For Immediate Release

Generous Donation from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation Strengthens, Expands Salvation Army Centres

The Salvation Army Barbara Mitchell Family Resource Centres in Winnipeg and Calgary To Promote Dignity For All

Toronto, ON March 27, 2012 – As The Salvation Army celebrates the one-year anniversary of its Dignity Project, an initiative designed to educate and inform the public about the challenges facing society’s most vulnerable people, a generous donation from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation is making it possible to promote dignity for years to come.

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation and members of the Weston Family, who have a relationship with The Salvation Army that spans over 40 years, provided a $3 million grant to the Army to strengthen and expand the operations of two existing Salvation Army Family Centres in Winnipeg and Calgary.

Named after the late Barbara Mitchell, daughter of Garfield Weston, The Salvation Army Barbara Mitchell Family Resource Centres in Winnipeg and Calgary will provide a broad range of integrated services in response to the needs of the communities they serve. Individuals supported by Centre programs have been affected by low education/literacy levels, language, culture, social isolation, family violence, inadequate employment skills and low coping skills.

“Through the work of our family foundation, we are honoured to be continuing our mother’s legacy of supporting organizations that care for people in need in communities across Canada,” said Eliza Mitchell, Director of The W. Garfield Weston Foundation. “The Centres, named for our mother, will support families struggling to overcome adversity. Our mother’s commitment to helping those less fortunate will be reflected in the wonderful work of The Salvation Army”.

In Winnipeg, Salvation Army programs commenced operation in the new facility in March, with an official opening scheduled for this summer. The generous grant from The W. Garfield Weston Foundation will cover a portion of the construction costs as well as enable the Centre to provide enhanced youth programming, operate during the evenings and weekends, and introduce a new Seniors Outreach program.

The Salvation Army Barbara Mitchell Family Resource Centre in Calgary will enhance its current Community and Family Services as well as introduce new programming. The renovated Centre will allow The Salvation Army to expand its Global Café Program, introduce a Community Kitchen Program that teaches clients how to adjust to shopping and cooking in Canada, and provide much needed computer equipment and staffing for the establishment of a new Employment and Educational Resource Centre.