

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Capt. Jeremiah Burris, Salvation Army, 620-342-3093

Scott Strahm, New Dimension Products of Emporia, Inc., 620-342-7151

**CITIZENS FACE UTILITY SHUT-OFFS AS WEATHER WARMS;
SALVATION ARMY FUNDRAISER COMES AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME**

EMPORIA, Kan. – When it comes to donations to charitable organizations, usually cold weather and winter holidays come to mind, but Salvation Army Capt. Jeremiah Burris said donations are needed now.

“The budget is very tight right now because of the increase of need and services we are experiencing,” Burris said.

The Salvation Army serves approximately 4,000 to 5,000 Emporia citizens each year by offering a food pantry, utility and rent payment assistance, vehicle repairs and other needs.

Emporia State University’s recent can drive has filled the pantry, Burris said, but as the Kansas Cold Weather Rule goes out of effect, many Emporia citizens will need help with their past due gas bills.

“Now that we are approaching spring, there will be a great need for utility assistance as shut-off notices will be given and utilities [are] in danger of being shut off,” Burris said.

On March 13, New Dimension Products of Emporia, Inc., will host its first-ever open house fundraiser for the Salvation Army. The fundraiser lunch will include barbecue sandwiches, chips, a drink and dessert for a minimum donation of \$1. New Dimension will match all donations.

“We at New Dimension believe in community and the desire to be of help to those of the area who we can be of service to,” said Scott Strahm, owner of New Dimension. “The Salvation Army is on the front line of those in need. We are pleased to be involved with Capt. Burris and his team at the Salvation Army.”

The open house event will be a family-friendly atmosphere, with music, several door prizes, free products, and other entertainment. Children will have the opportunity to pose for pictures with the ABC Seamless duck, and parents can receive a copy of the photo. The event will also kick off New Dimension’s 26th anniversary sale, going on now through the end of March.

Burris said the best way to help right now is to donate funds.

“If the community would like to help, just come on out and support the open house fundraiser with a monetary donation that will be maximized through a dollar-for-dollar match by New Dimension, with all proceeds going to help those in need,” Burris said.

###