

Together

AUTUMN 2022

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



Te Ope Whakaora



▲ (L-R) MANU TE RANGI AND ALISON MCVICAR
(TAUPŌ COMMUNITY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR)

Manu's Legacy Story

There are any number of reasons why someone decides to leave a gift in their Will to a charity of choice. Manu's reason is gratitude.

Forty years ago, Manu reached a crossroads in his life. He left his marriage and moved countries. But the personal pain moved with him. And like many people in emotional distress he 'self-medicated' with alcohol.

One evening whilst walking along a beach, a young surfer invited him to join a group of his friends. Touched by their kindness to him, when the group later went off to a church service, Manu accompanied them. The service was at The Salvation Army, and led to Manu meeting the man who ran the addiction services. 'The people in The Salvation Army helped me a lot, they're such lovely people and so kind, but all I wanted to know and have was the peace they had in their hearts.'

Manu ended up going through the Bridge programme for alcohol addiction, and also gave his life to Jesus. It was at this pinnacle in his life that he believes he lost the desire to drink.

Sadly, even though he maintains his positive spirit, Manu now has terminal cancer. And he wants to give back to the organisation which helped him to turn his life around. His gratitude is manifested in a gift in his Will to The Salvation Army. A gift that will help others to turn their lives around. 'What will my gift achieve? Well it's just to help someone that's lost their way, for whom life is hard when they are trying their best to just live; young people or young parents—maybe my gift can help them along.'

It's also a gift that will be a living memorial to Manu—his struggles, his victories and his generosity. 'To someone who's thinking of making a gift in their Will—well, I just say you can't hang on to the riches of this world, you can't take it with you, so the best thing is to leave it somewhere that will help people, like I have found at The Salvation Army, who do such a great job.' ▶

Continued over page



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You may be amongst the first to hold up your helping hand in times of emergency or disaster. Your heart may be with caring for the young or the elderly. Or the eradication of poverty and the implementation of social justice may be top of your priority list. Perhaps you understand the importance of budgeting and being able to manage personal finances. Whatever you care most about, we have a programme to benefit individuals and families in difficulties and critical need—a programme that a gift in your Will would take forward into the future.

Following his decision to leave a gift in his Will, Manu now has peace in his heart, and knows 'that the money can be used to help others who struggle in life and help them find a reason just to carry on, and to know that The Salvation Army will help them change their lives'.

Our many services speak to people in different ways. Beyond rescuing people from the vice of addiction, should you decide to leave a gift in your Will to The Salvation Army, it may be because your passion and compassion lies in other areas of our services.

You may care deeply about providing food security; or ensuring that a family has a roof over their heads.

If you would like to join people like Manu with **a gift in your Will to The Salvation Army**, would like more information or to have a confidential conversation about this, please call **04 802 6269 ext 24392** or email **pr@salvationarmy.org.nz**

IT STARTS WITH A MEAL

The last two years of Covid reality have been tough, especially on our already struggling communities, and Christmas often amplifies the daily stresses of those living in hardship.

Jess' Underground Kitchen (JUK) recognised the increased need for support and partnered with The Salvation Army. Jess Daniell, founder of JUK, says, 'partnering with The Salvation Army was an easy decision for us'.

Jess says, 'Our mission is to spread good food to as many Kiwis as possible. We knew that partnering with The Salvation Army would help us to reach a huge community of those in need, and also an army of volunteers who are often in the shadows and deserve the hug of a warm, homemade meal'.

Jess and her team at JUK created an exclusive ready-to-eat Christmas meal to pay it forward with their 'Give the Gift of a Meal' initiative to support the Sallies at Christmas time.

Food support is important because it is often the gateway to accessing further support services at The Salvation Army and can spark the beginnings of long-term transformational change.

Jess also made a trip to The Salvation Army in Manukau, to give Christmas meals to our front-line workers. She says 'it's so important to recognise the staff and volunteers in and around our communities,



▲ (L-R) LYNLEY WEBB, CHARLIE BROOKER, JESS DANIELL & GEMMA BRAMWELL AT MANUKAU COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

who are working tirelessly to give back. The last two years have been tough, and with more people than ever needing the support of your frontline workers, we wanted to make sure they had a special thank you in the form of a home-cooked meal. Because what gift is more warming than the gift of food!

Partnerships provide opportunities to work together, sharing purpose, goals and vision. In doing this we are the 'hands', but you as a company, staff or customer are enabling lives to be transformed.

Visit **salvationarmypartners.org** to learn more about our corporate partnerships.



▲ (L-R) POLLY, JILL, MEL, ASWIN AND TOM

Focused Listening Transforms Lives

‘Counselling’ is a simple word, yet this Salvation Army service is a rich gift to those who receive it. A gift made possible by your generous donations.

In essence, counselling is the simple act of listening to another person. Yet it means far more because it involves hearing someone’s story. It’s giving that person a safe place to talk without being judged; a space where they’re helped to find their way to the solution of their problems.

Homelessness, debt and addiction are often outward manifestations of something far deeper. According to the Territorial Director of Community Ministries Jono Bell, counselling and financial mentoring are two ways The Salvation Army helps people drill below the surface when their lives become chaotic. ‘Both are key services for the Army this year’ he says.

Counselling helps people overcome difficult and sometimes hugely traumatic experiences that may be holding them back in life, while financial mentoring provides a plan to step into a more secure future. Compassionate listening is crucial in these spaces.

‘The skills of our counsellors and financial mentors help put people on the road to long-term, sustainable change. I can’t overstate the value of these services in people’s lives,’ says Jono.

We’re pleased to share a few stories ‘from the frontlines’ that demonstrate the transformative impact of your kindness in partnering with The Salvation Army.

Amy* (as told by Kath): Amy was a past client whose sister contacted us with the news that Amy was in end-of-life care. During our counselling sessions, we’d discussed many times the pain of Amy’s broken relationship with her sister, and particularly Amy’s ex-husband who had broken her heart when he left her.

In the safe place of our final session, Amy was finally able to let go of hurts from years ago and re-establish her broken relationships through forgiveness. This lifted a great weight from Amy, her sister and Amy’s ex-husband. It was wonderful to see the difference that peace made for them all.

Amy passed away the day after her sister contacted us, with her sister and ex-husband at her side.

We want to extend the thanks offered to The Salvation Army at Amy’s funeral, to our donors who helped fund her sessions and for the care and support she received.

Homelessness, debt and addiction are often outward manifestations of something far deeper.

Graham:* The Covid-19 pandemic has taken its toll on many people’s mental health. Graham is just one of those who has found life hard. From living independently in the community, Graham deteriorated until he was no longer managing his health, welfare or personal hygiene.

He was housed in aged residential care for a time, but while this gave him a roof over his head, it didn’t address his worsening mental state. Sadly, because of Graham’s anti-social behaviour, he was evicted. This history made other institutions unwilling to accept him.

Someone like Graham could so easily have been abandoned to fall through the cracks, but The Salvation Army is determined not to let this happen.

We’ve been advocating for Graham to be assessed by a mental health team, as well as bringing agencies together to try to find a new way forward for Graham that gives him security and dignity.

*Not their real names to protect privacy

The Difference Counselling Makes, from Janette:

I've been a counsellor at The Salvation Army for 14 years. It's been my privilege and joy to see the transformation in people's lives that counselling can bring.

Many of the clients I see have suffered some kind of past trauma that has damaged the way they see themselves today. This sits with them as they go forward in life, to the point of them losing sight of their true identity.

Being able to safely bring past trauma into the light from the dark place where it's been buried is life changing. Someone who listens without judgment and believes their story is healing and nourishing. They start to see themselves as a person again.

The answer to the question 'who am I?' restores people's self-value and sets them on the road to living a life worthy of themselves.

The difference counselling makes is even physically evident. Skin takes on a healthier colour; the person holds themselves straighter; talk is clearer and more confident; and the evidence of being able to experience happiness is in their smiles. Sometimes people are unrecognisable!

Compassionate listening and talking can seem like so little—but it means and does so much. This transformation also impacts on the counsellor, making us understand, think and feel more deeply.

As a partner with The Salvation Army, I hope the transformations we see as counsellors brings joy to your life too. You are the giver of the gift of counselling to our clients. Thank you from my heart for helping us make a difference for so many.

SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG CHANGE

Antonia, the new Christchurch East Community Ministries centre manager at Linwood has an interesting story behind how she got into the role—starting from an interaction she had during last year's Red Shield Appeal.

At the time, Antonia was covering maternity leave as a dental assistant, and had previously been a family therapist. She was unsure what was next for work, but still felt that she wanted to use her skills as a social worker.

During the 2021 Red Shield Appeal collection week, Antonia was shopping at Countdown in Ferrywood. Major Rex Cross was collecting outside and has been known to greet everyone and thank donors with a 'God bless'.

Antonia knew about the good work that The Salvation Army does for the community and popped 'all the coins in [her] wallet into the bucket. I gave my whole 70 cents.

'Everyone knows The Sallies can be trusted so I thought I'd give them my change. Major Rex Cross was there and said, "thank you, God bless" even when I didn't really give much.'

In the spur of the moment, and in response to Major Rex's blessing, Antonia asked Rex about where he went to church, and he told her about the Linwood services.



▲ (L-R) MAJOR ALISTER IRWIN AND LIEUTENANT LASHANA DALE

'Nobody would have known if I'd never turned up, but I went along, thinking it was completely separate from everything going on at the time.'

Antonia was welcomed into the service and was encouraged to apply for the Community Ministries Centre Manager role in Linwood. 'I thought, it was one of those things where you apply and see what happens. So I applied for the job and here we are.'

Antonia's journey from her conversation at the supermarket has led to her finding meaningful work in her field, thanks to volunteers like Major Rex Cross and the hard work done during Red Shield Week.

This year's Red Shield Appeal collection week is 9–15 May 2022. To find out how you can help us out as a volunteer or collector in your local community, visit salvationarmy.org.nz/collect



Confident and on the Right Track

Anne-Marie is a single mother of four. She was offered a spot in our residential parenting programme, Changing Places, to support her as her children were transitioning back into her care.

Previously, she hadn't been putting herself or her children first and she wasn't creating boundaries to ensure her, or her children's, safety. 'I was making some really bad choices,' she says. Kercheval, Community Ministries manager, says 'when Anne-Marie first came in she was anxious and had very little confidence, but she was willing to do her absolute best to keep her children in her care.'

The Changing Places programme puts parents and children into safe, comfortable and healthy homes while offering a range of services that support and strengthen the family. Services are part of our wraparound care: Financial Mentoring, parenting courses and coaching, Positive Lifestyle Programme, and Bridge programme for help with alcohol issues. Anne-Marie says, 'anything they offered me, I said yes to'. She was determined to get her and her children's lives on the right track.

Anne-Marie says, 'it was amazing to feel that someone cared, it was very overwhelming because I had only ever felt that kind of love from my grandmother'.

Our parenting courses have been life-changing for Anne-Marie. She says, 'the whole programme was absolutely amazing, I actually loved it there'. She learnt to be assertive, set boundaries and put in place good routines for her family. Now, instead of getting angry, she communicates calmly and is patient with her children.

Anne-Marie says, 'my children know that I am just focused on them and our little family, that I am there to listen and to help with anything'. Now, her children are always happy, and they come to her for love and support. 'I can see their personalities coming out and they have so much confidence to be adventurous and try new things.'

Anne-Marie says, 'I am a single mother, and with The Salvation Army's support I feel strong, I feel free, and I now feel confident that I am a good mother'.

Kercheval says, 'throughout the period that she stayed with us, we saw a growth in confidence, in decision-making and in putting her children first. We are so proud of Anne-Marie's journey.'

'The biggest success for us, was that Anne-Marie left Changing Places with her children still in her care, and not just that, her son was also brought back into her care as well.'



▲ KERCHEVAL

'The transformation that I've made is pretty huge I think, I'm proud of myself, of my children, and I really think that most of it was myself wanting to do it,' says Anne-Marie, 'but to have the backing of The Salvation Army, the way that I did, I can't ever thank them enough for what they have done for us'.

'... with The Salvation Army's support I feel strong, I feel free, and I now feel confident that I am a good mother'.

'It's definitely life-changing, it makes me speechless and I'm not usually speechless, they do God's work, and they do it so well.'

Anne-Maire and her children are now living independently in the community and are doing amazingly. 'It's so beautiful out there, I didn't know how beautiful it was until I came to The Salvation Army,' she says. Anne-Marie continues to stay connected with The Salvation Army through church, and she has even volunteered at the local foodbank.

She says, 'I know that The Salvation Army are there whenever I need help, if I am feeling down, or if I just need a positive direction. Even when I'm a bit lonely, I just go there and say hello and it's an automatic "fill-your-love-tank" up.

'If The Salvation Army could help more people like me, the world would be a beautiful place, but they need help to help more people.'

You can help more people like Anne-Marie turn their lives around. By donating you can be part of solutions that help families and make positive parenting possible. You give opportunities for life-changing programmes to be available for people like Anne-Marie who want the world to be a better, more beautiful place.

From Our Territorial Commander

Kia ora and welcome to our first *Together* newsletter for the year. Thank you for your partnership with us to make a positive difference in the lives of vulnerable people in our community. As we settle into 2022, Aotearoa New Zealand is facing multiple pressures: uncertainty around the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic; cost of living increases making even basic food more expensive; and the ever-worsening housing crisis.

The Salvation Army's mission to care for people, transform lives and reform society by God's power is what guides our work. In this issue of *Together* you can read the story of Anne-Maire—a single mother of four—who was helped by our *Changing Places* programme to reunite with her children, and be supported into a safe and healthy home.

Another story looks at the transformative effect a compassionate listening ear can have on people's

lives. Graham, for example, shares how Salvation Army counselling helped him to cope with the toll the pandemic had taken on his mental health.

Often the people we support want to help others, as is the case with Manu, who went through our Bridge programme for alcohol addiction. Manu decided to leave a gift in his Will to The Salvation Army, so that others who have lost their way can get the helping hand they need.

Blessings for your support.



Mark Campbell (Commissioner)
Territorial Commander
The Salvation Army New Zealand,
Fiji, Tonga & Samoa Territory



We Are Making a Difference

Nicola, a Salvation Army True Heroes supporter, says that for her and her family, giving regularly is a chance to show her support for our frontline workers and volunteers who deliver wraparound services.

'I find it frustrating not being able to be hands-on, but if I'm fit enough to be working, and able to earn enough to look after my own family needs and then contribute by donating I do, and that's important to us.

'I am passionate about the areas that regular giving funds; the wraparound services, especially Transitional Housing and the programmes to help people budget and help themselves. People not having somewhere to live is so heart-breaking. Life is so broken for some people, and the social services that the Sallies provide are so vital. I can't do that work myself, but I can help support the people who do. By committing to regular giving, I feel I am part of the team—by funding those amazing people who are at the coalface, doing that amazing work.'

For Nicola and her husband, The Salvation Army represents connection to people when it's most needed. 'We've always had incredible respect for the way, whenever there is a major need, The Salvation Army is first on the list to be there.'

Life very much revolves around community and family for Nicola. She appreciates the connection and feels part of the True Heroes family, from personal contact to reading the stories of hope and transformation. 'It makes you feel part of the solution. Feeling included is so important, and that does make you think *oh wow we are making a difference*. I love the real people stories in the newsletters and I love the TV ads and the fact that they feature real people. Very brave people to front up and

gosh that's appreciated. We just want the message that the Sallies help people to get out there.'

Looking back, Nicola remembers her dad, who had no affiliation to a church or faith, saying that when he saw the Sallies at the pub, "you'd always want to give something to the Sallies". And it's that connection with people right where they are, on the front line helping with the hard needs that we love and respect. The Salvation Army has had a presence in my heart for a long time.'

Nicola loves the flexibility regular giving allows. 'It doesn't matter how much the gift is, someone might give \$5, but it might be their last \$5, and that's worth as much as someone who gives \$50,000. I think regular donations are really important and we top up when we can. We wanted to commit to giving regularly but leave room for an extra gift at the end of the year.'

Supporter Relations Coordinator for The Salvation Army's True Hero regular giving programme Gabrielle Martell-Turner says, 'We help Kiwis from all walks of life, and we love that our supporters are representative of all kinds of people as well. The need for our wraparound services is always increasing so more regular givers like Nicola are always welcome!'



▲ (L-R) NICOLA AND JEFFERSON

To become a True Hero like Nicola, contact Gabrielle on 021 352 742, or email gabrielle.martell-turner@salvationarmy.org.nz