



Te Ope Whakaora



YOU GAVE A LITTLE  
BIT OF HOPE...

# ...AND IT WENT A LONG WAY TO HELP.



More than **14,500 food hampers** and small gifts helped celebrate the joy of Christmas



**Gifts** gave smiles to **12,666 people** including **10,364 children**



**Over 22,000 assessments** made by our Community Ministries teams



Additional **financial assistance** through **1434 vouchers**



Over **660 people** were **housed** over Christmas and New Year



**1042 referrals** were made for clients to start them on the path to change

Over **53,500 individuals** helped this Christmas

Figures for the period 01/11/21 to 20/01/22

# The Christmas Gifts of Hope were thanks to you!

As we begin 2022 a huge 'thank you' is due for every donation sent in the spirit of Christmas, which brought joy and hope to New Zealanders in need.

Thanks to your Gifts of Hope, relief could be provided. But not only that, you opened the door to all our 'wraparound services', which help people to rebuild their lives in a holistic and enduring way.

This *Report Back* gives you a glimpse of how we helped over 53,500 people over the Christmas and New Year period. Perhaps the one real way of thanking you is by sharing the success stories that your donations make possible. One of these is Martha's story.

Long after Martha's own children had left the nest, her grandchildren were placed in her care. With no planning or preparation for this, Martha was quickly in financial trouble, and without hope for the future.

Broken and not knowing what to do, Martha came to us in desperation. Help began with food parcels and then moved into some of our wraparound services, like budgeting to get her finances in order.

The transformation is remarkable. Martha's grandchildren are thriving, and she herself is looking at studying towards opening a daycare from her home. It's a transformation that took a lot of hard work, perseverance, unconditional love and support from the Army—and also the power of generosity from people like you.





**‘I feel lighter...  
Making changes  
was really what  
I needed and  
that’s what  
The Salvation  
Army were able  
to give me.’**

Ten years ago, Martha found herself in an extremely difficult situation that she hadn’t prepared for. Her children had already left the nest, so when Martha’s grandchildren were placed into her care with no extra income to support them, things got really tough. She ended up in debt and with very little hope for the future.

When Martha arrived at The Salvation Army for help, she was welcomed with open hearts and without judgement. Budgeting mentor Damien says, at the time ‘she was very much broken, had very little hope for the future, and just didn’t know what to do.’

The team helped Martha with food parcels so that she could feed her grandchildren and set her up with regular budgeting sessions. Damien’s mentoring equipped Martha with the skills she needed to pay off her debts and plan for her and her grandchildren’s future.

Martha describes this budgeting help as life-changing. ‘Making changes was really what I needed and that’s what they were able to give me.’

Christmas was a time where she needed a little bit of extra support to help her stay on track with the progress she was making. She was supported with special Christmas food parcels and gifts for her grandchildren. Martha says, ‘it made a big difference, we were able to eat a variety instead of just eating from tins, we are very blessed.’

The donations received from this year’s Christmas Appeal were used to support hundreds of New Zealand families like Martha’s at Christmas time. We want to thank you for helping us make a real difference in the lives of many New Zealanders this Christmas, and for making their prospects for the future brighter and more hopeful.

*Yesterday is gone.  
Tomorrow has  
not yet come. We  
have only today.  
Let us begin.*

MOTHER THERSEA



**As we begin 2022, Christmas isn't the only time that we need the support from generous people like you.**

### **Advocacy and support**

In New Zealand we have seen low unemployment and a relatively strong economy but, paradoxically, further entrenchment of those living in abject poverty. Although benefit levels have risen, we are still extremely concerned for those struggling to make ends meet.

### **Healthy and resilient**

The Salvation Army wants all people to experience fullness of life. Our addictions services, Oasis gambling and Reintegration services all connect clients to the right support for long-lasting change.

### **Strengthening connections**

There are increased levels of anxiety in families related to loss of security due to Covid-19 and other life events. We recognise it takes courage to ask for help—whether

for financial challenges, housing, relationship issues, food or an addiction.

### **Beginning the year right**

Back to school can be an extra stressful time for students and their families. 2021 saw many children in and out of school, away from social interaction with their peers. Some will be bursting to return and some will take this step back to school with a degree of anxiousness and reservation.

### **Looking forward**

Many are living in a constant state of uncertainty, feeling powerless to influence what might happen. Overwhelmed by emotions, stress, anxiety, and grief for all the things that have been lost.

We need your help to provide financial mentoring and counselling—two services that can help people make sense of their circumstances, offer calm to a situation and assist them to regain a feeling of control.

Help deliver emotional strengthening and wraparound services that transform lives.



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## Supporting the next generation

Each year The Salvation Army helps fund vital needs for children returning to school, from new school uniforms and shoes to stationery and other items.

We provide not only the tangible items to prepare student's families who are struggling to return to school, but also provide support networks, counselling and budgetary assistance to reduce as much of the stress as possible.

There is peace of mind in knowing that your children have what they need to be happy and healthy as they embark on their next chapter of learning.

When Martha received support at the start of the school year, it meant that she was able to stay on track with her budgeting plan and send her grandkids to school knowing that they had everything they needed to thrive.

If you would like to make a meaningful difference to families like Martha's, you can support our Back to School Appeal at [salvationarmy.org.nz/backtoschool](https://salvationarmy.org.nz/backtoschool).