

Together

AUTUMN 2020

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



Te Ope Whakaora



▲ (L-R) ISABEL AND RITI

‘Warrior Women’ Fighting for Family

When Isabel took custody of her grandchildren, she was alone and ‘aching for some guidance’.

Through The Salvation Army’s Positive Lifestyle Programme (PLP), Isabel gained practical parenting skills, made friends for life, and changed the future for her whānau.

Isabel had only met her grandchildren a couple of times, due to her son’s addiction and violence issues—which included Isabel herself suffering an assault. Yet she knew her two young granddaughters needed her, so she decided to step up and take them into her care.

But the ‘grandies’, now aged three and six, had behavioural difficulties, came with a raft of health complications and displayed violent behaviour such as kicking and head bumping. Isabel says she felt ‘like a fish out of water’.

Isabel came to PLP through the Wāhine Toa programme, looking for guidance on how to parent these young children. ‘I was aching for someone to direct me. It was daunting, and there was a lot I had to work through,’ says Isabel. ‘But these classes are amazing, they’ve helped me, I’m not kidding!’

‘The wāhine [women] who go through the programme really are warriors... They are the lifeline for their families.’

One of her ‘lightbulb moments’ was learning that her parenting role required discipline and guidance, rather than being ‘the grandparent who spoils them and then hands them back’. This meant changing her relationship with all her grandies, so they were all treated equally.



about the importance of emotional health, as well as the health stuff.'

One of the biggest challenges Isabel faced was helping her grandchildren build a healthy relationship with their father. With the support of the group, Isabel organised for the kids to have daily phone calls with Dad. 'That has been such a gift for the kids, and it has changed his life as well, because he now has something to work towards and knows he needs to make changes and good choices over the long term.'

The wāhine [women] who go through the programme really are warriors, says Tokoroa PLP facilitator, Riti Leilua. 'They are the lifeline for their families—they are often the major caregiver and the breadwinner. In every aspect, they are wāhine toa [warrior women]. They go into battle for their family every day, scrimping and saving, and often being both "mum and dad".'

Undertaking the programme has helped many wāhine become more self-aware and identify intergenerational issues, adds Riti. 'We've seen broken families reconnect. We accept them for who they are, and with the support of others in a group, we give them a sense of hope.'

Riti runs a regular coffee morning for PLP participants, and that has become a rich source of community and support.

'It's really good being able to share stuff and know you're not alone,' says Isabel. 'I have learnt so much and I now feel totally equipped.'

The PLP course is turning around the lives of some of New Zealand's most vulnerable children, through practical parenting and life skills. Donations from people like you makes PLP possible—so please donate today and make a real difference to the lives of our children tomorrow.

Doing the programme has helped many wāhine become more self-aware and identify intergenerational issues...

Through PLP, Isabel learned positive parenting strategies, such as creating a sticker chart to help change violent behaviours. 'It was amazing how much their behaviour changed just to win a sticker,' she laughs.

Health issues were one of the immediate challenges—rotten teeth meant the children were not only suffering pain, but sleepless nights. The PLP group became a great source of practical support, putting Isabel in touch with local dentists and working on tooth-brushing routines. 'We now have a routine in place, and they actually remind me if I forget,' she says. 'So, we don't need a sticker chart anymore! But I also learned

MEASLES EPIDEMIC

Last October saw a serious outbreak of measles in Samoa. The epidemic quickly took hold due to low immunisation rates. Sadly, when it was finally over at the end of January 2020, 83 people had died, and more than 5,700 people had contracted the deadly disease. More than 90 percent of the deaths were children under 5 years.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, \$40,000 was raised during the Samoa Measles Epidemic Appeal. The Salvation Army Samoa was able to respond to the Ministry of Health's call for help by supplying two loads of medical supplies for delivery to the Samoa National Emergency Operations Centre.

Our Emergency Response Team began visiting the affected families in December, offering pastoral care, food parcels and financial grants to assist with funeral expenses. We assisted more than 350 people and are offering ongoing support.



The Salvation Army staff and volunteers have also distributed four pallets of items from the Auckland Samoan Association Foundation.

We are extremely grateful to have received NZD\$40,000 through the Samoa Measles Epidemic appeal. FAAFETA, FAAFETA TELE LAVA!



Action Inspires Support

Trevor Garlick explains why he has left a gift in his Will and supports the work of The Salvation Army.

Trevor Garlick was 11 years old when the Ballantynes fire struck Christchurch in 1947. It was the deadliest blaze in New Zealand's history, claiming 41 lives.

'(I) lived in Sinclair Street in New Brighton, and the fire was that big, it just looked like it was over by the Bower Bridge,' Trevor recalls. 'But when we all walked to the Bower Bridge, it looked the same distance ahead again, because it was so big in town.'

'I'm not trying to pay back anything they've done for me; I just admire what they're doing.'

Even at a young age, The Salvation Army's response to the tragedy stuck with him. 'From then on, (I) admired The Salvation Army because of their dedication, making cups of tea and doing all they could to help people, especially the staff that worked in there,' he remembers.

Another event which further placed The Salvation Army on Trevor's heart was the 1968 Wahine disaster, and the way that the Army cared for the passengers who made it to the shore. 'They were all given cups of tea and ... wrapped up with anything warm The Salvation Army could get hold of.'

Trevor has had a few personal interactions with the Army—he remembers a Sunday night church service with his grandfather as a child and attending a family funeral at The Salvation Army. However, it is the swift and compassionate action in times of need—most recently with the Christchurch mosque attacks, which inspires Trevor to financially support The Salvation Army.

'I'm not trying to pay back anything they've done for me; I just admire what they're doing.'

Having been a regular donor throughout his adult years, Trevor has given a generous gift in his Will—his home.

'When I go, the flat goes to The Salvation Army, and hopefully it will go to a hard-up family that will really appreciate it,' he says. 'It's very hard at the moment for a lot of people.'

Trevor is now retired, but he still keeps active around his flat and garden in Linwood. He is committed to supporting The Salvation Army as long as he is able.

'It's always been on my mind, you see, to always help The Salvation Army, because they're always helping other people.'

If you would like to join people like Trevor 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 salvationarmy.org.nz/wills.

Her Own Hero

Louise Tangihaere is a true hero. She has overcome her battle with alcohol through the help of The Salvation Army Bridge programme.

She has raised nine children, through her extended whānau. And now, she is a hero in her community, giving back through the Sallies.

‘Booze was just something we grew up with,’ says Louise Tangihaere—known as Lou. ‘I was two years old when my mum left, and my dad turned to alcohol.’

By the age of nine, Lou was running the household—working out the budget, paying the bills, and getting the taxi to buy groceries. She began drinking alcohol at the age of 12 years and fell pregnant at age 14, with a partner who physically abused her. By the time her own son became a teenager, Lou was ‘drinking every waking moment’.

Lou remembers a time when her son entered a speech competition. ‘Hearing that just blew me away,’ she says. But, at that time, she was arrested by three police officers outside her house. It was a wakeup call for Lou. Her son received a standing ovation and won the competition—and his speech was later used by community groups to support and work with children in similar situations.

Lou found herself at The Salvation Army Bridge in Wellington, a programme to help with alcohol and other drug addictions. ‘The detox was really trying, but there were people from all walks of life and all ages going through the same thing,’ she says.

‘The Salvation Army leaders were amazing, very warm-hearted, very understanding and non-judgemental.

‘At the Bridge programme, I was able to get a lot of my own anguish and depression out. That healing was what



‘At the Bridge programme, I was able to get a lot of my own anguish and depression out.’

helped me get through what happened next.’

Lou stopped drinking and turned her life around. But a moment that changed her life forever: her younger sister died in a house fire. Lou took on the care of her two nieces and a nephew, as well as her own children. ‘That was the biggest turning point in my life. But I spent 11 years bringing up nine children—without alcohol. They are all my children, they all call me mum,’ she says.

Eventually, Lou managed to buy her own home. At that stage, she knew it was time to give back. ‘The Salvation Army was one of the biggest influences in my life and they helped me get to where I am, so when I could, I decided to give back.’

Today, she makes regular donations through the True Heroes programme. ‘The Sallies do so much for the community’ she says. ‘If my contribution helps one person or one family, I will have achieved my aim.’

THANK YOU FOR CARING

Supporters just like you, have completed the survey about how we can best serve you, our donors. Your feedback is important. We want to provide you with content and updates about our work that interest you.

We were overwhelmed by the response and we are still processing the returned surveys ... so a huge thank you!

We were amazed with the number of supporters interested in joining or learning about our True Heroes and Gift in Wills programmes, and how many were interested in attending tours and functions. We appreciate this greatly, and we will get back to you soon with information you requested.

We particularly want to recognise people who have

taken the time to give us detailed accounts of why they support The Salvation Army. They can see the benefits of the transformation and care that has happened in the lives of people in their local communities.

We hope to share some of these amazing stories in the future, as well as key learnings from the survey.

One thing that was clear is that The Salvation Army has an amazing, committed and loyal group of supporters, of which you are a very important one.

Our commitment to you is to keep you informed about how your donations make a real difference to many lives. You are someone who cares, provides support and compassion to those in need. Thank you.

From Our Territorial Commander

Welcome to our Autumn *Together* newsletter, celebrating you—our donors—and the work The Salvation Army is able to achieve, thanks to your generosity.

Julie and I have hit the ground running since arriving in Wellington at the beginning of February. In our first week, we were privileged to take part in Waitangi Day commemorations at Ti Tiriti O Waitangi Marae, before visiting Fiji to see our programmes in action.

After a background with The Salvation Army in Australia, we're excited to take up the roles of Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries, respectively, in Aotearoa. We are excited by Aotearoa's cultural diversity; and look forward to working with you to help the transformation of the most vulnerable in our society.

The past year has seen our work expand to a new social housing development at Royal Oak, Auckland, where more than 50 tenants are now housed in warm, secure homes. In this edition of *Together*, you'll read about Nina Rule's journey from a failed business and

addiction, to opportunities brought about through being offered a house by The Salvation Army.

The Salvation Army serves without bias, and some of our most important work is with those on society's margins. Our story about True Hero Louise Tangihaere, gives an inspirational look at the power of transformation.

In this age of disconnectedness and loss of family ties, The Salvation Army reaches out to the most vulnerable with an open heart and open arms. With your help and the love of God, we can truly transform lives.



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



Nina Chose Life

Nina Rule's life could not be more different than that of five years ago.

In fact, Nina hardly recognises herself, and credits much of her transformation to her own grit and determination, as well as the support she received through The Salvation Army.

Nina was one of more than 60 people who moved from transitional accommodation to permanent homes in the newly-built Te Hononga Tāngata, in Royal Oak, Auckland.

A long-time drug addict, it took a failed business, and 'the gift of desperation' for Nina to seek help out of her addiction. 'That's when I decided I needed to get help, or I would end up in jail or dead,' Nina says.

That help came in the form of The Salvation Army's Epsom Lodge, which provides 12 weeks' emergency and transitional housing, supported by a raft of counselling and wrap-around services.

Te Hononga Tāngata has been designed to encourage community; there's a community garden and barbeque, and plenty of 'bump' spaces, where residents can't help but meet up with others. Isolation is very much discouraged, and case workers are regular visitors.

Nina says her move in December 2019 was the start of many changes. She now has a job and a car. As well as working, Nina is also studying for a Mental Health and Addiction qualification.



'In the last year my life has done a complete 180. I now have so much freedom and self love.'

Her new accommodation is 'amazing', and she now has somewhere for her family to gather.

'Everyone's very supportive because there are a lot of people in recovery, so we look out for each other and support each other.'

Nina says, 'In the last year, my life has done a complete 180 ... I now have so much freedom and self-love.'

As a peer-support worker for others experiencing addiction, Nina says their journey inspires her to keep moving forward.

'Their journey is a constant reminder that I don't ever want to go back,' she says.



▲ L'ORÉAL TEAM PACKING FOR CITIZENS' DAY

Salvation Army Clients Get Pampered at Christmas

When clients came to The Salvation Army to receive gifts for their children at Christmas, they were thrilled to receive a special surprise for themselves—thanks to a generous donation from L'Oréal.

The Salvation Army was gifted a staggering \$1,500,000 worth of wellbeing items from cosmetics and beauty giant L'Oréal—including everything from shampoo and conditioner, to makeup and skin care—which went to 15 centres around New Zealand.

Waitākere Salvation Army decided to do something a little bit special for the 400 families it works with at Christmas. Everyday essentials went to the foodbank to be included in its care parcels, while luxury items were packaged into gift packs.

When parents came in to choose presents for their children, they got a special Christmas surprise for themselves as well. 'The mums thought it was amazing, they absolutely loved it,' says social worker Bex Dilger. 'They came in for their kids, not expecting anything for themselves, and to be able to give them something that was really good quality, it made them feel worthwhile.'

Bex spent weeks, alongside a team of volunteers, preparing around 600 gift packs. 'It's something that most of our clients would never buy for themselves. But you need to pamper yourself—as a woman and as a mother. It's a real boost, and they were really thrilled to be receiving a gift,' she says. The parents were also able to select their own lipsticks and foundation, from the thousands of items donated by L'Oréal.

But it's not just about pampering, the products also meet a practical need.

'If you're going for a job interview or a meeting, it's really good to be able to have those makeup items,'

says Bex. 'In some cases, they need those products to help them move forward.'

She estimates that around half of the clients who received help with toys or food parcels at Christmas were from working families—a growing trend in New Zealand—dubbed 'the working poor'.

'They come in asking for a food parcel because their partner works 40-plus hours a week on minimum wage, but with rents so high, he's not getting enough to cover grocery costs. If the tyre blows out, or they have to buy school uniforms, there is no spare money for these things,' explains Bex.

It's a trend The Salvation Army is seeing on a daily basis, agrees head of Salvation Army Community Ministries Jono Bell. 'Every day we see parents going without so they can provide for their children. But when the budget doesn't stretch, it's not just groceries they miss out on, its hygiene products as well. If you can't afford those essentials, it has a huge impact on your sense of wellbeing.'

The large L'Oréal donation was part of its milestone 10th anniversary, Citizens' Day last year, when L'Oréal staff made the mammoth effort to create 22,000 wellbeing packages for New Zealanders in need—with The Salvation Army chosen as one of the selected recipients.

'The high-quality products from L'Oréal were absolutely awesome,' says Jono. It gives clients the message that 'they are not just getting society's leftovers—it's treating them with dignity and respect', agrees Bex.

'Businesses, as well as individuals, all have a valuable part to play in supporting the work to bring change to the lives of those in need. We require all types of support and, when we work with L'Oréal, I know we have a partnership that makes them part of our family,' says Tessa Reardon, Business Partnerships Manager.