

Lindsay Cox

Salt and Light is located on 11819 S Philo Rd in Urbana Illinois 61802. The phone number is 217-255-5654 and the website is Saltandlightministry.org. The hours of operation are 8 AM to 8 PM Monday through Saturday and 11 AM to 5 PM on Sundays. Lisa Sheltra is the Director of Community Engagement. Before working with Salt and Light, Lisa obtained a degree in education and worked as a teacher. She began collaborating with Salt and Light through volunteer work at her church. Lisa is friends with the Executive Director of Salt and Light, Nathan Montgomery, and the two began brainstorming on how Salt and Light could continue to improve. In 2014, Lisa decided to join the team at Salt and Light as the Director of Community Engagement and coordinates volunteers and organizes events within the community. Lisa also writes articles for Salt and Light's website related to volunteering, collaboration, and poverty. Leadership roles include; executive director Nathan Montgomery, director of retail operations Mike Jenkins, and director of marketing and communications Lisa Sullivan. Board of Directors include Sky Sanborn (Chair), Ryan Majeres (VP), Celina Trujillo (Secretary), Desa Phetchareun, Andrew Martin, Sean Lee, Lamar Schrock, Josue Pernillo, Orlando Thomas, Pamela Lau, and Allison Smith. Four men talked about the importance of turning personal faith into community action and about areas of local need. They saw this as the model Christ gave us during his earthly ministry—to meet those in need right where they are by ministering to their physical needs. They not only believed this provided the opportunity for sharing the message of the gospel but also that it was what their faith demanded.

John Prince, Mike Roberts, Greg Pennington, and Nathan Montgomery are the founders of Salt and Light. Salt and Light has two locations: Champaign and Urbana. Salt and Light relies on donations and purchases made within the store. Sales make up 85% of the annual budget. The remaining 15% comes from financial donations. Salt & Light has a mission to share the love of God by fighting material poverty and spiritual poverty. They believe that God creates each person with the potentiality that needs a growth opportunity from the community. That is why Salt and Light empowers people in the community by providing voluntary opportunities, full-time and part-time jobs.

It is a grocery store that also offers gently used clothing and home goods as well as books, jewelry, and tech items. There are 39 paid staff members employed with the organization. It is a long-term service. The location was in good condition, and well looked after. The staff and volunteers were all kind and welcoming.

Both locations are safe and easily accessible. Salt and Light does not offer transportation, but volunteers and customers can take advantage of public transportation. Both locations could be accessed by foot depending on their visitors' commute. The general public focuses on low-income households. No, their services are open to everyone. There is no fee to shop in the facility. Individuals who are unable to pay for their merchandise may volunteer to earn tax-free credit for spending.

Over 300 members are currently receiving credit for the merchandise within Salt and Light. These members have earned approximately \$250,000 in credit. More volunteers could help improve the store's ability to sort through donated items and ensure fully stocked shelves for customers. Each week approximately 100 pieces of furniture and 40,000 lbs of clothing are donated and need sorting. Being aware of the community's needs and services available for its members is essential. Identifying patients who may benefit from these services and providing details allows the nurse to be a valuable resource to their patients. During our time volunteering, we were able to help stock essentials within the grocery section, such as fresh fruits and veggies, toiletries, and boxed goods. The organization relies on volunteers to ensure that the store provides optimal services for its customers.

We serve Salt and Light by stocking the shelves with necessities, including foods, paper towels, and toilet tissues. We also help the organization by sorting and tagging the clothes. The people in the community serve Salt and Light by shopping in our stores, donating their goods and finances, and volunteering their time. Future needs for Salt and Light consists of continued community engagement. Community members can help via shopping, donating, or volunteering with the organization. The more the community is engaged in the efforts of Salt and Light, the more successful the organization will become. The community will continue to need these services as the cost of household essentials continues to rise due to inflation. The goal of Salt and Light is to continue to build the community and engage the community. Currently, Salt and Light is helping over 300 credit-earning members. These members have earned approximately \$250,000 in credit to spend toward goods at Salt and Light. As the organization continues to grow, the goal is to be able to assist additional members.