeless. This is the most important time to reach out to help."

The \$100,000 plus donation for GRATE Patrol was pledged in mid December with the evening meal on Christmas night being the first program expenditures fully funded by ML Resources Social Vision. According to Mr. Lakhani, "The Salvation Army provides an incredible amount of support to those who are less fortunate. As Muslims who moved to the United States from Pakistan not too long ago, we felt it was vital to reach across faiths and help the people in our new community. One's desire to engage in philanthropic activities should not depend on religion, faith, nationality or ethnicity."

The Salvation Army's GRATE Patrol Program has been operating on the streets of Washington, D.C. since 1985. The program provides individuals with an evening meal, fellowship, and the opportunity for professional help. The program operates 365 nights a year and serves more than one thousand individuals each month. Originally, the program offered meals alone. Today, an outreach coordinator attempts to engage homeless individuals in a professional helping relationship and connect them with appropriate social services.

According to Kalsoom Lakhani, Director of ML Resources Social Vision and recent GRATE Patrol volunteer, "Volunteering with the GRATE Patrol with my mother and brother was an extremely rewarding experience

and we learned a lot about the homeless in Washington, D.C. People often pass by a homeless man or woman and may not think about the circumstances that led them to that point. Volunteering with the Grate Patrol was humbling because it humanized an issue to which we often become desensitized. What I thought was phenomenal about the GRATE Patrol was that the program doesn't just throw money at the homeless. Feeding them a good meal is a much better way to help and sustain them. It was amazing to see The Salvation Army in action—they truly work to address each person's problems and support and help them as much as they can. Witnessing such dedication was truly inspirational.”

Major Steve Morris, Area Commander for The Salvation Army notes, “A partnership of this magnitude is extremely beneficial to the Army because it allows us to now devote scarce resources to other programs to continue our mission of doing the most good within the National Capital Area. In these tough economic times, The Salvation Army, along with many others, are tightening our belts and are striving to be even more efficient and productive with the valuable resources that have been bestowed upon us. We are incredibly grateful to ML Resources Social Vision for their support and hope this is the beginning of a long partnership to support the underprivileged in our community. “

### **About The Salvation Army in the National Capital Area**

Throughout this past year, The Salvation Army in the National Capital Area has assisted individuals by providing 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. To give or receive help, please visit [www.salarmydc.org](http://www.salarmydc.org) or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY.

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