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Great Lakes Ace Hardware and The Salvation Army Team Up for Annual Fan Drive to Provide Summer Heat Relief

KANSAS CITY, MO – May 19, 2026 – As temperatures begin to rise, [Great Lakes Ace Hardware](#) and The Salvation Army are joining forces to bring summer relief to those in need through the annual [Ace Hardware Fan Drive](#).

The campaign runs **May 18 through June 6** and raises funds to provide new box fans that are distributed locally by Salvation Army commands to help individuals and families stay cool and safe during the hot summer months.

Customers can support the effort by rounding up their purchases at participating Great Lakes Ace Hardware stores in the metro areas of Detroit, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis. Online gifts can also be made at salarmy.us/FanDrive.

The Fan Drive has grown into a powerful nationwide effort in partnership with The Salvation Army, raising over \$1 million and providing more than 70,000 fans. In 2026, the effort will continue to grow, with donations accepted at 210 Ace Retail Group-owned stores across the country. Every dollar raised stays local, helping people right where they live.

“The Fan Drive shows how small acts of generosity can make a meaningful difference,” said Jeremy Van Ommeren, vice president of stores for Ace Retail Group. “Working together with The Salvation Army and our customers, we’re proud to help provide a simple solution that can vastly improve comfort and safety during the hottest months of the year.”

“Summer heat can place a serious strain on individuals and families who are already facing difficult circumstances,” said Commissioner Merle Heatwole, National Commander of The Salvation Army. “Through this partnership, we’re able to respond in a practical and meaningful way—offering not just relief from the heat, but a reminder that people are seen, supported, and not alone.”

About Great Lakes Ace Hardware

For more than 80 years, [Great Lakes Ace Hardware](#) has been a trusted neighborhood hardware brand, serving generations of customers with power and hand tools, fasteners, paint, plumbing, lawn care, electrical supplies, and BBQ grills and accessories. Rooted in the Ace Helpful Promise, Great Lakes Ace delivers reliable service, helpful advice, and quality products to help customers and neighbors complete their projects with confidence.

Great Lakes Ace is a brand of Ace Retail Group. From its headquarters in the Kansas City area, Ace Retail Group owns and operates more than 260 stores in 18 states.