

# Together

AUTUMN 2021

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



Te Ope Whakaora



▲ (L-R) DEE AND PAUL

## Transforming a life

**For some, the desire to live a better life requires a little support from others. For Paul, that support came through The Salvation Army.**

Paul was at rock bottom. With no money, job and nowhere to live he wandered into the Christchurch City branch of The Salvation Army.

Life took a drastic turn after Paul's marriage broke down. He decided to head back to England to reconnect with family and find a place for healing and understanding. Sadly, returning to England had the opposite effect and past traumatic events added to the heavy load Paul was already carrying. Paul returned to New Zealand with \$56 dollars in his pocket and a belief that there was no hope, no way to change his current circumstances.

The afternoon Paul walked in he was feeling low, 'I wasn't thinking straight, and I was in a desperate

situation, I needed food and other help.' As the receptionist was talking with Paul, hearing what was happening for him, she had the idea of connecting him with a staff member who was also from the same part of England, 'I'll put you in touch with our social worker, she's from Liverpool, just have a quick chat with her before you leave,' and the rest, Paul says, is history.

**'I wasn't thinking straight, and I was in a desperate situation, I needed food and other help.'**

Dee is a Social Worker at the Army's Christchurch centre. A shared hometown and a love of football were the things that connected Paul with the help he was looking for. Dee heard Paul's story and she was able to help immediately with food and other urgent matters.

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**'It's been really good, it's like having a mentor or a coach ... it really has made a massive impact.'**

Paul was depressed and anxious and was incredibly angry with himself and the world. Dee says he was at the point where he thought he was better off gone. 'He thought suicide was the only way out and he was going down that track.'

Paul shared that he had been diagnosed with PTSD a couple of years ago due to a few traumatic things that had happened to him. 'I was not in a good headspace at all and things could have gone very wrong for me; suicide or a path down with the gangs.'

Paul was also offered the opportunity to work through the eight-week Positive Lifestyle Programme (PLP) which grows personal insight on self-awareness, grief,

depression, anger, and goal setting. Working through this programme helped Paul make sense of things that had happened in his life and to find different ways of coping.

Paul says Dee has kept him accountable for the past 18 months, by checking up on him and helping him set goals, do budgets and work through his anger and anxiety. Paul says it's changed the course of his life. 'It's been really good, it's like having a mentor or a coach. The amount of help The Salvation Army has given me and especially Dee, just through my mental health and accountability, it really has made a massive impact.'

Paul used his skills and experience as a personal trainer and a boxer to try and improve his quality of life. Dee recognised that Paul would make a great mentor for younger people and encouraged him to enter study. Paul moved to New Plymouth to study for the New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing. His dream is to help people overcome challenges in their life using both physical and mental techniques. 'I just feel like mental health is an area where people need good mentors. I want to take my boxing skills over to mental health and addiction services and to help strengthen others.'

With everything Paul's been through in life, his resilience and inner strength has seen him do the work to move himself forward. 'In a way it's a blessing with all the trauma I've been through and when I look at where I am now, I'm starting another journey.' The support helped through the tough patches.

Dee has the utmost faith he'll make a great job of the life ahead of him. 'Paul knows what to do if he starts to get anxious and where to look for the support around him. He has done an incredible amount of work; he has come a long way. He can be very proud of what he has achieved.'

## OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

The Salvation Army annual 'Red Shield' street appeal is such an exciting time for us. With 84 Salvation Army Centres covering over 500 sites during our appeal week 10 to 16 May, staff, volunteers and businesses all hit the streets, 'shaking their buckets' and providing an opportunity for people to give. It is also a chance to say a massive **thank you** to everyone we encounter.

As an organisation that relies on the generosity of people like you, it is such a blessing to have this chance to raise the funds to support the work in our centres.

**You can be part of this army of volunteers by donating an hour or two of your time. Your help in this way will make a huge difference to the lives of thousands of your fellow Kiwis.**

You can engage with your local centre and meet the people who are making change happen in your community.



**Together we can make change.**

Scan the QR code or visit [salvationarmy.org.nz/collect](https://salvationarmy.org.nz/collect) and we will be in touch!



# From Our Territorial Commander

Kia ora Salvation Army whānau

The level of need in our communities can feel overwhelming at times, and we thank you for the generosity you show us as we help the most vulnerable in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Salvation Army's mission to care for people, transform lives and reform society by God's power is at the forefront of all we do. In your *Together* newsletter, you can see how your support effects positive change, from offering emergency food and accommodation, right through to programmes helping people live more hopeful lives in the long term.

Your donations are helping a wide range of people in need, many of whom have lost their jobs or had reduced incomes due to Covid-19. They may be your neighbour, your friend, or your relative. Like you, they may have previously donated to us, but now are needing our help.

Last year we distributed more than 113,000 food parcels—more than double that of 2019. However, our work in society goes far deeper than emergency food and

accommodation. We believe in the efficacy of wraparound services to help people transition to self-reliance.

Our Ready to Rent programme in Rotorua is one of several initiatives throughout the country that lift people out of challenging housing situations.

I hope this *Together* newsletter gives you a snapshot of some of the work we do and the hope we bring to people in need, as we partner with you our generous donors.



## Mark Campbell (Commissioner)

Territorial Commander, The Salvation Army  
New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory

## Partnering with Families

**Helping change lives and reform society often starts with the youngest and most vulnerable in our community, and by extension, their families too.**

In Christchurch there's a community partnership with Philipstown Kindergarten. Child and Family Coordinator for The Salvation Army, Karen, spends a lot of time at the kindergarten, getting to know the children, their parents, and each of their unique needs. When required, she helps refer parents to services that will support and strengthen family wellbeing, like life skills and parenting programmes, or counselling and financial mentoring.

Head teacher Kathy Harford says her help's been amazing. 'It's made a huge difference to a community like ours—it means that parents can come to kindy knowing they're supported.' There's someone to talk to who understands the struggles of parenting, life in general and who engages, encourages, and mentors parents through the tough stuff.

Kathy says once families start getting support, it shows in how they come into Kindy, engage with other parents and especially in how they interact with their own children. 'I said to one parent, "Your daughter seems a lot happier" and she said, "Yes now that I'm a lot



▲ BRASS PUPILS AT TE KURA O WAIRAU

happier, it's made a big difference to her".'

At Te Kura o Wairau School in Palmerston North, it's music that's helping transform the daily lives of the children. The Salvation Army's Just Brass programme gives pupils the chance to learn a brass instrument, with free instruments, lessons and sheet music.

'I can say with much pride and admiration that the Just Brass programme has made an enormous difference to the lives of those students who have taken part, and to the school as a whole,' Principal Teena Johnson says. Not only does it give kids the opportunity to learn an instrument, but also to learn to care for and protect the instrument and the accompanying music, as well as to be part of a team. 'Just Brass is all about providing hope and inspiration through music,' says Teena, 'and we are proud to be a part of this journey.'

**Children and families are impacted through your generosity. Thank you. If you would like to continue supporting them on their positive journeys, please consider donating again today.**



## Ready to Rent—Support in Rotorua

**Ready to Rent, the rental support programme organised by Rotorua Community Ministries, is working to lift their community out of challenging housing situations.**

Many people in the area face complicated social issues that find them struggling to secure and maintain tenancies, so Ready to Rent centres around education and gaining skills to help with this.

The programme runs for six weeks, with one weekly session between two and three hours long. Sessions are facilitated by representatives from the 18 specialist agencies, including WERA Aotearoa Charitable Trust, Sustainability Options, LinkPeople, Westpac Bank, Problem Gambling Association, Housing First, and Whānau Ora.

‘One of the main goals is obviously that they achieve housing from that, but also, that they tackle a lot of the social barriers that are either preventing them from getting into housing or ending them back up into emergency housing,’ explains Danielle Porteous, Transitional Housing Social Support Worker.

In most cases, those in need of rental and housing-based support have other factors that need tending to as well. Ready to Rent opens opportunities for participants to engage with the programme as a wraparound service—where people can find additional support for counselling, addiction management, financial mentoring and interact with the Positive Lifestyle Programme. This is made possible through the generous support of donors towards these services.

One young couple from the programme had their first

baby due in October 2020. They had been sleeping rough in the thermal areas of Rotorua, before moving into a motel during the lockdown period. Their Ministry of Social Development case manager referred them for Ready to Rent. Because of their dedication to change and the support they received in the programme, they graduated the course and were able to connect with Housing First, and are now renting their own home.

Danielle feels that the collaboration of the different specialist agencies allows for a lower barrier of entry

**‘A lot of the reasons people are homeless here are because of the social issues that are in the way..’**

for participants to ask for help in the future. When those taking part can attend sessions run by different groups, or can learn alongside people from supporting organisations, it ‘shows that they’re human’ and takes away some of the shame for people.

‘A lot of the reasons people are homeless here are because of the social issues that are in the way, so it’s a really good opportunity to make good transformation with people—not just in housing but in personal journeys.’

***Although we receive government funding for some of the services for those in the Ready to Rent programme, much of the support needed to upskill and empower those struggling in difficult rental situations depends on the generosity of compassionate people like you.***

# Trans-Tasman partnerships making a difference

**One large company who operates in both Australia and New Zealand supports The Salvation Army in a unique way that benefits both their communities and their customers.**

Royal Wolf is Australasia's largest container rental business and it operates on both sides of the Tasman. It is also a company that chooses to give back to the communities it works in. The chief executive says the company is aware that to build a business requires both commitment and empathy. And that's why they've chosen to make regular donations to The Salvation Army in a meaningful and unique way.

When each job is completed, Royal Wolf gives its customers a satisfaction survey. Then, for any feedback received, it donates \$50 to The Salvation Army on that customer's behalf. The customer receives a letter and information about the donation. Royal Wolf CEO Neil Littlewood says this does two things. It allows its customers to know their individual feedback has been taken on board and also that they are working together to help the less fortunate.

Neil Littlewood says The Salvation Army does the good work that's important to their business. 'We see a strong alignment in values with The Salvation Army.'

He says given the vast array of services offered by The Salvation Army, he wanted the donations directed to homeless youth. He says every young person has untapped potential and homelessness is a big hurdle in reaching that potential. Royal Wolf hopes its support, through The Salvation Army, will make a difference.



'We are believers that great things can be generated from commitment, small steps and belief. Donating funds to a trusted entity to facilitate opportunities for others is the right thing to do.'

It takes funding from both business and individuals to help our youth programmes support young people.

The company says it is grateful to The Salvation Army for the great services it provides to the community. Neil Littlewood adds 'Royal Wolf believes it is important to give back to the community and drive awareness of social issues as part of our corporate social responsibility'.

**Partner with us to help your business make a difference in the world. There are many unique ways you can do this and every bit helps.**  
**To enquire about partnering with us, please email [partnering@salvationarmy.org.nz](mailto:partnering@salvationarmy.org.nz)**

## CORPORATE DONATION GIVES THE GIFT OF DIGNITY

Kimberly-Clark, one of our generous corporate supporters, recently gifted The Salvation Army's Tongan region with four pallets of incontinence support products.

This provides a much needed reprieve for Tongan families struggling to access incontinence consumables. Even though these items are a necessity for many, they are not funded by the Tongan National Health system. Not only will this donation reduce the financial stress for many, it will also restore dignity to those affected with issues of incontinence, giving them their freedom and life back.

Captain Catherine Walker at Tonga's Regional

Headquarters says 'this donation will enable us to support those in need of this kind of assistance due to disability, sickness or aging. We're so grateful for this incredibly generous donation.'

We are able to support our overseas regions of Tonga, Samoa, and Fiji, because of the kindness of corporate donations like these.





▲ KAY PARKER AND LIEUTENANT ANDREW WILSON

## Addressing Need in Queenstown

**Kaye Parker came out of retirement to help support The Salvation Army when her community faced hard times. Her help transformed the way they could offer services.**

Kaye Parker lives in New Zealand's tourism jewel, Queenstown, but with Covid-19 arriving on New Zealand's doorstep last year, she knew her community would be in trouble.

Kaye was out biking the weekend before the country was plunged into an unexpected lockdown. She received the second call in two days asking to help a person in financial trouble; a family whose main breadwinner, with an underlying serious health condition, was behind on rent. With lockdown looming, he didn't have enough food for his family. She said to her biking companion, 'This is going to get much worse, our community is going to bleed, I think I have to come out of retirement'. And in that moment she did.

**'My father taught us from a young age that we should always give back.'**

Kaye had retired three years before the worldwide pandemic from a successful fundraising career running not-for-profits. She immediately went out to canvas people in the Queenstown area for help, and quickly secured large donations. A granting committee of well-known and trusted locals was set up with the mission to help the most vulnerable and the most affected by Covid-19 and that the funds would be used to help support the charities working at the coalface. One of the main recipients would include The Salvation Army. Kaye grew up in the church and it helped form the way she

saw the world. 'My father, Hugh Morris, taught us from a young age that we should always give back.'

'The Salvation Army is always there in a time of need for everything, but in Queenstown the Salvation Army has never been needed like that, ever.'

Queenstown Corp Officer Lieutenant Andrew Wilson says Kaye's help has been phenomenal. 'In a nutshell, it's meant we're able to meet the huge demand as it's come to us. Before Kaye reached out to us we were facing a big uphill battle.' He says she's made an enormous difference to the 4000 migrants in Queenstown, who were facing major issues with visas and Covid-19-related concerns. 'Migrants in Queenstown now know that their community supports them and they can go to someone and trust them.'

Almost a year on from lockdown, the Queenstown community's worries are not going away. Although Queenstown wasn't hit as hard as expected, it's starting to see a significant slowdown now in many sectors

Mental health is still a worrying issue in the town. Kaye says the foodbank, accommodation services, and all other help offered by The Salvation Army is making an enormous difference to her community. 'The Salvation Army do such a magnificent job in the face of unreasonable but necessary requests, it's nice to be able to help take the fundraising out of their worries.'

**We are only able to continue to offer life-changing services because of your loyal support and all of our amazing donors. You can help change communities like this too, by sending your donation, big or small.**