



## The whole package

When Susan experienced a crisis in her life, she knew she could turn to the Sallies

Susan's first contact with The Salvation Army was when the local Sallies officer (minister) married her and her husband. It wasn't until years later that she realised how important that connection would be.

Eight years ago Susan found herself battling with mental illness, which affected her and her family immensely, leading them to seek help. So it was then that she came back to The Salvation Army.

'I was going through some very dark times,' says Susan, 'and someone recommended that I come to the Sallies for help because it was an open and inclusive place.'

Susan received counselling as well as budgeting sessions and the occasional

food parcel to help at home. The Sallies also helped Susan's son with rugby gear, which the family otherwise could not have afforded, through a Sports Trust set up through the centre.

'The Sallies have been very helpful and very supportive in a lot of ways,' says Susan. 'They have helped with the whole package. But more than anything else they have helped me with dignity and respect. I have never felt that I was anything other than an equal to the people I was talking to.'

Susan began volunteering at the Sallies centre and was offered a part-time job two years ago sorting donated goods for the Family Store. She finds the work helps to keep her stable and is very rewarding.

'I never imagined even five years ago that I would work here, but it's such a wonderful environment,' says Susan. 'Even now when my mental health isn't good, it's an ideal place to be because the

people here understand and can help me through the hard days.

'Quite often when I'm working I realise why I'm here,' she continues. 'I'm here to do a job, but I get the opportunity to help other people, to encourage them and to support them. I couldn't imagine being able to be a part of something that could be any more rewarding than this.'

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### Inside:

Café initiative builds community

Sallies help in dark days

Wattie's and Kmart lend a hand

A Salvation Army update

## Building community

### Community spirit soars through unique Salvation Army café initiative

The Gore Salvation Army has been operating as a small church and community service centre for the past 125 years; and the mission hasn't changed: 'to be the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in the Gore community.'

'Gore is [at times] a place for people on the move to stop, step back and have a rest before moving on again,' says Captain Avis Owen, church leader and Community Ministries (centre) coordinator.

Four years ago The Salvation Army began leasing a new space for The Salvation Army Family Store, quickly finding they had more space than they could fill. It was then that the idea for a unique community café was born.

'I can remember walking into the new location and thinking, "What in the world are we going to do with all this space?"', says Avis. 'So we decided we should do something a little different—something that would help build the community in Gore.'

Kay, a Salvation Army community worker, developed the idea of having a community café inside the Family Store where people could chat, have a cuppa and rest their feet between shopping ventures. The café began hosting gatherings fortnightly before moving to weekly because of its success. Tables and chairs were donated by a local supermarket, and baking is lovingly prepared each week by a woman at the centre.

'The community café is more than just a service, and it's more than just an outreach into the community,' says Avis. 'It's actually our folk communicating with people at their own level, reaching people in a real way, in a safe environment. They're yakking and they're listening.'

In the aftermath of the Christchurch Earthquake on 22 February, the community café was available for people who had family members in Christchurch or who had evacuated from Christchurch.

'Most days, folk came through. Some just sat and talked, others just had a cuppa and watched the TV that we had

on in the shop,' says Avis. 'It was obvious that most just wanted some company or someone to talk to.'

The community café has also become an entry point into other services offered by the centre. Many people attend the four cooking classes run each year, intended to give practical, healthy food advice to people living on a tight budget. The preserving three-week course is a favourite, with each participant given recipes and a voucher for seeds and garden supplies upon completion.

'The community café has become a vehicle through which we can communicate with people and then go on to help them where they need it or just be their friend,' says Avis. 'It's the networking that makes this different and that keeps it going.'

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*The community café in Gore is just one of the many initiatives developed by The Salvation Army to meet the unique needs of individual communities throughout New Zealand*

Family Store assistant Julie and Family Store manager Wendy help out in the Gore Family Store





## A lesson in changing

When Steph found out she was pregnant, she knew she needed help to turn her life around

Steph started taking drugs and alcohol as a release because of her difficult home life. She quickly spiralled into a chaotic lifestyle that included run-ins with the law, abusive relationships and custody battles for her three children.

Steph moved city in hopes that she could improve her situation, and when she found out she was pregnant again last year, she knew that she needed to change for good.

'I had gone a bit crazy, but the week before Easter I found out I was pregnant and just said, "No, that's it. I have to give it all up," says Steph. 'The girl I was staying with basically told me that if I was going to give up pot I couldn't live there any more because she couldn't

handle it. So she kicked me out.'

Steph knew that it was the right decision, but found herself struggling in the new city, pregnant and with no one to turn to. 'I was basically walking around wondering what in the world I was going to do,' she says. 'So I walked into The Salvation Army just in tears because I didn't know where else to go.'

A counsellor at the Sallies helped Steph find temporary accommodation while she attended the Bridge Programme, a Salvation Army drug and alcohol addiction treatment centre. Upon completion the counsellor also found her rental accommodation where she now lives.

'I will never forget the day I walked in there. That was my saviour day,' says Steph. 'I love being clean. I didn't know this side of life. Never. It has always been addiction, and I thought that was normal. But now when I look back at it, I don't

want to go back to that. That was chaotic. It was out of control. I had nothing.'

Steph is beginning a small business course this year and one day dreams of being a chef and owning her own café.

'I put a lot of thanks into The Salvation Army because they supported me so much,' says Steph. 'It was just open arms right from day one. They don't judge; they're like family.'

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## Wattie's aims for one million cans

Wattie's will once again partner with The Salvation Army for the Wattie's Cans Film Festival on 9 November. Cinemas throughout the country will offer movie showings for a can donation that will go to families in need that present to The Salvation Army. Last year 22,607 cans were collected, which was matched by Wattie's—meaning The Salvation Army received 45,214 cans. This year will see the millionth can donated through the Wattie's Cans Film Festival.

## Kmart annual appeal to gift Christmas toys

Tuesday, 15 November, will see the launch of the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal. Twelve Kmart stores throughout the country will once again collect new toy donations, which will then be given to children through Salvation Army centres at Christmas. Responses from children prove how much receiving a gift meant to them and their families. Last year an overwhelming 29,506 toys were collected, and both The Salvation Army and Kmart are looking forward to the success of the programme again this year.

Salvation Army community support for the 12 months ending 30 June 2011:

More than **120,000** people helped

**68,750** Food parcels distributed

**137,493** Bed nights provided

**28,347** Community meals served

**27,544** Alcohol and drug addiction treatment sessions provided

**27,588** New clients and families received food assistance

**8,382** Budget counselling sessions provided

## Looking back and moving ahead

Major Robbie Ross provides an update on the Christchurch earthquake response and The Salvation Army's work in 2011, while looking ahead to the upcoming Christmas demand

Friends, this year has presented our country with many difficulties, giving The Salvation Army the opportunity to again rise to the challenge of supporting New Zealanders and their families.

After the February earthquake, The Salvation Army dedicated increased support to the people of Christchurch. We provided physical and emotional help through the distribution of food parcels, psychosocial support, vouchers and other initiatives; and still today we remain committed to being there for Cantabrians for as long as it takes.

As our focus moves toward long-term needs in Christchurch, I want to thank you for the part you have played so far. Through funds raised The Salvation Army recently purchased 20,900 chemical toilets and delivered community shower blocks to hard-hit neighbourhoods. We are also in the initial stages of a school programme, to provide hot lunches, emergency kits and welfare workers to students in Christchurch's eastern suburbs.

Much of The Salvation Army's efforts have been concentrated in Canterbury, but with the movement of Christchurch residents to other regions, extra pressure has also been placed on our resources throughout the rest of the country. Our centres are consistently in demand as people in your communities also continue to access our services in higher numbers—and we need all the help we



Major Robbie Ross chats to people on the streets of Christchurch

can get to cope with the ongoing needs of New Zealand.

With Christmas just around the corner, The Salvation Army will continue to see an increase in the need for our services across the board. Last year we supported families by distributing 14,707 food parcels in the Christmas quarter, and considering the events of this year, the figure is expected to be just as high, if not higher. Two initiatives that will help ease the burden on families in need at this time include the Kmart Wishing

Tree Appeal and the Wattie's Cans Film Festival.

Moving forward into the remainder of the year, I thank you warmly for the impact you have made. As we continue to provide a hand up to help people out of difficult situations, we urge you to continue walking right alongside us. And if your record is anything to go by, we know you're up to that challenge.

**Major Robbie Ross**  
Territorial Public Relations Secretary

## YOUR LEGACY CAN HELP THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

For over 125 years The Salvation Army has been supporting New Zealanders in need and helping build better communities for us to live in. We want to continue doing this for many years to come: but we can't do it alone.

Write to: **The Salvation Army, Free Wills Booklets, PO Box 27001, Marion Square, Wellington 6141**  
Freephone: 0800 53 00 00 or visit: [salvationarmy.org.nz](http://salvationarmy.org.nz)



## Giving back

**Three ways to donate ...**

Visit [salvationarmy.org.nz](http://salvationarmy.org.nz)  
Call **0800 53 00 00**  
Remember us in **your Will**