



Te Ope Whakaora

your support in action Reporter

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Credit: Eastern Courier / Sarah A. ...



Recession bites hard

Like a growing number of clients coming to The Salvation Army since the recession, Chris Clark once lived a relatively comfortable life. The father of three earned a respectable salary as a technical designer of aluminium joinery and owned his own home. But then a string of tragedies and misfortunes intervened.

Chris's mother passed away after a period of prolonged illness, his father died of leukaemia shortly after, and his brother committed suicide. Then the recession added to the family's grief. They lost their savings in a finance company collapse, putting immense pressure on the family budget. Then Chris was made redundant.

Chris says his doctors suspect the prolonged stress contributed to his partial loss of sight, which prevents him from returning to the workforce.

Now unemployed and with rent consuming nearly two thirds of the family income, Chris says the transition from main breadwinner to beneficiary has been immensely stressful and, at times, soul-destroying.

'All of these pressures accumulate—the pressure becomes constant,' he says. 'If it wasn't for The Salvation Army, I don't know where we would be—we would probably be pretty well stuffed.'

The Salvation Army provided Chris and his wife with budget counselling and provided food parcels and paid an overdue power bill to ease the pressure on the household budget. The most important contribution, he says, is ongoing practical advice and moral support.

At Christmas, The Salvation Army provided a food hamper and presents for Chris's children. As he was becoming increasingly worried about being able to provide Christmas for his family, as well as meet the looming costs of sending two teenage boys and his daughter back to

Chris Clark and his youngest child, Alexandra

school in January, this was a 'Godsend'.

'At Christmas morning, to see the kids' eyes light up, even me and my wife were slightly tearful,' Chris says. 'We've actually made it through Christmas and we're actually having quite a good time—it's hard to explain how good that was.'

Salvation Army Secretary for Social Services Major Pam Waugh says the post-Christmas period is a particularly hard time for clients with school-age children. With the payment of school fees, uniforms and books at the start of the school year, parents on a subsistence income are under intense pressure to meet these costs.

Thanks to your help, The Salvation Army's community support for the year to September 2012 included:

55,056 Food parcels distributed

134,712 Bed nights of specialist accommodation provided

19,035 Community meals served

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Committed to Canterbury

Salvation Army officers, soldiers, staff and volunteers—particularly local personnel that suffered property damage and personal disruption—continue to respond with energy and commitment to earthquake recovery work in Christchurch.

The Army's practical and highly visible work following the devastating earthquakes encouraged public donations of \$18.3 million to The Salvation Army Canterbury Earthquake Appeal. Around \$8 million has been spent to date on welfare support, including food, clothing, furniture, vouchers and Care Cards for the financially strapped.

A Salvation Army initiative is training unemployed people to gain work in reconstruction of the city. The full-time, six-week programme called U Build 4 The Rebuild provides unemployed Cantabrians with entry-level qualifications for roading and underground infrastructure work. Most graduates are finding work in the sector.

With an aim of building resilience in school communities, The Salvation Army's School Programme is supporting 16 schools in suburbs hardest hit by



Photography: Christchurch Star / Geoff Sloan

Anya Roberts, 10, and Canterbury Aero Club instructor Nick Leith prior to take-off during a Salvation Army School Programme activity

earthquakes. Our school support workers arrange practical assistance such as food, clothing and bedding for families as well as counselling and social work services. They also organise children's holiday programmes and regular recreational activities.

The Salvation Army has been part of the fabric of the city of Christchurch

since the late 1800s. Serving its people will remain high on our agenda for the foreseeable future. To respond to the different and often complex needs of the communities that make up Christchurch, we are developing an integrated holistic approach on the front line to meet the needs of those seeking help.

Giving starts young



Ollie, in front, with NZ Army personnel, The Salvation Army's Public Relations Coordinator David Smith and Major Wendy Barney, and Julian Hopkins, Kmart Porirua Store Manager

Collecting 200 gifts for other kids at Christmas started with Ollie chatting to his mum about why some children don't get presents. 'For all the people who don't get anything at Christmas, I wanted to give them something,' says 10-year-old

Ollie. Through friends at The Salvation Army in Tawa, Ollie decided to collect gifts for the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal.

Six hundred fliers and a school newsletter later, along with 'Mum telling everyone she knows', Ollie had

collected over 200 gifts. 'The reaction was amazing,' he says. 'People were keen to give, especially kids. Lots of my classmates wanted to give.' The gifts were taken to the local Kmart in Porirua by NZ Army personnel, who also donated gifts to the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal.

'The best thing was reflecting on Christmas morning and knowing I'd helped. We met heaps of lovely people, we exceeded our goal, but most importantly, we got to help people that would have normally missed out.'

Ollie says his school mates are already talking about doing more next Christmas. 'If everybody does their bit and helps out a little then it is bound to be a success.' His advice to kids thinking about doing something in their community is 'Go for it!'

Generous New Zealanders donated over 28,500 gifts to the nationwide Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal. The Salvation Army very much appreciates the support of Kmart over the last 18 years and those who joined in the spirit of giving.



Leaving a lasting legacy

Following on from a long career as a forensic psychiatrist, Dr Joan Chappell Mathias continues to help New Zealanders through her generous ongoing support of The Salvation Army.

Living by the motto of being 'direct, open, honest or silent', Joan's focus has not just revolved around doing her job. Throughout her long life she has also been dedicated to helping people in need in the community.

Now aged 90, Joan came to New Zealand from Britain in 1970 and has worked as a psychiatrist in forensic, alcohol and drug addiction and hospice fields. With a special interest in helping people who have had unhappy childhoods, she learned about psychodrama, a way to explore life

situations through dramatic enactment.

In 1986, Joan helped establish the Christchurch Institute for Training in Psychodrama. After moving to Tauranga in the early 1990s, Joan continued to supervise and mentor trainees in psychotherapy.

Stemming from her respect for the work of The Salvation Army, Joan decided some years ago to make a bequest to the Army in her Will. Salvation Army Wills and Bequests Co-ordinator Brian Smith says Joan's relationship with the Army has grown since then, enabling her to become involved in the work the Army does in the community.

'Our parenting programmes teach people the skills needed to raise their children,' Brian says. 'When the Army was establishing a parenting programme at The Nest in Hamilton, Joan made a

The Hon Dame Silvia Cartwright awarding Joan the Queen's Service Order

sizable donation to help set it up.'

'Knowing that finding running expenses for work like this is a challenge, Joan then provided an ongoing sponsorship for the programme. She has also shared her expertise with counsellors and staff on her visits to The Nest.'

In recognition for her work in the community, Joan was awarded the Queen's Service Order in the New Year's Honours List in 2006. Her Excellency The Hon Dame Silvia Cartwright presented her with the honour at Government House.

Brian says Joan is a truly valued member of the army behind the Army. 'By including The Salvation Army in their Wills, supporters like Joan can continue to help other New Zealanders long after they've gone,' he says.

'By partnering with us through bequests, they help us do the things we do.'

Helping local communities

Over the busy Christmas season, New Zealanders around the country helped out their communities in a myriad of ways. On 7 November, Kiwis swapped a can of food for a movie ticket at the annual Wattie's Cans Film Festival. With Wattie's matching the number of cans donated, a total of 43,064 cans helped to stock up our food banks for the heavy pre-Christmas demand.

For the second year running, Countdown stores donated \$80,000 of food to our food banks. Shoppers at the supermarkets also donated nearly \$49,000 of food in specially marked trolleys, along with \$20,000 in cash.

Customers at Warehouse Stationery bought distinctive lime green and candy pink carry bags. One dollar from each sale saw \$8,600 of vouchers donated for families struggling to pay for children's school supplies.

Other Salvation Army supporters included customers of Kmart, Smiths City and Bunnings who donated gifts, food and cash. Flaming Rhino donated a percentage from Christmas card sales at Whitcoulls and Paper Plus.

Thank you—your contributions helped us to provide essential practical support to Kiwis in need over a stressful time of the year for many families.



The Salvation Army Annual Report 2012 provides a snapshot of our work with people in need throughout the country.

Go to salvationarmy.org.nz/annualreport to download a copy.



An arduous new year

Kylie Tong from The Salvation Army's West Auckland Community Ministries helps a family choose school supplies at Warehouse Stationery in Henderson

Post-Christmas is one of the busiest times for The Salvation Army as families on subsistence incomes confront the costs of sending their children back to school.

Operations Manager of The Salvation Army's West Auckland Community Ministries Rhonda Middleton says the New Year is a time of great stress for low-income families. She says they are already dealing with the constant worry of keeping spending to the absolute minimum, and now need to consider how they will pay for school fees, uniforms, stationery and the other costs associated with sending kids back to school.

'Families who are living financially precarious lives often find the approach of the new school year a very distressing time,' she says. 'For families who effectively have little or no disposable incomes and are desperately trying to reduce debt, the start of the school year

can be potentially catastrophic.'

Support from Warehouse Stationery, which provides vouchers for Salvation Army clients, and the JR McKenzie Youth Education Fund which can help with the cost of school uniforms, goes some way to easing the pressure on clients.

Targeted pre-Christmas support, such as the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal, Adopt a Family, Christmas hampers and other assistance has helped to reduce the financial impact of Christmas on clients, leaving them better prepared to meet the back to school costs.

But despite clients and Salvation Army social workers and budgeters' best efforts, insufficient income means some clients run out of options.

Since Christmas, two women, who with their children, were living in cars have approached West Auckland Community Ministries for help.

A number of clients are also applying for the withdrawal of KiwiSaver funds to keep creditors at bay.

Rhonda says even the most disciplined clients, including the 40 per cent of her budgeting clients who are employed, find it difficult to avoid debt.

The primary problem is the high rents, which means families either commit to a rent that eats up to 75 per cent of their income or they live in substandard and unhealthy housing, often cramming two or more families into one dwelling.

Another disturbing trend, she says, is the rising number of middle class families coming to The Salvation Army for assistance.

Your donation can help bring hope to distressed Kiwi families.

Three ways to give ...

Online at salvationarmy.org.nz

Call **0800 53 00 00**

Remember us in **your Will**

Include The Salvation Army in your Will

So we can continue to help other New Zealanders long after you're gone

To find out how you can help us to help others, ask for your free Wills and Bequests booklets:

- Call 0800 53 00 00
- Write to The Salvation Army, Free Wills Booklets, PO Box 27001, Marion Square, Wellington 6141
- Email wills@nzf.salvationarmy.org

