

Your *Hope* in *Action*



YOUR REPORT FROM THE SALVOS AND THE PEOPLE YOU HELP

Winter 2023



INSIDE: how you...

...saved Judy
from homelessness

...helped a
community
in WA

...delivered
emergency
flood relief

...had an incredible
impact through the
Red Shield Appeal



My dear friend,

You are a true inspiration to us here at The Salvation Army, as we have the privilege of taking your generosity and hope to those struggling through the hardest of times.

The harsh reality is that the cost-of-living crisis is pushing more people than we have seen in years into poverty for the first time, and crushing those who were already struggling.

Thankfully, there is a bright light of hope shining through the darkness.

That hope is you.

In the face of this deepening crisis, there are good hearts like yours right across Australia who see heartache and suffering, and simply reach out and help.

For this, I can never thank you enough.

I hope you enjoy reading about the life-changing impact you are having in peoples' lives through the Salvos, and see that when we work together, truly amazing things can happen.

Thank you so much for helping us to bring hope, care and support to people who are struggling alone.

God bless you,

Rodney Walters (Colonel)
For The Salvation Army

You're the vital *connection* for mums like Judy

Right across Australia, the cost-of-living crisis is forcing more families than ever into severe hardship for the first time.

As a single parent of four children, life hadn't exactly been easy for Judy, but she had always found a way of getting by and providing for her kids. As she explains, "We weren't struggling. But then food prices went up, housing prices went up."

Then, out of the blue, Judy received an eviction notice from her landlord because they had decided to sell the property. Suddenly, Judy and her family were facing homelessness.

She tried desperately to find a new home for her family, but every housing application she submitted was unsuccessful. As she says, "I was looking at hiring a caravan and putting it in a friend's yard."

At this point, Judy was referred to the Salvos to receive the practical help people need when they find themselves in financial crisis.

“Without you, more people in need would be at breaking point.”
- Mark

Through support like yours, Mark at the Salvos was able to support Judy's housing application, make her case to a local real estate agent and guarantee two months' rent in advance.

Shortly after, thanks to you, Judy was approved for a new home.



“I look at the Salvos as a godsend. If it wasn't for them, I'd be in a caravan in someone's backyard.”

- Judy

The good news came not a moment too soon, as Judy explains. "Right before I was about to give up hope, I got a call from the real estate agent saying I'd been approved. The Salvos made that happen."

"I look at the Salvos as a godsend," she says.

"Because if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have my home. I wouldn't be sitting in my home enjoying the comforts of a house."

The cost-of-living crisis is hitting people like Judy so hard right now. In fact, over the last few months, we have reported an increase in the number of people coming to us for the first time.

As Mark says, "I've never seen the demand for help as high before. This is why we have the Red Shield Appeal, and why our supporters are so important. Without you, more people in need would be at breaking point."

Thank you so much for reaching out to bring practical help and hope for a brighter day into the lives of families like Judy's.

Thanks to you,
over the first three
months of 2023 alone...



More than \$4.4 million
in financial assistance
has helped people like
Judy weather the
cost-of-living crisis.



72,000
sessions of care
were delivered to people
affected by homelessness.

Thank you

for your amazing Red Shield Appeal support!



Right across Australia, far too many people are struggling alone through this crushing cost-of-living crisis. In response, we set an ambitious Red Shield Appeal target of \$37 million this year.

I'm overjoyed that big-hearted Salvos supporters like you have stepped up and given incredibly generously in support. Below you can read about the impact of your kindness in the words of three people whose stories we shared with you during the Red Shield Appeal.



Adam was struggling alone on the streets until your Salvos support changed his life.

“ You came to my rescue. ”
- Adam

Your wonderful support for our homelessness services helped Adam to leave life on the streets and begin rebuilding an independent life.

“The Salvation Army were the first people to show interest in me,” says Adam. “They really care. Step-by-step they helped me break away from the street, and they’re still keeping an eye on me. I am so grateful.”



Georgie was days away from becoming homeless – your Salvos support changed everything.

“ I’m blessed to have you in my life! ”
- Georgie

After being evicted from her home by landlords who wanted to cash in on its B&B potential, Georgie’s heart was filled with dread. Your support for our wonderful case workers brought the relief she needed.

“I’ll never forget the day Sue called and told me I had a home, that I was not going to be homeless,” Georgie recalls. “I was as happy as you could ever imagine! My whole life has turned around because of the Salvos. Thank you so much!”

“ You made me feel so welcome. ”
- Sharon

After using up their small savings trying to keep things afloat Sharon reached the point where she couldn’t afford to put food on the table, your support for our emergency relief work helped her get back on her feet.

“The Salvos opened up their arms, and opened their hearts,” says Sharon. “To feel that I wasn’t alone was a huge thing. Now I’m back on track with my rent and bills and I’ve got food on my table. I don’t know where I’d be without the Salvos.”



You were there with financial assistance when Sharon’s family could no longer cope.

Because of you...



Nearly \$197,000

in financial assistance was distributed in March to help people like Georgie; including gift cards, vouchers, food parcels and assistance with household bills.



4,100+ meals

a day were provided to people affected by homelessness like Adam.



12,500 people

like Sharon received financial counselling to help them stay on top of their finances.

Through you and the Salvos, nobody struggles alone.



Colonel Winsome Merrett and Salvos celebrity champions Joe Hildebrand, Jessica Rowe and Natalie Barr, meeting Prime Minister Albanese.

Red Shield Appeal: **“It’s what Australians do,”** says PM.

At the end of May, Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, joined other Salvos celebrity champions in a show of support for The Salvation Army’s annual appeal.

“This is a part of Australian history. It’s what Australians do,” he said while making the first donation of The Red Shield Appeal Weekend.

“They are very generous and the Red Shield Appeal is a chance for Australians to take up that principle that people don’t struggle alone. My mum, although she had nothing, would always give to the Salvos every time.”

Mr Albanese also shared his affection for the Salvos and why he felt this year’s appeal was particularly important.

“It’s a tough time, with global inflation having an impact. The good thing about the Salvos is that you know every dollar goes towards helping people.”

YOUR IMPACT IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

New services for struggling families...

thanks to you

Thanks to amazing supporters like you, Kwinana Salvos have just opened a new community centre and free café, providing locals doing it tough with a place where they can enjoy a free cuppa and cheese toastie, use the laundry facilities or access emergency relief.

Salvation Army Captain, Jodie Jones, is the driving force behind it. After speaking to the locals, she saw the urgent need for a place where vulnerable families and isolated Aussies could find support and reconnect with their community.

As Jodie explains, *“We’ve got young families living in cars coming in to get something to eat. We’ve got senior people who come along because they are lonely.”*

In every corner of Australia your continuing support is connecting more and more communities with the support they need in these tough times.



Captains Gavin and Jodie Jones, with WA Divisional Support Officer Major Peter Wood cutting the ribbon to open the community centre.



Thank you for always being there when disaster strikes



When devastating floods hit the far north of Western Australia in January, your Salvos support helped dedicated officers get there in a matter of hours.

Major Pam Marshall didn’t think twice, she jumped in her ute and drove through the water to deliver your help to those who needed it most.


“I drove from Karratha to Broome,” she said. “I could see water as far as the eye could see left and right of me. It was 40 centimetres deep in places.”

We don’t know when the next flood or bushfire will hit. But we do know that no matter where or when it happens, your generous support will get us there, to help Aussie families hit hardest.

“ We were looking after people who had lost their homes and were sleeping on the street. ”

- Major Pam Marshall
Salvation Army Western Australia

Thanks to your wonderful support, last year...

 **More than \$17 million** in financial aid was distributed to people impacted by bushfires, floods and cyclones.

 **Nearly 37,000** people who were at risk of or experienced homelessness were assisted by Salvos homelessness services.

How *your kindness* helped people through a tough year...



1.5 million+
meals provided
to people who
have accessed our
homelessness services.



1.86+ million
sessions of care
provided to people
struggling alone.



\$32 million+
of financial
assistance
provided to people
worst affected by the
cost-of-living crisis.



Every 17 seconds,
you help someone in
need through our national
network of support services.

303,000
sessions of
care provided



to people who were at risk of
or experiencing homelessness.



1 million+ nights
of safe accommodation
provided to people who
have experienced domestic
violence or homelessness.



16,790+ families
assisted who
were impacted
by natural disasters.

Thank you



Together, nobody struggles alone

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