



Te Ope Whakaora

# TRUE HEROES

*Everyday people helping every day*



▲ MARISE

## You Journeyed with Marise

**Marise's journey began from a place of homelessness and active addiction. She says, 'I was a wreck, lost!'**

Surviving in a motel through Work and Income, Marise's social worker brought in Susan, a Salvation Army transitional housing worker who had a house available.

The prospect of a home was the first 'miracle' for Marise. This was made possible by the ongoing support that donations like yours provide. In her words:

'Getting a house and all that's come with it has done millions for me. It was my foundation and everything started moving from there.'

The second 'miracle' was a spiritual experience that led to Marise researching more about Christianity, and then making a commitment and joining a church.

A home, support and a faith worked together to create the major shift in Marise's life. She was helped to come to terms with the loss of her brother, almost losing

her own life, and her circumstances—all of which had combined to create a massive sense of anxiety for her.

To really change a life that's got into a downward spiral takes compassionate understanding, individual counselling and mentoring over a stretch of time. There's no quick fix, which is why we depend so much on your regular generosity.

There's always a sense of wonderment when people we help realise that it's all the Sallies' supporters who together to provide the funding for our long-term wraparound services which get people properly back on track. And once they know, they're deeply grateful to you.

Marise is now working for The Salvation Army in a Family Store and is taking part in helping to run children's programmes. With the stability that employment provides, Marise wants to give back by being part of helping others who also find themselves in a destructive downward spiral in life.

**'Getting a house and all that's come with it has done millions for me. It was my foundation and everything started moving from there.'**

A point that she shared with us is that when people find themselves in desperate situations it's difficult to reach out for help. She used to think that nobody cared, and that she couldn't trust anyone. Knowing that you care, and trust us to action your caring, has been a revelation for Marise.

Having you walk with her on her journey from 'being a wreck and lost' to where she is now, has made all the difference. She sums it up by saying, 'It's changed my life'.

Marise's message to you is, 'please will you continue your support - to serve our communities, to give people hope, and help in changing their lives for the better.'

## A DECADE OF DIFFERENCE



**Thank you to Countdown and tens of thousands of generous Kiwis.**

This year marks an important milestone: a 10-year partnership between The Salvation Army and Countdown.

This year sees Countdown getting behind the Winter Appeal with a \$100,000 donation

Commissioner Mark Campbell, The Salvation Army's Territorial Commander, says 'This support continues to be instrumental in our aspiration to create food secure communities. The pandemic has unfortunately exacerbated many social inequalities including food insecurity. With inflation also at a more than 30-year high, we're seeing more and more Kiwis struggle to make ends meet. The food and funds donated through the Winter Appeal will provide critical support to those who need it most.'

We would like to thank all of our supporters who have also given their support to The Foodbank Project made possible through Countdown. Without your participation this achievement would not have been possible.

# You Gave Mark a Reason to Smile

**A smile is a gift, in both the giving of it, and the receiving of it.**

Over a period of time, Mark lost all his teeth—and with them his smile.

He also felt that he lost opportunities for employment because of his appearance because he couldn't afford the cost of dentures. It seemed as though he was in a cycle that couldn't be broken.

Then he was told that The Salvation Army might be able to help him. He wasn't aware that this could even be possible.

'For years, ever since I can remember, I've only donated to street collections and the bands. I had no idea that they would help'.

Mark now understands how the support of friends like you allows us to help people with these needs.

Once a builder's labourer, Mark has had a hard existence living on benefits, as he searches for a job. A loan was out of reach, and getting dentures seemed totally out of the question.

Now with our donors generosity, you can imagine Mark's delight and relief. In his words:

'I'm over the moon, really happy.'

His first dental appointment has already been made. A series of appointments will follow through this lengthy process of preparing Mark's mouth for the dentures. Eventually, final adjustments will be made to ensure complete comfort which will transform his life.

When it's all done, Mark will not only have reason to smile again, but he'll also get his confidence back. With his dentures in place he will also have a sense of hope in being able to feel more presentable at his interviews for future work.

Mark thanks you because it's your kindness that keeps making a difference, and gifting smiles, in the lives of your fellow Kiwis when they need it most.

# From Our Territorial Commander

Kia ora and welcome to our second newsletter for the year.

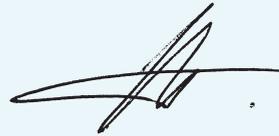
On behalf of The Salvation Army, I would like to thank you for the invaluable support you give to our ongoing work with individuals, families and communities in need across the country. Whatever the level of your contribution, it is welcomed and goes to help people in very practical ways.

At a time when inflation is driving up the costs of essentials—like food, electricity and housing—that help is needed more than ever. The Salvation Army's mission of caring for people, transforming lives and reforming society by God's power is about giving people both immediate aid as well as a hand up for a brighter future.

In this issue, read about Marise, who came to The Salvation Army when she was homeless. A Salvation Army social worker assisted Marise into a home, which provided a firm foundation from which she was able to rebuild her life. Today Marise is giving back to the community by working in a Salvation Army Family Store and taking part in helping to run children's programmes.

Giving back is a common theme, as we hear from Greg, who some 50 years ago turned to The Salvation Army for help when he was at a low point in his life. He soon found a job and got back on his feet, but never forgot The Salvation Army food voucher he received. Today, Greg is a member of our True Heroes regular giving programme, which supports wraparound services such as transitional housing, social work and financial mentoring.

Blessings for your support.



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



## Greg's Giving Back

**Greg, 67 and semi-retired, spends time travelling with his wife in their beautiful retro bus motorhome.**

Looking at Greg now, you would never guess that he once didn't have enough money for food.

'About 50 years ago, I was in Dunedin, I was pretty down and out, no food in the cupboards or anything. It was suggested I go to The Salvation Army, and they gave me a food voucher. I later managed to get a job and things worked out from there. Over the years I have never forgotten The Salvation Army for their kindness and generosity.' Greg has now, far beyond, repaid The Salvation Army for the food voucher they gave him all those years ago.

'As I got older and more financially able, I started giving back to The Salvation Army with one-off donations a few times a year, then, about a year ago, I decided to join the True Heroes regular giving programme.'

Funds brought in by the True Heroes programme from supporters like you, go towards wraparound services: transitional housing, life counselling and social work, financial mentoring and food support. Greg is proud of the services his regular donations help fund, 'I think the wraparound services are very good, they are targeted in the right areas, where people really need them.'

'One of the things that I'm always in admiration of The Salvation Army for, is that they don't seem to be particularly top heavy. It seems most of the money given goes to the people who need it most.' He says, 'The Salvation Army needs all the money they can get, especially now with what's going on in the world, the

situation is so dire. My wife and I would do anything to help, we are financially able to, so we are more than happy to help out.'

Your regular giving puts compassion and empathy into action.

True Heroes programme advisor, Gabrielle says, 'You often tell me, you love what we do, but you can't physically do it yourselves, so regular giving allows you to be part of the solution.'

Because there is a need at all times, frontline workers are secure in the knowledge that there are supporters like you who have committed to regular giving so funds are consistently there to help people whenever they may walk through the door. Thank you for making this possible.

It seems we are in for a tough time ahead; inflation and increased living costs are hitting all income levels of society, and we are continuing to see an increase in demand for our services.

Gabrielle says, 'There really is a fine line between needing and supporting our services, sudden changes can happen to any one of us, and a helping hand can make all the difference.'

Gabrielle thanks you for the real difference you are making through the True Heroes programme 'Inequity is a real problem in New Zealand, and the difference we see being made in the lives of vulnerable people is because of amazing, compassionate people like you.'





## The Small Things are Big Too

**Its not only the big things, the small things can be big too. If this statement sounds contradictory, let Vasi\* explain it as coming from her own experience:**

I came through the door of The Salvation Army looking for peace from the stresses of my life. I was on benefits with my two children, and my partner struggled deeply with his mental health which had a huge destructive toll on our family.

The worst day was when he took his own life. That day I came through that door deeply sad and not knowing how to go on. It was just before Christmas, and in the middle of the crowd packing parcels, I just started to cry. I desperately needed some hugs, love and care.

For three hours I was supported in every way until I felt calm and able to go on.

**'I know it was somebody's generosity which helped me on the day when I was alone. That person didn't know me, my name or my address, or what I was going through, but they cared enough to help me from a distance.'**

Each person's presence was a small part of the big whole. There was thoughtfulness, like knowing I didn't have credit on my phone, and giving me a phone gift card when I needed it most to deal with what had to be done after a death. They gave me some food to take home to my kids on that day, and I received so much support over the following days.

These may all seem like small things, but for me they were huge.

Out of gratitude I volunteered to come in and do anything at all that would be helpful—cleaning, sorting, parcels, anything. Just being there made me feel calm and safe, and I started believing that there was hope for the future.

One of the counsellors would even spend her tea break with me so that I could talk and she would listen. Another small thing, but it was big for me.

As time went on I was able to get work in the health sector. I started off as a casual, then I got a contract or two, and now I'm a permanent employee. It was with the Sallies' encouragement that I took those small steps to something bigger. My life has been changed by The Salvation Army community of support which is still there for me. They always find time to talk to me and end off by saying, 'If there's anything you need, Vasi, let us know.'

And it's not only all those at the centre, but every kind person who supports their work with donations that makes this possible.

I know it was somebody's generosity which helped me on the day when I was alone. That person didn't know me, my name or my address, or what I was going through, but they cared enough to help me from a distance.

I'd say to anyone considering supporting the Sallies with a gift, please give that gift; you can save someone's future, even someone's life. Somebody is suffering out there. Having been there, I know. And I thank you for your kindness—personally, and from my heart. The big things that you make happen are important, but the small things are also big and important too.

*\*Not her real name, to protect privacy.*

# Grow Your Giving with TaxGift

## Grow your giving at no cost to you—with TaxGift

As with all charitable donations, gifts to The Salvation Army New Zealand attract a tax credit. We are working with TaxGift to help your giving go further. TaxGift has a simple platform that guarantees your credit will come back to assist our work with whānau in need across Aotearoa.

It is an easy way to grow your donation at no cost to you. You can make an even bigger impact to The Salvation Army, so even if you are just able to give a one-off gift, that gift can keep on giving for years to come. Any gift over \$5 that you have made to The Salvation Army since April 2018 is eligible for a TaxGift.

TaxGift's platform lets you gift back the donation tax credits on the donations you make to us, growing your

gift by up to 43 percent. It takes less than a minute to sign up, and there's nothing more for you to do—we'll work with the team at TaxGift to claim these credits from Inland Revenue and boost the impact of your gift. Your donation automatically goes further to help us fuel more amazing projects for our community.



To sign up to TaxGift and grow your giving, scan the QR code here:



## How it works



## YOUR GENEROSITY IS DOING MORE GOOD

**Your generosity is doing 'more good' and is at the heart of what we do.**

Thankfully those in need have the help of people like you, who answer the call during our appeals and actively decide that you want to be a part of the change.

Throughout the year we have a number of opportunities to meet vital funding for the growing demands which have meaningful impact. We appreciate that there is concern over costs for this fundraising activity.

The Salvation Army is very privileged to have long-term, committed suppliers who help us in the way we meet much of the associated expense at cost or below. This is part of their giving to support our work, as you do, to help people in need. We receive significant charitable postage discounts that allow us to send out opportunities for you to choose at your convenience when you want to give.

We are also embracing a move to more digital content and online giving to give you even more flexibility in how you wish to support.



What we want you to know, is that every time we run an appeal we are able to 'raise more money to do more good'.

We are conscious too that everyone is different and by providing more opportunities and options to give, we are able to raise and fund more programmes at the heart of what we do, and in turn help more people.



## Introducing Honoured Friends

**All of our supporters are amazing, and we appreciate you continuing to give to help those most in need.**

We are very fortunate to have an extraordinary group of supporters who have decided to make a very special and significant commitment by leaving a gift in their Will.

These are our Honoured Friends.

Bequests are the fastest source of fundraising income in the world today. Many people in planning their estates decide to leave a gift in their Will to support The Salvation Army's work and mission to transform people's lives.

Unfortunately, we still have many instances where we receive these gifts by surprise and only become aware after the individual passes away and it's too late to thank them in person.

Honoured Friends is a way in which we can thank those supporters who have decided to make a gift in their Will. We can also keep them informed and let them hear first-hand how income from gifts in Wills is making such a significant impact in the lives of others for generations to come.

As part of Honoured Friends, you will be extended an invitation to attend functions a few times a year around the country. Here our Honoured Friends can come together with their fellow members and share their own stories. It is also a chance for anyone who is interested or considering leaving a gift in their Will to personally learn more, while seeing what a special group of supporters you would be joining.

If you would like more information about Honoured Friends, are interested in attending an event, or if you have already left a gift in your Will to The Salvation Army and would like to be part of Honoured Friends, please contact Stephen Allen directly by phoning **(04) 382 0712** or email **stephen.allen@salvationarmy.org.nz**.

Of course, we recognise that this is a very personal decision and so we are mindful that some may wish their intention to be confidential and not recognised publicly.

You can also contact Stephen directly if you would like to arrange a private and confidential conversation with one of our Bequest Relationship Managers.