

# Honoured Friends

Update 2023



Thank you



## A full life – the story of a Salvation Army supporter

**We had a chat with Jan, a recent attendee at one of our Wills Days in regional South Australia, to learn a little about her life and her connection with The Salvation Army. As told by Jan**

I remember The Salvation Army from a very young age where I was raised as a young child, in Kent in the English countryside.

After graduation, I worked in East London as an arts teacher. This was a really tough part of the city, where I worked with vulnerable children between the ages of 11 and 16, and the experience was both challenging and rewarding.

### A change of path

I yearned to diversify my skills and gain exposure beyond the classroom. It was suggested by the local job centre that I consider the beauty therapy industry, which was emerging at the time.

I completed an international qualification and obtained a fabulous job in England. Out of the blue and through a connection from my boss, I was asked to come to Adelaide and set up a beauty therapy college that would be aligned to the head office in Paris. This was to have a profound effect on my life!

The college was revolutionary at the time, offering holistic wellbeing services that complemented more traditional cosmetic therapies.

At the end of my contract, I had two months left on my visa to see Australia before heading home. It was during this time in 1983, during a Test Match at the Adelaide Oval, that I would meet my future husband, who happened to be an internationally acclaimed photojournalist. We had a wonderful life together; meeting many fascinating people while working hard and travelling to many parts of the world.



Around 2000, we moved to Coffs Harbour. I worked in senior roles in the aged care services industry which still faces many challenges today. While in Coffs, I also worked as a volunteer with a number of First Nations communities, with a particular focus on helping them to obtain traineeships and develop career paths.

Following a long illness, my husband passed away in 2009. I was there to support and comfort him; a difficult but also uplifting experience to be with someone at such an intimate and emotional time. In the years that followed, I spent time in England supporting my unwell sister, who ultimately passed away last year.

### A place to call home

After a period of grief, and in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was time to find a place called home. I settled in the Fleurieu Peninsula a few months ago.

I realised I needed to prepare a Will, and by coincidence, I saw an advertisement for a Salvation Army Community Wills Day at Victor Harbor and thought someone was sending me a little reminder!

The Community Wills Day was a very easy and communicative process, and I spoke with John Tobin - who runs the Wills and Bequest program for the Salvos in SA - a number of times before the Wills Day itself. My solicitor was friendly and knowledgeable which was also very comforting.



Interested in finding out more about The Salvation Army Wills Days?  
Scan the QR code to book today!



### Why leave a gift to The Salvation Army – it's about values

I looked into a number of organisations that I would consider leaving a Gift to in my Will. In particular, I wanted to choose an organisation that would validate the use of my legacy, and it was also extremely important that our values aligned.

While there is a very clear spiritual link with The Salvation Army, for me what is important is the everyday connection between the church and the community. It is real and practical and makes a very positive difference in people's lives.

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*I truly believe that the Salvos are a socially responsible and caring organisation that, as the name suggests, draw on a dedicated army of people to deliver the services that the most vulnerable members of our community need. That is why I have chosen to leave a bequest to The Salvation Army.*

- Jan

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## Sheila's marvellous legacy

Gobsmacked – that's one word that will come to mind when you hear about the generosity of Sheila Woodcock.

The Hunter resident, who lived a simple and unassuming life before passing away in 2018 at the age of 87, left behind a big surprise – a bequest of \$14 million in her Will to 15 community-based organisations. One of which was The Salvation Army.

Sheila, who gave to the Salvos regularly throughout her life, was a great believer in the culture of generosity. She always sought to support organisations that helped communities around her and across Australia.

According to Kent Woodcock, Sheila's cousin, executor of her Will and a keen philanthropist himself, Sheila was always particular about the charities she supported. She chose to share her fortune with organisations that were doing good work for others.

Major Mark Everitt, Salvation Army Area Officer for the Hunter and NSW Central Coast, said the gift of \$1.3 million was "overwhelming."

"We're grateful that Sheila has been so generous – not just in her passing but throughout her life. She has demonstrated a great sense of generosity and compassion that is quite extraordinary."

As per Sheila's wishes, the money gifted to The Salvation Army is being used to alleviate the issue of homelessness in the Greater Newcastle area.

A team of faith-based leaders and Salvos housing experts, aptly named the 'Crushing homelessness in Newcastle' team, meet once a month to map out ways to address some of the hardships faced by those experiencing homelessness in the area.

Sheila's bequest is also being used to provide accommodation in two houses for families experiencing homelessness (in partnership with the Matthew Talbot services in Wickham), construct a two-bedroom crisis house on the grounds of The Salvation Army's Eastlakes Corps, and employ case managers to help people take crucial steps towards living a more independent life.

Mark hopes Ms Woodcock is looking down in approval of The Salvation Army's efforts to "use the gift of her immense generosity as best as we can."

***Gifts in Wills are a wonderful way you can support the work of The Salvation Army in the community. If you would like to find out more about how you can leave a gift in your Will, please contact our team on 1800 337 082, or email us at [bequests@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:bequests@salvationarmy.org.au)***





## Kevin's wish

When Kevin was a young tradesman, he had an accident that resulted in the removal of some of his fingers. His trade was dependent on his manual dexterity, so the accident left him feeling low and dejected.

While recovering in hospital, Kevin was visited daily by a Salvos officer who provided friendship, encouragement and emotional support during one of the lowest points in his life.

Once recovered, Kevin was glad to be able to return to his trade, but never forgot the kindness of the Salvation Army officer who had supported him during his time of need. Having experienced first-hand the profound impact the work of The Salvation Army can have on people experiencing hardship, Kevin became an avid supporter of the Salvos from then on.


Sadly, Kevin unexpectedly passed away in early 2023 at the age of 66. His family, whom he loved above all else, were heartbroken by the sudden loss of their 'Kev' after he put up a courageous fight. He was a treasured husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather.

Kevin's parting wish was for his loved ones, friends and colleagues to make a donation to The Salvation Army in remembrance of him, rather than gifting flowers.

His wish raised over \$1000 for The Salvation Army – funds which ensure the Salvos will be there to provide care and restore hope where it's needed most.

Thank you, Kevin, for your kind and loving gift. Like you, it will be treasured.

**If you would like to leave a Memorial Gift to The Salvation Army in memory of a loved one, please contact our team on**

 **1800 337 082**

 **bequests@salvationarmy.org.au**

 **fundraise.salvationarmy.org.au**



**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**

 **bequests@salvationarmy.org.au**