



Te Ope Whakāora

your support in action

Reporter

2011 ISSUE 4



Bringing Christmas home

The Salvation Army is there for so many families at this time of year, helping to bring joy and hope into their lives at Christmas

Nia-Val first came to The Salvation Army for budget advice and was immediately struck by the openness of the staff, 'The people were genuinely nice; especially to the most unfortunate people who society often rejects,' she says. 'We can all come as we are.'

Nia-Val met her husband, Lokeni, at the centre, and the whole family soon became involved, helping with various programmes as well as serving coffee. 'We are passionate about people,' says Nia-Val. 'We wanted to do something to help those who are less fortunate.'

Coming up to the holiday season, however, Nia-Val's chronic asthma prevented her from providing for her family and she found that they were now the ones needing help. 'Money wasn't really there at Christmas time,' she says. 'I told the kids that they weren't going to get presents; but they're kids, they need

something at Christmas, even if it was just a new pair of summer shoes.'

The Salvation Army invited the family to a Christmas lunch at the centre. Workers also put them on the Adopt-a-Family programme, an initiative where members of the local community provide gifts and practical items for families at Christmas.

'I didn't tell my kids about the fact that they were going to get presents, so when it came time for the gift giving, they just got so excited,' says Nia-Val. 'And the gifts just blew us all away. Not only were they given things that fit their passions, we were able to buy them some new clothes as well, which took such a huge load off of our shoulders.'

Because of generous support from the community, Nia-Val's children each received a music player and a voucher to the local mall, which was used to buy the clothes.

'I was just so thankful, because no one knew where we were at that time,' she continues. 'No one would have known how much it meant to me that my kids were able to get something at

Christmas.'

'We were helped, so we want to continue to help others,' adds Lokeni. 'We aren't going to keep that to ourselves; we are going to show that to others.'

The Salvation Army distributed over 20,000 food parcels during the last holiday season, as well as helping meet the great emotional need for people to be free from the deeper challenges they face. This year will be no different, and it is thanks to supporters like you that we are able to be there for Kiwis during what should be a joyous time of the year.

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A year in review

Major Campbell Roberts, head of The Salvation Army social service programmes, reflects on what has been a trying year for the nation

It's been a tough year for New Zealand: the after-effects of the global financial crisis, the inquest into the Pike River Mine tragedy, the Canterbury earthquakes, and the grounding of the Rena off the Bay of Plenty Coast have all contributed to making 2011 a trying year for many people.

And the events of this year have been particularly difficult for those falling below New Zealand's poverty line.

From the initial devastation caused for Cantabrians by the earthquakes, The Salvation Army has been actively responding. Within 20 minutes of the earthquake on 22 February, the National Emergency Office of The Salvation Army was active; and since then Salvation Army staff and volunteers have provided practical help and comfort to people on the ground.

Following the initial emergency, The Salvation Army has supported tens of thousands of affected people, providing food assistance, welfare

support in schools and homes, financial aid, portable toilets and shower units, and respite holidays for hundreds of families. Work continues daily from our Earthquake Response Centre, with further plans to help build additional housing in Christchurch and provide skills training to those still without work.

The work surrounding a natural disaster is often publicly visible. Perhaps not so visible is the ongoing work of Salvation Army staff and volunteers who continue to respond every day to the situations of people impacted by other adverse social and economic conditions.

The range of the Army's response to New Zealanders in need is varied and far reaching. The material and financial support we supply helps families meet their basic living requirements, while employment training boosts work skills, and our home help service allows people to live independently in their own homes. Our reintegration assistance for offenders helps break the patterns of re-offending, and on every night of the past year, hundreds of New Zealanders have been sheltered through our housing and supportive accommodation programmes. We are also pleased to see that many families have been rescued

from financial or emotional breakdown through our budgeting and counselling services.

In the past 12 months, The Salvation Army has had the privilege to stand alongside fellow Kiwis in an effort to lift up individuals and families going through times of personal or national crisis.

The Salvation Army is aware that when it undertakes these tasks, it is often acting as a conduit of care and concern on behalf of individuals, communities and businesses. These people and organisations express their care by a donation or response to a Salvation Army appeal. In 2011, The Salvation Army has been privileged to be a link in the nation's chain of care, which has meant over 140,000 Kiwis have received a helping hand when they most needed it.

Next year, The Salvation Army will again stand alongside Kiwis in their diverse areas of need. Through our goal to take significant steps to eradicate poverty and injustice, The Salvation Army will strive even harder to be there for people when they need it most—whether that be in Christchurch, as families rebuild their lives, or in the many communities in which we operate.

Helping meet needs in Christchurch immediately after February's earthquake





The strength of family

Xenia came to The Salvation Army, broken and longing for help—what she found was a family

Eleven years ago Xenia found herself on a plane from Auckland, pregnant and with absolutely no idea where her life was heading.

A woman on the plane told her about The Salvation Army, and Xenia visited her local centre as she attempted to set up a new life on her own.

The Salvation Army initially helped Xenia get settled with food parcels and emotional support. When her son was born they also assisted with baby clothes, blankets and other practical assistance. 'They helped me out so much,' she says. 'I don't know where I would have been without them.'

Two years ago Xenia found that she required help in a different way. Her new relationship had turned violent, and she needed support to get back on her feet after choosing to end the relationship.

'In the last two years The Salvation Army has been there for me during a bad situation,' she says. 'They saw what happened and guided me along. And in the end, I got out of it with their help.'

'I love the saying, "Christianity with its sleeves rolled up",' she continues. 'They didn't carry me. They walked beside me—and that is a huge difference.'

After once again taking positive steps forward in her life, Xenia began volunteering at her local Family Store for an hour a couple of times a week. Two years later, Xenia is there every day.

'I work here with these people, and it's just like working with family,' she says. 'I

used to volunteer here just to get out of my house, but it's not that anymore; now it's just to be here with my family. It's a huge family, just an amazing family.'

Because of the assistance she received, Xenia now wants to help other women in domestic violence situations, helping them to believe in themselves and to become strong, beautiful women as a result.

“ They didn't carry me. They walked beside me—and that is a huge difference ”

Warehouse Stationery lends a 'Helping Hand'

Warehouse Stationery has again launched its 'Helping Hands' programme, raising funds for families that cannot afford to purchase their children's school supplies for the year. Customers can add a dollar or more to their bill in the lead up to Christmas, and from January customers will be able to purchase specially-designed eco-bags in store. Proceeds from the programme will be exchanged for stationery vouchers which are then distributed by Salvation Army centres to families in need.

Canterbury Earthquake Update

- 110,000** Homes visited*
- 13,496** Food parcels distributed
- 102,000** Meals at welfare centres*
- 4,392** Vouchers provided
- 3,441** Care Cards provided
- 281** Family Care Break holidays
- 67,000** Psychosocial hours*

*Based on official recorded statistics plus estimation of initial work during rescue phases

Thank you
for your
support
throughout
2011!

Lending a Hand this Christmas

No matter how big or how small, your contributions make a difference to those in need this Christmas

The holiday season is a busy time of year for The Salvation Army. Families find they need help managing their budgets before the Christmas rush, parents find they can't continue putting food on the table if they buy their children presents, and others find they have nowhere else to go and no one to share Christmas with.

This Christmas, The Salvation Army will again be in communities, providing assistance, support and joy to those in need over the holiday season. Our food banks will provide families with the basics for a Christmas dinner, Salvation Army Community Ministry workers will hand out gifts to children who would otherwise go without, and Christmas meals at some Salvation Army centres will allow people to experience a proper family meal together during the holidays.

Supporters, like yourself, have lent a hand to ensure those in our communities don't go without this Christmas. Here are a few examples of the many events that have run, or are running, which you have supported.

Early last month over 45,000 cans were donated to Salvation Army centres, just before the Christmas rush, from Wattie's Cans Film Festival.

The Bronz Toy Run in Auckland and the Bikers Toy Run in Wellington, earlier this month, will see hundreds of struggling parents able to give gifts to their children this year.

Generous donations from members



of the Auckland business community at our 'Hope at Christmas' breakfast have given our fundraising an extra boost. This support aids crucial Salvation Army services such as budgeting and counselling, which are in demand during the Christmas season.

The Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal and the Energizer 'Win One Give One' Appeal are currently running—further ways for the public to support and bring joy into people's lives.

No matter how big or how small, your contributions to The Salvation Army this Christmas are so valuable. It's because of your help that last year we were able to distribute over 20,000

food parcels, serve over 7,500 people at our community meals and provide 2,500 budgeting sessions. Alongside this, over 30,000 children received gifts that their families could otherwise not afford.

Whether you are an individual, a family, a small business or a large corporate, thank you for what you have done—and for what you are doing—to bring joy into your community this Christmas.

*From all the team at The Salvation Army:
God bless you and your families this Christmas.*

**Energizing the
Spirit of Giving**



WIN ONE, GIVE ONE.

Buy any specially marked Energizer battery pack from 1st November to 31st December 2011 and you could win!

With every gift won, the same gift will be given to The Salvation Army to distribute to under privileged Kiwis.

We're giving away grocery vouchers, petrol vouchers, Wii consoles, digital cameras and more!

Just enter the unique code on the back of the sticker at www.winonegiveone.co.nz and find out if you're a winner!

Energizer

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Remember us in your Will