

# Honoured Friends

Update 2022

*Thank you*



## A gift that helps Central Coast youth kick life goals

**A generous legacy from the Richard and Ruth Wilson Charitable Foundation helps The Salvation Army's Oasis Youth centre in Wyong continue providing much needed support to vulnerable Central Coast youth during the pandemic.**

Located in the picturesque town of Wyong, NSW, Oasis Youth Centre is a Salvos initiative that delivers programs focused on prevention and early intervention strategies to youth aged between 12-24 years. Their aim – to support young people in the Central Coast region on their journey towards independence.

Home to over 50,000 young people aged between 12-24 years, the Coast is a beautiful place to live, but it also has some of NSW's highest levels of family breakdown and domestic violence.

As Robyn Bust, manager of Oasis Youth Services reports, family breakdown is the biggest driver of disengagement from education, and significantly

increases someone's chances of experiencing homelessness, escalating mental health issues and engagement with the justice system. Another flow-on effect is that youth unemployment rates on the Central Coast are almost 50 per cent higher than in Greater Sydney.





## About Oasis

Programs at the Oasis provide support in the areas of anger management and drug and alcohol education, plus social programs that provide safe spaces for young people to build positive friendships while learning new skills.

Young people who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing homelessness or engagement with the justice system are supported through case management – where a youth worker will help a young person identify and achieve practical goals. Among the many programs on offer is Drive for Life, a driver training and mentoring program that equips young people who face barriers to education, training and employment to attain their driver's license. The program removes these barriers and provides a pathway towards positive role models, developing independent life skills and improving employment prospects. Oasis also provides vocational training

courses in hospitality, community services and business (onsite). Students in these courses are supported to be job-ready by gaining practical experience in the Oasis on-site training cafe and helping with community service programs.

## Sophie's\* story

Sophie\* first connected with Oasis in 2020 for help with practical goals, including getting her ID and Centrelink assistance. Sophie was couch surfing, after experiencing family breakdown in her home. An Oasis caseworker supported Sophie to not only achieve her goals, but also helped her apply for independent housing.

After more than six months of applying for independent rentals, being in and out of temporary accommodation and couch surfing, Sophie – at the age 18 – was able to secure her own independent housing in an apartment.

She received support with her bond and two weeks advance rent through Housing NSW and was able to access brokerage for some furniture for her new place. While her furniture was in transit, Sophie's Oasis caseworker helped her purchase temporary items like a mattress, bedding, kettle, toaster and food supplies.



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*This legacy makes a real difference in the lives of young people in our community, where breaking the cycle of disadvantage in the life of a young person is a huge effort that takes a team.*

**-Robyn Bust Manager at Oasis Youth Services**

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Robyn Bust, Manager at Oasis Youth Services is incredibly grateful to the Richard and Ruth Wilson Charitable Foundation for their generosity, as well as all those who value the work of The Salvation Army to leave a legacy for future generations.

Support from donors allows services like Oasis to develop innovative programs in response to social issues in the community, such as mental health, substance use, family violence, unemployment, and most recently, a global pandemic. These programs and services build skills, knowledge, and confidence to support young people with making positive life choices on their journey to independence.

*\*name changed to protect privacy*

Sophie has continued to reach out to her Oasis caseworker for support as she settles into her first ever independent living situation. Oasis will also continue to support Sophie to develop her living skills, budgeting and finding employment.

## How this gift helps

The generous legacy from the Richard and Ruth Wilson Charitable Foundation will be used to help address the rise of mental health issues young people have experienced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will facilitate the delivery of a range of creative arts programs across the Central Coast, supporting young people to talk about their experiences of mental health and share their story through creative avenues such as art, hip hop and poetry.

## Peter's parting gift

Peter was a much-loved and respected member of his family and community, someone who was always passionate about helping others. According to his daughter Lisa-Jane, he was 'an amazing human who took everything in his stride, and he was the best role model any child could hope for'.

Having worked with the Queensland Ambulance Service for 32 years, Peter was keen to give back to the community, and volunteered as a Transcom driver with the Hervey Bay Community Centre well after he retired.

Before he passed in 2021, Peter chose to leave a gift in his Will to The Salvation Army, for a reason very dear to him. Many years ago, Peter discovered that as a young boy, he and his mother Emily (a single parent at the time) were cared for by The Salvation Army in their time of need.

Immensely grateful for the support and kindness shown to his mother at a difficult time in her life, and to honour her memory, Peter decided to support the Salvos, and ensure people seeking support in their time of need could be helped – just like his mother was.

**Thank you Peter.**



## Lionel's legacy lives on

93-year old Dorothy Smyth's association with the Salvos goes back a long way. Third oldest of William and Emily Stephens' 11 children, Dorothy and some of her siblings started attending The Salvation Army church as kids, departing from the Anglican faith they were born in. Five of them, including Dorothy, would go on to become Salvos officers later in life.

In her first appointment at West Wallsend (an outer suburb of Newcastle), Dorothy was instrumental in helping develop her corps' services to a full week's activities and increased enrolments. As she added, 'the police sergeant said we had made his job a lot easier'.

Dorothy married Lionel Crown, who commenced the Wills and Bequests program for The Salvation Army in Queensland. As a young child, Lionel suffered poor health, but supported by family and colleagues in prayer and practical ways, he was successful in overcoming those challenges.

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*The Salvos act with integrity,  
honesty and compassion.*

-Dorothy Smyth

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As Dorothy recalls, Lionel's commitment to his officership was always paramount. In October 1983, Lionel wrote to the Salvos headquarters in Sydney, asking for permission to commence Wills and Bequests in Queensland and got the go ahead. Dorothy would always accompany her husband in his travels and ministries, due to his ill health.

Having been a Salvationist for the majority of her life, Dorothy credits her parents, local corps officers and Salvationists as the influences in her journey. She truly believes in the work of the Salvos and encourages all to donate. She also adheres to 'tithing' – the practice of donating 10 per cent of one's income to charity. As she puts it, 'I decided to give in death as I do in life'.

Her advice to the next generation – seek to know God in a personal relationship and treat everyone with love and compassion. In her words, 'the Salvos act with integrity, honesty and compassion'. Wise words indeed.

**Thank you for everything Dorothy.**

**Thank you for including The Salvation Army in your Will.**

For more information, or to update your contact details:

☎ 1800 337 082    🌐 [salvationarmy.org.au/wills](https://salvationarmy.org.au/wills)

✉ [bequests@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:bequests@salvationarmy.org.au)