

Your *Hope* in *Action*



YOUR REPORT FROM THE SALVOS AND THE PEOPLE YOU HELP

Summer 2025



INSIDE: How you...

...gave Sophie and Taylor
a home for Christmas.

...brought joy and safety
to families at Christmas.

...helped older
Australians in crisis.



Dear Friend,

A very warm welcome to your first *Hope in Action* report of 2025.

Inside you can read how, once again, you and the Salvos community came together over the festive period, to keep Christmas joy alive for thousands of people struggling through the current cost-of-living crisis.

Opposite you can read about the amazing impact your kindness had on Beth, who escaped domestic violence and experienced months of homelessness. Thanks to your support, we provided the Salvos wraparound care Beth urgently needed to make a fresh start.

We would also like to update you on our Winter and Christmas Appeals and how, thanks to compassionate support like yours, people like Sophie, Taylor and Phil, were able to get their lives back on track too.

Support like yours makes new beginnings possible for families and individuals experiencing hardship and crisis across Australia – and I can't thank you enough for your continuing belief in our work.

Colonel Rodney Walters
The Salvation Army

Thanks to You

Beth found a new beginning

As a result of domestic violence, Beth* was on the street for five months feeling lost and scared. However, kind support like yours helped give her a fresh start.

Like so many women who walk through our doors, Beth had found herself in an abusive and violent relationship. As she told us, *"He put my neck in a brace and I was actually bedridden for about 12 weeks. Once I was physically capable of doing so, I got out of the property. Because of the housing crisis, I wasn't able to find anywhere to live.*

I ended up in a refuge and was subject to a lot of violence from another person staying there. I was very depressed and scared. I felt very lost and I didn't know what was going to happen to me. I was on the streets and going through different refuges for about five months before I came into The Salvation Army service."

Finding hope

Beth found the support she urgently needed at the Salvos. Salvation Army Case Worker, Brodie, has been supporting Beth from the beginning... *"When Beth first came to us, we started with a lot of emotional support. We looked at appropriate accommodation together and talking about any goals that she has."*



A new beginning

Thanks to support like yours, we made sure Beth had somewhere safe to stay. It was here that she began to rebuild her life, and started studying for a new career.

"At last I had my own little apartment. I felt like I had somewhere safe. My aim is to be a support worker in the domestic violence sector and to help other women the way I have been helped. I wouldn't have been able to start the journey that I'm almost finished without this support."

Looking to the future

Today, thanks to your support, Beth is in a much better place.

"I just want to keep pushing for better, because I see things in such a different light now. I've healed so much inside me. Not only have the Salvos given me a home, they've given me so much more. I don't know where I would have ended up without them."

Thank you for making new beginnings like this possible.

“ The main things that anyone really needs are food, shelter and water, and the Salvos provided that, and a lot more. ”

- Beth

Thanks to your support, last year we provided...



123,000+ nights
of refuge/emergency accommodation



Support for 10,000+ women and children
experiencing family violence

“I don't think I could ever, ever thank The Salvation Army and the people who donate to the Salvos, enough. This makes me so emotional.”

- Sophie*

Home for Christmas...

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent Christmas Appeal.

Your generosity is truly life-changing for people like Sophie and her daughter Taylor, who have just enjoyed a family Christmas together in their new home.

When we met Sophie, she was couch-surfing with friends after escaping domestic violence. She was desperately trying to find somewhere safe for her and Taylor to live, but she was losing hope with every passing day.

Thanks to support like yours, we found mum and daughter a new home in time for Christmas. We also supported them with presents to put under the tree. This meant the world to Sophie.

Sophie has been through so much and come out stronger on the other side. And she has an important message for anyone who is experiencing domestic violence or homelessness, and may be losing hope...

“My story shows that you should never, ever give up. If I gave up a year ago, like I wanted to, I wouldn't have Taylor with me now. I wouldn't have this beautiful home. And I wouldn't be able to encourage others to just hang in there. Don't give up!”

You make stories of hope like this possible. Thank you!

Thanks to You

With your support during the Christmas period, The Salvation Army provided...



92,000+ nights of accommodation to people in need



\$1.8+ million in cash, gift cards and vouchers



184,000+ meals to those experiencing homelessness



330,000+ gifts and toys for families

*To protect Sophie and Taylor's privacy, their names and some details of their story have been changed.

Sharing the Joy of Christmas



At Christmas we were overwhelmed with support from the community who came together to organise Christmas gift and food drives across the country.

When so many families struggle to pay for essentials, Christmas gifts can seem like an impossible luxury. To help, members of the community rallied together to collect and distribute Christmas gifts and joy to struggling families.

Last year, our efforts focused not just on children, but also on gifts for teenagers and parents who

were surprised and so grateful to be receiving something for themselves too. These donations, whether they were toys, food or vouchers brought Christmas joy and relief to those who may not have received anything else.

Donations like this may have been the only gift a teenager received on Christmas morning. And for parents who really weren't expecting to receive anything themselves, a Christmas gift for them was a heart-warming surprise.

We want to say a big thank you to everyone who came together to help families in need last Christmas.

CELEBRITY AMBASSADOR

Why Sonia supports the Salvos

Dancing with the Stars host and longtime Salvos supporter, Sonia Kruger, gave our Christmas Appeal her full support.

As she said, **“Everyone deserves to have food on their plate and to be listened to when things are tough”.**

Christmas is Sonia's favourite time of year and she loves to share the joy of the holiday season with her nine-year-old daughter, Maggie. It breaks her heart to think of children and families going without food or gifts at Christmas. She also shared how important it is to her to teach Maggie about the spirit of giving and helping those in need too.

Thank you to Sonia and our wonderful ambassadors, who spread awareness of why they support the Salvos and why giving at Christmas time is so important and appreciated.



“ We need to look after the people within our communities who might be struggling and protect those less fortunate. This is the invaluable service the Salvos provide. They definitely inspire me with the work they do right across the country. ”

– Sonia Kruger

From crisis to Community

**“I belong
somewhere now.”**

- Phil*

Phil's relationship with the Salvos began with help in a crisis. Now the Salvos community is a big part of his life.

Last winter, we appealed for your support to help older Australians like Phil who are experiencing homelessness and isolation. We would like to say a very big thank you to all of you who responded so generously.

You may recall Phil spent six months living in his ute, surviving on baked beans he warmed on a camping stove. Thanks to the compassion and kindness of Salvos supporters, Phil found a home and so much more.

As his Salvos Case Worker Linda explains, Phil has become part of the family...

“We love Phil. He's a special part of our lives here. He's come from a place of being in despair and not knowing what's going to happen next, to having his housing sorted, and this strong sense of belonging, and family.”

Phil is a huge part of his local Salvos community now attending weekly men's Bible groups, community meals, and he is also planning to start using his carpentry skills to make toys and furniture to donate to the Salvos.

Thank you for helping Phil and for providing such a wonderful community to those who feel alone and isolated.

*To protect Phil's privacy, his name and some details of his story have been changed.

Volunteering as a family

Every Christmas, Julia volunteers at her local Salvos corps, sorting Christmas gifts to be distributed to families in need. She's also assisted by her enthusiastic daughters, Isabelle and Zoe.

Julia says volunteering and serving together has enriched the family more than she could have imagined.

As she says, *“The good thing about volunteering is that you don't need to have a lot to be able to give. It doesn't cost anything to sort out toys at the collection sites. But it gives the person volunteering so much satisfaction, and it blesses others in immeasurable ways.”*



A big thank you to Julia, Isabelle and Zoe – and all our Christmas volunteers who helped deliver the joy you bring.

We simply couldn't do what we do without our incredible supporters. Christmas is a tough time for so many, but thanks to every contribution no matter how big or small, The Salvation Army could be there to encourage those in need.



Coming Together in the aftermath of Christmas disaster

Fifty years on, we recently paid tribute to those who tragically died on Christmas Day in the Cyclone Tracy disaster in 1974. It was an opportunity to reflect on the resilience displayed by Darwin's residents, as they rebuilt their city and their lives, after 80 per cent of the city was devastated.

Despite not having an Emergency Services department at that time, the Salvos workers and volunteers were there supporting the evacuation of residents. Providing clothing and approximately 25,000 meals for Darwin residents and evacuees who lost everything in the most destructive cyclone ever recorded in Australia.

Learnings from the disaster shaped the way The Salvation Army prepare for and respond to emergencies, and this event was the catalyst that created the Emergency Services department that we have today. Thanks to support like yours, these life-saving services have been there ever since, and will be ready to provide emergency support again in the future.

GIFT IN WILL

A gift for Good



Moira learned early on the true meaning of compassion and the profound impact of giving.

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."

“ 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

That's why Moira and George have donated to the Salvos for many years. It's a practical way to respond to the hardship and injustice they see in their own community.

It's also why Moira decided to leave a gift in her Will to The Salvation Army. She knows that the Salvos will use her meaningful gift to provide hope and practical support where it's needed most.

By doing so, Moira's great hope is that she can help narrow the divide between those with and those without.

We're so grateful for our honoured friends who support us with a gift in their Will like Moira.

Thank you

for your generosity
and collaboration

We'd like to say thank you to all our community partners, and their staff and customers, for uniting with us last Christmas and bringing hope and new beginnings to thousands of Australians in crisis.

Some incredible contributions included:



Thank you



for giving new beginnings

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