

**Name of organization:** Salt and Light.

**Hours of operation, location, website information, and phone number:** Salt and light is located at 1819 Philo Rd, Urbana, IL 61802. Salt and light is open Monday-Saturday from 8:00am-8:00pm and 11:00am-5:00pm on Sundays.

Website: <https://saltandlightministry.org/>

Phone number: (217) 355-5654

**POC, degree held if any and background and list the organizations leadership:** The person of contact was Lisa Sheltra. Lisa has a degree in education and did teach for a few years. When she had young children, she started her career here with Salt and light.

Nathan Montgomery – Executive Director.

Lisa Sullivan – Director of Marketing and Communications.

Lisa Sheltra – Director of Community Engagement.

Mike Jenkins – Director of Retail Operations.

**Brief history of the organization:** In January of 2004, Salt and light was created as an emergency food pantry for the community. It has since grown into something much more. In 2014 Salt and light switched directions and was no longer an emergency food pantry and turned into a "regular" store where the community could come and receive goods and even volunteer (Montgomery et al., 2021).

**Who founded this organization?:** The four men (John Prince, Mike Roberts, Greg Pennington, and Nathan Montgomery) founded Salt and light (Montgomery et al., 2021).

**How large is it?** Salt and light have two locations in Urbana, Illinois, and one in Champaign, Illinois. The Champaign location is 9,000 square feet, while the Urbana location is 57,000 square feet (Montgomery et al., 2021).

**Who funds them?** Salt and light is a nonprofit organization. The organization is donation-supported. The funding comes entirely from individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations (Montgomery et al., 2021).

**Mission statement:** to share the love of God by fighting poverty with opportunities that empower people for lasting change (Montgomery et al., 2021).

**Philosophy/purpose:** We fight poverty every day. Not just material poverty, but also poverty of spirit and community. We recognize that each of us is broken and in need of healing. The vision of Salt & Light is to see each person growing in their God-given potential (Montgomery et al., 2021).

**What services are offered?** Salt and light offer food, clothing, and household goods. The salt and light facility also has a computer room which allows community members to come and access the computer and print things out. On top of all that, they offer education programs in finances, computer, and workplace readiness (Montgomery et al., 2021).

**How many people are employed with the organization?** 43. This does not include the volunteers.

**Is this a long or short term service?** Long term.

**Is the location clean, friendly, and in good condition?** The location is very clean, friendly, and in good condition.

**Is the location safe, easy to get to and is there transportation offered?** The location is safe and easy to get to. Salt and light provide no transportation; however, some buses run through MTD that stop right on the corner.

**Population served? Criteria for service? Fee for service?** Salt and light serve everybody in the community. The client does not need to meet any criteria for the services offered. The client does have to pay for the items. Some clients have an account with salt and light that has a specific budget on it. The client can get points (added to their account) by volunteering five hours a week (L. Sheltra, personal communication, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021).

**How many people are served annually?** Salt and light serve thousands of community members annually. Every year the exact number varies, but for reference, in 2019, \$300,000 in account money was used here at the Urbana location. That does not include money spent through the client's pocket (L. Sheltra, personal communication, October 9th, 2021).

**What is one way the organizations might be helped or improved?** One way that this organization can be improved or helped is through volunteers. Volunteers run the store and build the community. The organization can also be improved through donations (L. Sheltra, personal communication, October 9th, 2021).

**How is this organization relevant to the nursing profession?** This organization is relevant to the nursing profession through community and helping others. Nurses help people in many ways, including reaching out to the community. Through this organization, volunteers come together to make the community better and improve the lives of their members.

**How did your service impact the organization?** Salt and light run so well because of the volunteers of the organization. Our service contributed to the volunteer hours that the store needs. Through tagging home goods and clothes, we helped the community receive items they needed.

**How did you serve the organization?** We served the organization by sorting through home goods, clothes, and shoes-- making sure they were wearable/usable and tagging them to be placed on the shelves in the store. Salt and light rely on volunteers to serve the community well.

**How can others in the community serve this organization?** Anyone can serve this organization through volunteering or donations. Donations can come in multiple forms, clothing, shoes, home goods, and money.

**What are the future needs of the organization?** This organization always needs volunteers and donations (of any kind).

**What are the future needs of the recipient?** Many of the recipients who shop at Salt and light have accounts that give them points to shop. As Champaign-Urbana continues to grow, more recipients will come to shop at Salt and light and need funds. However, the store can only provide so much account funds to the recipients of the community. Therefore, if the store

expands and more community members volunteer, accounts will be able to grow (L. Sheltra, personal communication, October 9th, 2021).

**What are the future directions and goals of the organization?** Salt and light are hoping to expand their stores around central Illinois. They would like to open a store in Bloomington, Illinois, if possible. Champaign-Urbana is continuing to grow, so they would also like to make the Champaign location larger (L. Sheltra, personal communication, October 9th, 2021).

By: Jessica Kavajecz, Casey Buchanan, Kimberly Bachman, Rece Doggett, and Junmian Zhao



Montgomery, N., Sullivan, L., & Sheltra, L. (2021, August 20). Salt & Light.

<https://saltandlightministry.org/>.

