

Honoured Friends

Update 2024

Thank you



A gift of hope will protect more women and children from violence

Hannah is the manager at Karratha Women's Refuge in the Pilbara. It is her dream that one day every woman fleeing violence could access safe housing in her town.

Right now, in the mineral-rich region of Western Australia, family violence is soaring. There is also a worsening rental crisis. Both are putting unprecedented demand on crisis accommodation services.

But in extraordinary news, The Salvation Army will soon open a new and much larger refuge to meet the need. And it's thanks to caring individuals who, like you, have left The Salvation Army a gift in their Will. Your legacy will be that vulnerable women and children will feel safe. They will get the support they need to start a new violence-free chapter.

Many women whom Hannah welcomes through the door are Karratha locals. But women arrive from all over Western Australia. "We only have four units," Hannah says. "Right now, we often get requests that we can't meet."

The current accommodation units are small one-bedroom units with kitchenettes. They are not ideal for women and children recovering from family violence. "We often have a family of five in one room with little privacy and space," Hannah explains.

"This is another challenge for them after the trauma they've experienced."

The new refuge will be much bigger. It will accommodate up to 10 families and four individual women.

"Each unit will have two or three bedrooms, so there will be no more families of five trying to live in one room. It's going to make an enormous impact – it will be amazing," Hannah says.

Hannah is so grateful for the caring Australians who choose to leave a gift in their Will.

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"If you have, or are, considering leaving a gift to The Salvation Army, I'd like to say thank you so much," she says. "Knowing people are thinking of us and the work we do warms my heart. It's a lovely thing to do and it's appreciated."

– Hannah,
Karratha Women's
Refuge Manager





Cairns Supported Accommodation Service Concept

Your gift could be a forever home for someone living in homelessness

For many people, tropical Cairns recalls relaxing holidays and visits to nearby rainforests and the Great Barrier Reef. But beyond the glossy postcard images, a severe housing crisis is pushing people into homelessness.

Locals with nowhere to go are being forced to live in their cars and tents. Hundreds of people are sleeping rough in the Cairns CBD. Crisis services are being inundated with pleas for help.

But now a special group of Salvation Army supporters are helping change the future for those without a roof over their heads. These wonderful supporters have all left The Salvation Army a gift in their Will, to the value of one million dollars. Now, with the help of these generous bequests, a modern housing hub will be built in Cairns. It will provide a permanent place to call home for some of the city's most vulnerable people.

The new hub will include 40 modern social housing units. They will be for single people aged over 25 who are at a high risk of long-term homelessness.

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“This new hub will provide people in need with immediate housing for as long as they need it. They will also receive wraparound case management support. Each unit can even be a forever home if the person wishes it to be.” – Aaron Pimlott, Homelessness Manager for Queensland

Aaron Pimlott is the Homelessness Manager for Queensland. He says the new housing hub will help fill “a massive gap”. “There is a bottleneck of people who are seeking to leave crisis accommodation for permanent homes,” he says. “There isn’t enough long-term housing for people who have fallen through the cracks.

For Queenslanders like Shelley, permanent housing is a second chance at life. Shelly had experienced family violence and was battling drug addiction. Then she lost custody of her children and became homeless. “The pain of that time will never leave me,” she says. “I was couch surfing and sleeping in the car. I had my kids ripped from me and had to do everything I could to get them back.”



Shelley had successfully completed rehab. Soon after, she was able to access permanent housing like that in the new Cairns hub. No longer using drugs and with a safe and secure home, Shelley could have her children back to live with her. “It is the biggest step

in rebuilding my life,” Shelley says. “It is having stability and being able to fill my home with things I love. The best thing is being able to come home with my kids to somewhere that’s mine.”

If you are considering a gift in your Will, Aaron wants you to know something important. “You will be creating something extraordinary, beyond your lifetime,” he says.

“Your gift is going into bricks and mortar. You are providing vulnerable people with housing for many, many years to come.

“When you leave this earth and put this gift into the world, your legacy continues on. I can’t thank you enough.”

A gift in Moira's Will is a legacy that will carry on her family values

Moira was raised in a close-knit Glasgow family. She learned early on the true meaning of compassion and the profound impact of giving. Throughout life's journey, those values have guided her most important decisions.

She has fond memories of growing up with a relaxed Christian faith. "We would walk to the local church and back on Sundays."



"Every Christmas, we'd go into George Square in Glasgow. The Salvation Army band would play and there'd be hymns and hot soup and rolls. It was perfection. My parents would put money in the Salvos tin."

– Moira, who is leaving a gift in her Will

When Moira was 18, she trained as a nurse in Glasgow. Soon after she met and fell in love with George, a chartered accountant. They married and in 1989, Moira and George emigrated to Australia and in 1995 they moved to Perth, Western Australia. By choice, they never had children and together they built a wonderful life.

Moira is grateful that she's had abundant love, financial security and safety in her life. She's aware that many in her community aren't so fortunate. "As a nurse and in my travels, I've met many people who are struggling," she says. "At times when my husband George was growing up, he also faced hardship."

She has always felt inspired by people who show compassion and courage in the face of adversity. She will never forget the faith and inner strength of a nurse friend back in Scotland who was facing hard times. She happened to be a Salvation Army soldier. "I admired her," Moira says. "She stood out."

That's why The Salvation Army was front of mind when Moira and George faced a tough time of their own. In the first few years after they arrived in Australia, George could not get a job. When he finally did, they were both filled with gratitude.



They had a deeper understanding of the suffering people endure. "As soon as George got the job, he called me. He asked me to make a \$1,000 donation to The Salvation Army to help others," Moira recalls.

In the decades since, Moira and George have continued to donate. It's a practical way to respond to the hardship and injustice they see in their own community. Moira goes for a brisk walk every day in her neighbourhood. As she looks around, she notices more people are struggling and so many are homeless. "I've seen people living in their cars," she says.

Knowing The Salvation Army is taking hope and practical support where it's needed most has inspired Moira to leave a gift in her Will. Her great hope is that she can help "narrow the divide" between those with and those without. She went to her solicitor for help to prepare a Will that could carry on the values and beliefs she holds so dear. "It's a natural thing for me to give and think of others."

The legacy Moira can have through her Will hit home recently as she was watching the news. In bushfires north of Perth, she saw Salvation Army workers on the frontline, helping people in urgent need. "I thought to myself 'That's one way I will be supporting people in crisis through my gift in my Will'."

Moira's decision to leave a gift in her Will also makes her feel close to her family. "My parents were always generous and would be so proud of my choice," she says.



"I have been very careful with our money and saved well," she says. "It's a natural thing for me to give and think of others."

– Moira, who is leaving a gift in her Will.

Honouring a storyteller – and his extraordinary gift



At 60, Robin Adair, a seasoned journalist, was in hospital for cancer treatment. It was a worry to be so unwell. Robin's serious illness had forced him into retirement.

One day, a Salvation Army soldier was visiting hospital patients. She was helping lift their spirits. That kind woman also got to know a bit of Robin's life story that day. As she left, she turned and said: "You will write more – a book this time... and it will be very good".

Incredibly, after Robin recovered, this prediction came true. His wife of 45 years, Julie Kusko Adair, recalls: "Robin was not a religious man. He initially dismissed her words, as every journalist wants to write a book, and most never do. But perhaps that Salvo had some divine insight. Because Robin went on to become a prize-winning author."

In the next two decades, Robin would publish three successful crime novels. It was the culmination of a passion for the written word that went all the way back to his childhood in 1940s Sydney. From a young age, Robin had been set on a journalism career. Even before he left high school he was writing stories for Sydney's major newspapers.

He went on to receive acclaim for his writing especially for his long-running humorous Round Robin Adair column in the Australian Women's Weekly.

He was acutely aware financial hardship and unexpected crises can happen to anyone. After all, he'd experienced it himself. Like many of his generation, life during the Depression and World War II was a struggle for Robin's family.

A time of food and job shortages was made even harder with a mother in and out of hospital. But the Salvos were there with comfort and practical support. It was something Robin never forgot.



"Every Christmas for as long as I can remember, even when money was tight, Robin would include among his gifts a donation to The Salvation Army." – Robin's wife Julie

Julie and his daughters Kristin and Sherry were not surprised that he decided to support The Salvation Army with a gift in his Will. He wanted to make a lasting difference to those struggling through homelessness, hardship and crisis.

Robin passed away in 2023, at age 87, after a long and fruitful life pursuing his writing passion. At The Salvation Army, we are so grateful for kind people like Robin and their families. It was such an admirable decision that will build lasting hope in our community.



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