

Together

Spring 2019

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



Te Ope Whakaora



▲ KARA WITH HER MENTOR ROBERT

You're Driving Change

Anyone who has sat a driver licence test will be able to understand the fear of failure. Christchurch Salvation Army Driver Mentoring Programme Manager, Keran Tsering, says fear of failure is precisely the reason clients approach them for help getting their licence.

‘They hear the stories of how hard the test is—a lot of people say the reason they don’t have their restricted is financial, but in reality, they wouldn’t risk the money because they wouldn’t pass.’

The Christchurch Driver Mentoring Programme has been running for five years and has an exemplary result rate; one hundred percent of clients gain their restricted licences.

The programme is a New Zealand Transport Agency initiative and, in Christchurch, is supported by Proactive Drive Trust, the New Zealand Police, Hyundai Gary Cockram Motors, and this year, the Christchurch City

Council has offered some support through their Road Safety fund.

Add to this the 80–90 percent of clients who then go on to get their full licence, and the impact of the programme is obvious; lives are truly transformed.

While many of the course participants can drive a car, Keran says they don’t know the road rules or how to drive safely. Many are self-taught.

‘They have a misunderstanding of the rules, and they’re not driving safely on our roads.’

The success of the programme is largely down to the work put in by driving mentors, who take clients for two lessons each week. Not only do they teach skills, but they also journey alongside the learners as their confidence increases.

‘They don’t just take them out for a lesson like a private provider does; they go on a journey with them; as clichéd

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as that sounds, we do transform their lives,' Keran says.

One of the first tasks is taking stock of just where the course applicant is at with their driving. This is conducted in a safe environment with driving instructor Mike Clark, and with the mentor.

'We get into the car with them and they say, "I'm a really good driver". Well, no, they're not!'

... 80–90 percent of participants were on a benefit when they started and two years after gaining their licence, 80 percent of them now have jobs.

The 12-week course teaches new habits, removes old habits, and instils positive imprints like introducing the essential safety pattern of the 'mirrors, indicating and shoulder checks', or MIS for short.

The programme has also been working with those affected by the March 15 mosque shootings in Christchurch. Families whose whānau members—often the sole providers—were killed or injured, are learning to drive out of necessity.

Keran says they come with their own experiences of driving, often in crowded countries, and this presents a particular challenge.

'None of them have had formal instruction, and they have generally been taught by someone who learnt overseas. They struggle with spatial awareness.'

The programme is as much about instilling confidence as it is about the end goal of gaining a driver licence, as evidenced by newly-licenced Kara Marsden-Walker.

As a mother of five children, ranging in age from 3 to 15, Kara had her learner's licence but struggled to find time to

get her restricted. She read about the programme in her local paper and thought it could be just the thing to help her achieve her goals.

'I was confident on the road but needed to work on the rules.'

Kara had a lesson twice a week for one and a half months. After that, Keran suggested Kara sit the test.

'I was freaking out because I thought I needed more time than that—they had more confidence in me than I did in myself.'

But she aced the test and is rapt she can now drive her children legally.

'I'm now driving legally; I can drive any hour of the day and anywhere, and I now know the correct rules on the road.'

Keran says the scheme has created further opportunities; 80–90 percent of participants were on a benefit when they started, and a recent survey revealed that two years after gaining their licence, 80 percent of them had jobs.

A further 13 percent reported they felt so good that they had decided to finish their schooling.

'We didn't set out to do this, but these are the indirect benefits.'

Keran is especially grateful to the volunteers who take lessons with the drivers twice a week.

The scheme has trained more than 120 mentors and is always needing more.

'They're the key to our success,' Keran says.

'We look after the learners, but we really, really, love our mentors.'

We are expanding our programme across the West Coast and Canterbury, and would like to see it go even further with the help of supporters like you, who believe in our mission to transform lives long term.

Offering Project

Music has always been a rich part of The Salvation Army's culture, and now *Offering* presents a collection of twelve gospel hymns—which have provided comfort and peace for centuries—performed by some of New Zealand's top recording artists.

Proceeds from the sale of this CD go to The Army's work helping those in need, with each artist contributing their work at no charge and all future royalties waived.

The musicians involved include Dave Dobbyn, Tami Neilson, Don McGlashan, Stan Walker, Kimbra, Sol3 Mio and Maisey Rika. Many thanks to Murray Thom for his vision in pulling this project together.

Purchase your copy now at mightyape.co.nz or email: mailorder@salvationarmy.org.nz and receive two copies in your pack—one for you to enjoy and one to gift to friends or family.





Always *In service since 1883* there

The Salvation Army recently launched a new catch cry of 'Always There', reflecting on 136 years of service in New Zealand and more recently Fiji, Tonga and Samoa.

The meaning of this phrase is two-fold; it shows that we've been here for New Zealanders since 1883 as a trusted part of the community, and that we're always here for people today—regardless of their circumstances.

View our timeline at salvationarmy.org.nz/alwaysthere



New York Marathon

1 November 2020

For some people it's been a life-long dream to take part in the world's largest and most prestigious marathon, the New York City Marathon.

The Salvation Army, in conjunction with Inspired Adventures, is giving you the opportunity to be part of this fundraising event next November—supporting our Aspire Youth Development Programme.

You'll join more than 50,000 other participants from around the world on this fun 42km marathon, which winds through the five boroughs of NYC—Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Manhattan, finishing in Central Park.

The 2020 TCS New York City Marathon will take place Sunday, November 1, 2020. Find out how you can be involved at salvationarmy.org.nz/NYM



From the Desk of the Territorial Commander

Welcome to the Spring edition of our *Together* newsletter, which serves to inform valued donors like you about how your support directly helps those in need in the community.

There are some great articles in this edition, from our new Auckland housing initiative to the impact of our Driver Mentoring Programme in Christchurch, our fantastic *Offering* project and Winter Appeal outcomes.

We owe it to you and the wider community to be transparent about how we work, how our funds are used and what is the true social impact of our community services.

But it's even more important for me to say **thank you**, to make it clear that the outcomes we achieve—whether it be providing Kiwis with urgent support or longer-term, transformative care—are only made possible because of your generosity.

We see this as a partnership, and I hope you do as well. By working together we can affect positive change and 'go to war' on poverty.

It's not always easy to look at the bigger picture—at the collective impact of our frontline work every day, helping individuals with budgeting, counselling, housing and food support—but we know for every person we help out of poverty, they have the chance to become a productive member of society.

Imagine a country without The Salvation Army there to provide a helping hand. I couldn't imagine it, but thankfully we're here to stay—and to continue to work alongside you and other New Zealanders to make Aotearoa a better place for all.

Thank you and God bless you.

Andrew Westrupp, Commissioner
Territorial Commander, The Salvation Army
New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa

Thanks for Supporting our Winter Appeal

Rest assured that every gift we receive, no matter the size, combines to make a huge difference to those in need. Whether it's \$10, \$20, \$50 or more, it is vitally important in funding staff and services.

Jono Bell, Territorial Director of Community Ministries, knows first-hand about the difference contributions to our appeals, such as the recent Winter Appeal, make throughout New Zealand. Our centres provide so many of the immediate support services and are at the heart of our work.

He says '... your donation is meaningful, not just to The Salvation Army but more importantly, to the people that we help—and that together we can help change people's lives for the better.

'And this change doesn't happen overnight, it can take years of hard work and developing trust.

'I worked with a man who had been on the streets for over two years. He was incredibly shy and came to us for our shower and kitchen facilities. One time he cooked up some fish he had found in the bin—he wasn't even worried about food poisoning; he was so hungry.

'We would start simple conversations about what it might be like for him to have his own place. He was estranged from his children, isolated from society and had mental health issues, so a little flat was an unimaginable idea.

'After a long time peeling back the layers and working through a number of steps, we were able to help him into a place. He eventually felt comfortable to engage socially and he would volunteer at one of our centres. We discovered that he used to carve, so we asked him to help with a carving for our reception area.

'This led to him reconnecting with another organisation for carving and artwork—he started a training course working towards a qualification. This process took more than a year, it's not a quick, linear process.

'The journey of this man, and of many others, is only made possible thanks to your support, so thank you.'

Jono Bell

Territorial Director of Community Ministries



▲ DR MARK HOTU

Health Clinic Trial

Thanks to your support this winter, The Salvation Army was able to trial a free doctor's clinic in Waitākere.

The clinic operated over the four weeks of the Winter Appeal, run by Dr Mark Hotu of home-visiting service, New Zealand Home Doctors. Dr Hotu says that extreme poverty is behind people not seeing their GP.

Conversations with many of our clients had highlighted the difficulty beneficiaries and low-income earners have in accessing health care.

'When it comes down to putting food on the table or getting your blood pressure medicine, what would you choose?,' Dr Hotu says.

He is concerned that when people are feeling ok, they don't go back to their GP for monitoring of conditions such as high blood pressure or diabetes, and this can lead to heart attacks and strokes.

Waitākere Community Ministries Director, Jason Dilger, says the appointments were fully booked, with many being rough sleepers who were susceptible to the cold.

Jason says cost is the main factor in people not going to see a doctor, and a concern is that small ailments like a cough can worsen if they are not treated early.

'Having a clinic at a centre where people already come to get help—including food parcels, budgeting advice and counselling—meant staff were able to identify those who could benefit from a visit with Dr Hotu.'

Being able to provide access to a doctor is another important way we are looking after the welfare of our clients. Supporters like you made this clinic trial possible.

Read the full article at salvationarmy.org.nz/together



Pub Booming

Chances are that if you have frequented drinking establishments over the years, you've come across a Salvation Army Officer armed with a copy of *War Cry* magazine and a collection box, offering support and asking for donations towards their community work.

Pub Ministry, or 'Booming' has been practiced by The Salvation Army since its beginnings in East London in 1865.

While it's not as common in New Zealand today, for many people it was their first interaction with the Sallies.

Stan Harris hasn't had an alcoholic drink in his life. While some might feel intimidated stepping into public bars around Christchurch as a 'boomer', for Stan his 55 years' involvement in pub ministry was a calling he felt compelled to answer.

Working as a mechanic and then a stationery salesman, Stan set out to earn his living, support his growing family, and carry out his ministry around Christchurch hotels.

Stan was just 21 when he began visiting pubs every Friday night. Beginning in the 1950s, the time of the '6 o'clock swill', Stan straight away put into practice The Salvation Army ethos of meeting people on their own terms without prejudice.

'I'd get to know their names and ask how they're getting on; the majority of people are open and receptive—some came out with quite surprising things.'

Stan says that, while most people were welcoming, he did have the odd encounter with angry drinkers.

'As a general rule the pub isn't the place for people to think about issues,

▼ STAN HARRIS, 1990s



it's a time for laughter and jokes. One woman pretended she didn't like me. When she saw me, she'd always point at me and say, "What are you doing here?" and each time I would respond, "I've come to see you, of course". "Rats!", she'd say.'

However, when she died Stan discovered that she wanted him to conduct her funeral. Puzzled, he asked someone in the pub where she used to drink why, when she obviously didn't like him.

Their reply amazed him: 'You were probably her only friend.'

'You can hide in a cathedral or a church or a Salvation Army hall and just stay there. But I wanted to get out among people,' Stan says.

Stan was gratified that he came to call many of the staff and patrons at his regular haunts, friends.

While ostensibly there to raise money for The Salvation Army, which Stan did ably, he says people asked him to assist with all manner of issues, and while he couldn't be everything to everybody, he was always able to help them find someone who could help.

Taking over the torch of making contact with pub patrons was Captain Ralph Hargest, now Christchurch Bridge Centre Mission Director. Ralph knows life as both a drinker and a teetotaler firsthand. It was a chance meeting with a Salvation Army officer when he was out drinking one night that changed his perspective.

'I was a drinker. I'd seen a Salvation Army officer in a Queenstown pub. Even though I was probably quite inebriated at the time, I was quite struck by the encounter,' Ralph says.

Ralph began his pub ministry in Queenstown where he was well-versed with the culture of working hard and drinking hard, 'and how empty that can leave people feeling'.

With his collection box and *War Cry* magazines, Ralph says he never felt intimidated, but made it his job to build



▲ CAPTAIN RALPH HARGEST

relationships, first with the bar staff and then with the clientele.

Of the places he's done pub ministry, Ralph counts Wellington as one of the most interesting, because of its large transgender and gay community. 'I had lots of conversations with people still angry about the 1986 law reform opposition. But in time, because they would be able to talk and express how they felt and I was able to talk and express acceptance, we ended up being good friends with each other. We could see that we're just like each other—it really healed some deep wounds.'

Ralph says that in Queenstown, bar owners and patrons were very welcoming to The Salvation Army—with a few exceptions.

'I went into a pub and there was a man who was in a bit of a mess, alcohol-wise. He saw me coming and shouted, "I'm a Satanist. What are you going to do about that?"'

'I went and shook his hand and said, "Well, I'm Ralph, pleased to meet you!" and we started talking.

'At the end of the conversation he said "I'm not really a Satanist. Life's crap right now, can you help?"'

Ralph says pub ministry remains an important part of The Salvation Army's mission. As a conduit for clients to access our array of social services, it can be the impetus for people to seek help and transform their lives.

'We don't push anything on anyone. We love people as they are, and I think that has a huge impact on people. That's why I've enjoyed it so much and that's why it has worked—meeting people on their own level you can learn so much from them and they can learn from you.'

Rebuilding Lives—Royal Oak Housing Community

In an effort to combat the ongoing housing crisis in Auckland—one of the world’s least affordable cities, which also suffers from a chronic supply shortage—The Salvation Army is investing in new housing for people in crisis.

The Army’s Social Housing Department (SASH) final units in its Auckland-based Royal Oak housing development are almost finished.

The development is called Te Hononga Tangata, or the Royal Oak Housing Community.

Four years in the making, this housing project comprises of 50 units spread across three tower blocks; three two-bedroom units and 47 one-bedroom units, as currently the greatest demand is for one- and two-bedroom housing.

Tenants will pay up to 25 percent of their weekly income as rent for their unit, with the Government covering the remainder. The Salvation Army also has staff available to direct tenants to other types of support, including wrap-around care such as budgeting, counselling, parenting and more.

National Director of Social Housing, Greg Foster, says that social housing is one of several housing solutions that The Salvation Army provides for people with a defined housing need.

‘The Salvation Army works across the housing spectrum, including transitional housing—providing short-term accommodation for up to three months while a person looks for a longer-term place to live—including hostel or motels when necessary.

‘Social housing is defined as subsidised, long-term rentals that target people who otherwise can’t afford to rent in the open market for a variety of reasons, such as unemployment, mental illness or circumstances that have put them in a difficult financial position.’

Greg says that those who access social housing are looking for long-term housing, with many of their current tenants being with them for more than ten years.

‘All Royal Oak tenants are on the national Social Housing Register, as the demand for housing is huge—currently there are 700 people seeking social housing in the Royal Oak area alone. Some of these people have been living in motels, sleeping on friend’s couches and in garages, just to have a roof over their heads.’

Many Royal Oak housing community tenants have been referred from other Salvation Army departments such as Addiction Services and Transitional Housing, where they typically don’t have opportunities to move into long-term housing.

Jasmine Herewini, Senior Tenancy Manager for these units, says that social housing can change a person’s situation for the rest of their life.

... placing someone into social housing provides stability for a tenant, allowing them to make positive change.

‘We always hear about the bad news relating to the national housing register, how it’s going up all the time, how currently there are over 12,000 people urgently needing housing and even more who aren’t on the register. We know that placing someone into social housing provides stability for a tenant, allowing them to make positive change. It’s only after settling into social housing that many of these tenants can begin rebuilding their lives. Often their previous housing situation had prevented them from gaining employment or accessing support—even getting a bank account.’

Greg says that placing someone into social housing also has a positive flow-on effect for other Army-run housing services.

‘Every person moved into social housing frees up a space for someone who desperately needs emergency housing or to get out of a motel they’ve been living in. It all links together—by increasing the supply, you’re moving people through the system.’

▼ JASMINE HEREWINI AT ROYAL OAK



Housing by the Numbers

In addition to the social housing Addiction, Supportive Accommodation and Reintegration Services (ASARS) provides to clients, The Salvation Army also offers other forms of accommodation—often under contract with a number of Government departments and agencies.

In the past 12 months (to 30 June 2019), The Salvation Army provided **over 204,000** ‘bed nights*’ of accommodation support to New Zealanders, broken down as:

Over 91,000 bed nights of Supportive Accommodation

Over 50,000 bed nights for Transitional Housing

Over 36,000 bed nights for Addiction Services

Over 17,000 bed nights for Reintegration Services

Over 10,000 bed nights of ‘other’ accommodation such as emergency housing.

*A bed night is defined as one person sleeping in a bed for one night

Carrying on a Legacy

For Teresa Brownbridge, it was a manuscript written by her father about his war-time experiences that revealed how The Salvation Army saved her father's life. Now Teresa is using this knowledge to help ensure that others can be helped by the Sallies in the future.

Teresa and her husband Steve live in the rural community of Waitakaruru with several rescue animals, and she teaches at a nearby school.

Teresa's father, the late Harold Frank Brownbridge, served in the English army during World War II before later working in New Zealand and marrying his wife, Margaret.

Teresa says that her father didn't talk about his experiences during the war until much later in his life.

'Dad didn't tell me his story until really late, when he gave me his manuscript he'd written about his time in World War II—he passed away after this, in his early 90s.'

The manuscript was about 100 pages and had been written by Harold using an old typewriter. For Teresa, reading this book gave her access to information she'd never known before, but which was at times confronting and distressing.

'My dad had a way with words, and he was very descriptive and entertaining with his writing, even about the terrible things he'd experienced during World War II.'

The Salvation Army was featured multiple times in his writing—including his musings over how 'ridiculous' The Salvation Army officers had initially looked to him during wartime, carrying their brass instruments instead of guns and ammunition.



But his respect for them grew seeing them on the frontlines, directly in the line of fire and helping soldiers however they could; from chaplaincy and medical care to providing cups of tea on the frontline.

Harold said he realised that the Sallies war-time rally of 'when you need us, we'll be there' were not just empty words but something they followed through.

It was in this manuscript that Teresa also learned about The Salvation Army's pivotal role in saving her father's life.

In 1943, Harold was stationed in Vicenza, Italy when his unit was caught in a bomb blast—Harold was left for dead on the side of the road. Salvation Army personnel were in the area at the time and one of them took his pulse and found him still alive.

'They got him to a hospital, and dad credits them for saving his life so he could come home and start a family in New Zealand,' says Teresa.

It is because of The Salvation Army's role in helping her father survive the war, that Teresa has now decided to carry on his legacy by leaving them a gift in her will.

'For me the manuscript was so moving and poignant, I didn't want to think that my dad had passed away and no one else would carry on anything that he believed in.

'I wouldn't be here if my father hadn't been helped by the Sallies, so leaving a gift in my will helps me to pay it back and pay it forward at the same time.'

Teresa says that she didn't make the decision lightly. 'On a day-to-day basis we're not that wealthy, so before I did anything I researched as much as I could first by looking at annual reports and seeing the kind of projects the Sallies were involved with.

'I learnt so much. I love how the Sallies help so many people, particularly people who are down on their luck and at the bottom of the heap—but are still 'saveable'.



▲ HAROLD BROWNBRIDGE, 1943

'Literacy is a strong passion of mine—budgeting, literacy and helping people through hard times—that kind of stuff really resonates with me.'

Teresa says that her future gift carries on her father's legacy and allows the Sallies to be able to help others like they did her family.

'I'd just like to hope that others would choose to do the same.'

An excerpt from Harold's Writing:

'We were holding a hilltop. Behind us the ground sloped gently downward, our position accessed by a narrow, unsealed farm track, not visible to the enemy but a target for regular and accurate artillery bombardment. Moving along that track at any time was a most unhealthy activity. So, it was a matter of astonishment when, mid-morning on a fine day, a dilapidated old truck, looking like an escape from a sanctuary for broken-down pie carts, slowly coughed its way up the track. It stopped just below the brow of the hill and a cheerful voice gave a call that no foot-soldier can ever resist, "tea up". Two at a time, all twenty of us scuttled out, filled our mugs, then scuttled back again to relative safety. With that, our benefactor was gone. It was, of course, The Salvation Army.'

If you would like to join people like Teresa and leave a gift in your Will to The Salvation Army, or would like more information about this, phone 0800 53 00 00 or visit our website salvationarmy.org.nz/wills

“I was impressed by the broad range of things that the Sallies do—their holistic approach to helping those in need.”



Choosing to Make a Difference

Grant Scobie talks about why he chooses to support the work of The Salvation Army as a True Hero.

Grant and his wife Veronica live as ‘empty nesters’ in their Wellington home, where Grant has kept busy since retiring from a distinguished career as an economist.

They’ve both long been involved with not-for-profits and helping people in need, actively supporting several charities as donors or volunteers. They carefully research which charities to support, based on how, and who, the organisation helps and how trusted they are to use their funds efficiently and sensibly.

Grant says they are regularly approached by many charities asking for support. ‘If you dilute your donations down and give them all a little bit each, our overall contribution can feel less valuable—so we choose to support a few major charities like The Salvation Army.’

Grant says that he is particularly attracted to charities that work on the frontline and help people ‘directly and in a practical sense’.

Grant’s long career as an economist has taken him around the world over the years and plays a big part in his decision to be active in the community and the types of charities he supports.

He has spent many years working in Colombia, during the ‘green revolution’ where he was involved in increasing sustainable food production in developing countries.

Working in these impoverished countries also allowed him to see first-hand the severe need that many people faced, alongside his involvement with international charities such as Save the Children.

‘That was the start of feeling like I could make a genuine contribution to people in need.’

Grant returned home to New Zealand in the mid 90s due to health and other factors. Here, some of his first experiences with The Salvation Army came about through family friends, who were part of the church in Napier.

Through this connection he learnt more about how The Army worked and what they stood for, and says he was surprised by the breadth and depth of their service to the community.

‘I had it explained to me in simple terms that the work was based around “Soup, Soap and Soul”, but I was impressed by the broad range of things that the Sallies do—their holistic approach to helping those in need.’

‘The poverty I saw from my years of working overseas instilled in me a desire to make a difference, and I could see that people here in this country needed help, too.’

For Grant, The Salvation Army represented a way to provide that support to people in need domestically. As an economist, he feels the budgeting advice The Army offers to thousands of Kiwi families each year is especially important.

‘If people are struggling to manage their limited resources and income, often they dig themselves deeper into debt and trouble, unless they get the tools needed to break free—the Sallies provide this fundamental support and it’s great.’

As one of more than 2,000 True Heroes who choose to make a difference to Kiwi families in crisis, Grant says that being a True Hero and giving a monthly donation is an easy and stress-free option.

‘I liked the idea of an ongoing contribution—knowing that the Sallies will use it effectively and where it’s needed most.’

Find out how you can become a True Hero—visit salvationarmy.org.nz/trueheroes