


the salvation army usa  
cultural awareness week 2015



# beyond

crossing boundaries  
extending borders  
embracing others

## Crossing Boundaries

Every day and in different ways we interact with culturally diverse neighbors, co-workers, and friends. We encounter cultural boundaries and cross them intentionally or by necessity. Those we encounter may differ from us, offering opportunities to learn about and to share with people in new ways. While it's impossible to become an expert on every culture one might encounter, it's worth deepening our awareness of the people in our communities and how we can serve them and minister to them in ways that are culturally sensitive and appropriate. *Crossing Boundaries* challenges us to look at our surroundings with fresh eyes and to see our communities, and the people who live there.

## Extending Borders

David Livermore, in *Cultural Intelligence*, says that cultural competence is engaging those who are different in ways that are loving and respectful, but do not compromise the self. When we extend borders, we prepare spaces of welcome. We offer hospitality. We become aware of the barriers that may prevent others from coming inside and feeling safe and seek ways to overcome those barriers. We welcome the stranger, the new-comer into a community of love, living, and learning together. *Extending Borders* means we open space for differences and the gifts that those differences bring – gifts to be appreciated and celebrated.

## Embracing Others

Ever been the newcomer in the workplace, the new family at church, the new kid on the block? Remember what that felt like? Maybe people couldn't pronounce your name. Perhaps, you dressed up for church and everyone else wore blue jeans. Maybe, everyone had an accent, but they thought you talked funny. Things just weren't the same as the place from which you'd come. And you wondered if it would ever feel familiar. Remember what it felt like when a friend came along to help you navigate this new place? When we *Embrace Others*, we invite them to come inside, to be a part of us. There are no Intruders. We place another chair at the table. We will widen our circle. We will make space for differences.

"Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you."

2 Corinthians 10:15-16a