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By Jim Keithley
BIO »

Organizations see increasing need despite improving economy

Salvation Army to announce increase in fundraising goal for kettle drive

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PORTLAND, Maine — The annual Salvation Army kettle drive is underway, but despite Mainers making more money and the unemployment rate being down, the need remains great.

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Last year, the Salvation Army raised \$140,000, \$20,000 shy of its goal.

The organization will announce Tuesday it needs to raise even more money this year because many people have not recovered from the recession.

"There are some people still suffering the effects of that with job issues and housing issues, and just the rise of the cost of just about every basic need that families have to provide has made it really difficult on them," Maj. Annette Lock, of the Salvation Army, said.

Organizations that provide food to soup kitchens and food pantries see the need in the community year-round.

"Our folks are hungry 12 months of the year," Don Morrison, of Wayside Food Programs, said.

Morrison said donations to Wayside help 30,000 people a year.

"Maybe some people got laid off and were relying on their savings, but then once that gets wiped out, unemployment dries up and that's when we see the need really increase, and that's why I think 2011, 2012, 2013, that's when we saw the really big spike and we have not seen that go down," Morrison said.

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