



Contact: Dawn M. Shiley, MA, CAE
IAEM Communications & Marketing Director
703-538-3542

IAEM Headquarters
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA
22046-4527 USA
www.iaem.org

News Release

IAEM-USA Announces the 2023 Voluntary Organization of the Year

Oct. 19, 2023 (Falls Church, Va.) – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) has selected The Salvation Army as the IAEM-USA 2023 Voluntary Organization of the Year. The award will be presented at the President’s Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Nov. 8 at the 71st IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX in Long Beach, California.

The Salvation Army 2023 Voluntary Organization of the Year

The Salvation Army's commitment to serving communities in times of disaster is truly commendable. The organization's extensive reach and wide range of services make it a crucial player in emergency response and recovery efforts.

The Salvation Army responded to numerous disasters in 2022, including Hurricane Ian in Florida and wildfire responses in western states. They served hundreds of thousands of meals, distributed hygiene kits, provided emotional and spiritual care, and contributed to long-term recovery efforts.

The organization received a significant \$40 million preparedness grant from the Lilly Endowment in 2022, which has enabled it to expand its disaster response and recovery capabilities. This includes increasing its disaster warehousing capacity, adding environmentally friendly feeding units to its fleet, and recruiting and training diverse volunteers. The organization pre-stages critically needed commodities before the hurricane season, ensuring they have essential supplies readily available for deployment. The Salvation Army collaborates with various partners, including government agencies and other nonprofit organizations, to enhance disaster response and recovery efforts.

The Salvation Army strongly emphasizes professional competency among its emergency management professionals. Many of their staff members hold AEM or CEM designations and actively participate in IAEM committees and initiatives. The organization actively works on diversity, equity, inclusivity, and belonging (DEIB) initiatives. The Salvation Army's

mission is to meet human needs in the name of Jesus Christ without discrimination, and they have developed training programs to ensure equitable service delivery and have initiated outreach efforts to marginalized communities.

The Salvation Army's dedication to serving communities in times of disaster, coupled with its commitment to equity and inclusion, demonstrates its vital role in the field of emergency management and humanitarian assistance. Its work significantly impacts the lives of those affected by disasters, providing immediate relief and support for long-term recovery.

The Voluntary Organization of the Year Award recognizes one U.S. voluntary organization that made extraordinary emergency management contributions within the United States.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,800 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance, the Certified Emergency Manager program, annual scholarships, a comprehensive monthly newsletter, and more.

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