Salvation Army volunteers serve doughnuts and coffee to soldiers of the 26th Division in France, 1918.





World War I

When America entered World War I in April 1917, few would have predicted that this "war to end all wars" would see 4.7 million American men serve with over 300,000 casualties. Fewer still could have anticipated that over 35,000 American women, the majority being Army nurses, would embrace the opportunity to serve in a variety of organizations, both civilian and military.

Many women worked as Salvation Army Doughnut Dollies or in canteens operated by the Young Men's/Women's Christian Association. Others, such as telephone operators and clerks, were called to duty for their highly specialized skills. Their work during the war, both at home and abroad, contributed to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote in 1920.