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## **As Choice Neighborhoods project progresses, Salvation Army's Boys & Girls Clubs align programming**

*Salvation Army Boys & Girls Clubs respond to changing needs in west Tulsa*

**TULSA, Okla. (May 17, 2019)** In preparation for relocation precipitated by the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation (CNI) redevelopment of the Eugene Field neighborhood, the Salvation Army Boys & Girl Club is preparing to meet the needs of both families and youth that are relocating and those that will remain in the area.

Temporary relocation of residents of the Tulsa Housing Authority's Riverview Apartments is underway to prepare for Phases I and II of the CNI project; a total of 70 families will relocate during these phases of redevelopment. Overall, up to 390 households will temporarily relocate to allow for the construction of the six housing phases. All families relocated are afforded the first right to return to the new community as the apartments are placed in service.

All relocating families are provided Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) that allow them the choice of where to relocate. Families are also provided case management, relocation assistance and financial assistance for moving expenses.

In response to this temporary relocation, the Salvation Army will link families with alternative Boys & Girls Clubs and youth programs in their new communities of residence.

Beginning with the fall 2019 schoolyear, other metro Boys & Girls Clubs will expand services to integrate youth and families who continue to reside in west Tulsa into their existing programs including team sports. Shuttle service from west Tulsa to other metro clubs will support participation.

The Salvation Army does not intend to reinstate neighborhood-based Boys & Girls Club programming in west Tulsa as redevelopment will shift the needs of the community. The CNI project plan calls for a new, comprehensive community center to serve residents of all ages.

“We’re excited for the future of the Eugene Field community and look forward to the positive impact of the CNI project on the area,” said Major Mark Harwell, area commander for The Salvation Army. “The Salvation Army remains committed to providing exceptional youth development programming through its Boys & Girls Clubs and Community Centers located throughout the Tulsa metro area.”

“We’re grateful for the role the Salvation Army and its Boys & Girls Clubs have and will continue to hold in our community,” said Aaron Darden, CEO of the Tulsa Housing Authority. “They are a wonderful partner and we look forward to seeing their work continue to make an impact in the lives of Tulsans who take advantage of their programming.”

The Salvation Army currently operates six Boys & Girls Clubs in the Tulsa metro area. Each Club offers a wide range of programming to enhance academic performance, develop character, and sustain physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

For more information on local Salvation Army programming, visit [salarmytulsa.org](http://salarmytulsa.org).

The Tulsa Housing Authority and the City of Tulsa were awarded a \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant in July 2018. The project will transform the Eugene Field

neighborhoods into the thriving River West community, responding to the needs of area residents. For more information on the Choice Neighborhoods project, visit [riverwesttulsa.com](http://riverwesttulsa.com).

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