

Wills Update

News & stories from The Salvation Army Wills & Bequests team

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Streetlevel and a second chance

“You experience a lot of guilt and shame over your actions, but Streetlevel built me up, helped me to believe in myself and those negative things just naturally fell away.”
– Simon

An essential community service in Brisbane’s Fortitude Valley has been given a \$200,000 boost through a generous bequest.

The Streetlevel service offers a supportive community base for many who struggle with mental health issues, poverty, insecure housing or homelessness and social isolation.

Salvation Army Major Bryce Davies says Streetlevel offers isolated and disadvantaged members of the community “a safe place to belong”.

Streetlevel is a home-like ‘drop-in’ centre, where more than 1,100 sit-down meals are served each month. The service also offers recreational activities, music groups, a chapel service, welfare support, financial counselling and more.

Major Davies says the bequest will greatly enhance the services that Streetlevel offers. Some funds have already replaced old kitchen equipment, including refrigeration, and other funding has been used to buy instruments and sound



Photo: Chaotic Creative

Simon has gained support and confidence through Streetlevel and now volunteers to help others.

equipment to boost the ‘music ministry’, which Major Davies says, “has been a terrific part of our growth and nurture of the people we help”.

Keen Streetlevel volunteer Simon became part of the Streetlevel community more than two years ago while staying in nearby Salvation Army crisis accommodation. He was struggling with drinking and gambling, as he says he had “for most of his adult life”.

Simon had been a musician, but had not played the guitar for over 10 years, until he connected with another musician through Streetlevel.

He says: “When your self-esteem is low and you’re in depression; being creative (with music) can be a big part of getting over that.”

Simon has made significant changes in his life since coming to Streetlevel. He has found work and stable accommodation and is now an Adherent member of the Salvation Army. He also runs a number of music groups at Streetlevel.

“It’s amazing,” he says. “I’d lost hope that another way of life could be possible!”



We’re about people finding freedom.



Legacy for community care

“Our goal is very much working to help make the community the very best it can be.” – Major Glenys Domrow

A legacy to support the church and community he loved, left by Campsie Salvation Army ‘soldier’ (member) Patrick Weir, has helped Campsie Corps (church) Officers and Welfare Managers, Majors Bruce and Glenys Domrow, offer even greater care to the needy in their community.

Patrick moved to Australia from England after World War Two and for many years, was a highly active and much-loved member of his Salvation Army church and community.

For many years, the busy Campsie Community Welfare Centre was located separately in a rented house, but Majors Bruce and Glenys hoped that one day it could be on the same property as the church.



Patrick’s legacy is helping support the community he loved.

Last year, the dream became a reality when the existing building was renovated and extended to incorporate the welfare service. The new space has also allowed for the introduction of the Salvation Army Doorways program – which offers holistic care to those in need.

Majors Bruce and Glenys say that centralising the services to the same location as the church has allowed for the introduction of a range of new programs such as budgeting classes and the Positive Lifestyle Program. It has also encouraged greater ownership and volunteer involvement from the church members.

They say that centralising the church and welfare service has also helped many welfare clients feel more comfortable when entering the church community, or attending social events.

Major Glenys, who manages the welfare service, says “the need is enormous” in the community.

“Pressure from the costs of living, such as power bills is huge, and in the local community around 65% of residents were born outside Australia” she says.

Talking of the new opportunities now available to reach out to those in greatest need in the community, Major Glenys says excitedly: “The incorporated centre is now up and running and it is brilliant! The legacy has given us freedom to reach out to the community in an even more meaningful way.”

Strategically targeting greatest needs

A one-off package of \$16 million (with substantial funding from bequest gifting) has been put into place in The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory.

According to Territorial Chief Financial Officer Ian Minnett, the ‘Territorial Strategic Funding Project’ was born out of the need to create targeted new projects and ministries at the point of greatest need.

More than 40 projects throughout Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory have now been fully or partially funded under the scheme. This includes the decentralisation of one major welfare service in Canberra into a range of existing corps (church) and services to allow much wider accessibility; and a review and restructure of Salvation Army emergency accommodation services in the Newcastle area.

“As the CFO, I am very grateful to those who have remembered The Salvation Army in their wills and those who have been so faithful in supporting The Salvation Army,” Mr Minnett says. “This project is making an investment into programs where there has been a strong demand and in the long run, it will potentially impact the lives of those in greatest need.”



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Published by The Salvation Army Australia Eastern Territory Communications and Public Relations Department PO Box A229, Sydney South NSW 1232
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