

Together



Spring 2018

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

Te Ope Whakaora



▲ (FROM LEFT) RACHAEL INCH, ISIAH AND CAPTAIN NATHAN HOLT

Helping People Find Their Purpose

A Salvation Army initiative in Christchurch is using a ground-breaking support model to address specific needs in their community, focussing on collaboration and helping people to discover and achieve their goals.

For teenagers like Isaiah, it's also giving them a place to feel safe, to be themselves and to find their purpose.

Isaiah is one of hundreds of people who visit Generation House in Rolleston on a weekly basis, both to access services from a range of local providers and to engage with other people experiencing similar issues.

The project is the brainchild of Captains Nathan and Naomi Holt, who saw massive gaps in the community between what residents needed and what was currently available.

Tasked with establishing a new Salvation Army centre (called a 'Corps') in Rolleston in 2015, one of Nathan's first priorities was to engage with local community groups. Speaking with both the local council and a youth council sub-committee, one thing soon became apparent—there

was a lack of suitable community space available.

'We were seeing a lot of groups that wanted or needed to have a presence in Rolleston, but didn't have space to work out of or the funds to rent a space.'

The Selwyn District also presented difficulties for the people living there, being a relatively new community and one of the fastest growing areas in the country. Thanks to this booming population across both a rural and an urban setting and the large number of young families within it, Nathan says it also meant that people were at risk of isolation and loneliness.

Nathan was able to find a suitable house in a rural setting for both the project and The Salvation Army to operate out of, with plenty of room for multiple organisations to have a presence. And Generation House project was born.

Three years later, and Nathan says that Generation House is having a massive impact on the people who use it.

'At the heart of the project is having a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can come to feel safe and at

ease, and to access community services from a communal space. While it includes standard Salvation Army services, such as a foodbank and counselling/chaplaincy support, it also houses services provided by other local groups.'

Nathan and Naomi say that this idea of 'collaboration' has been a key philosophy behind this project.

'Generation House is built on collaborative relationships with community groups, like Selwyn Parenting Network, Talk Together, Selwyn Social Enterprise and others.

It's a shift in philosophy for the Army, in that we're playing host to a range of community services under our roof, alongside and in partnership with our existing services.'

The structure of Generation House, as a place that looks and feels like a real home instead of a community centre, is what makes it a success, says Project Manager, Rachael Inch.

'It's a nice space that in a way walks a funny line—it's a community centre but doesn't act like one. We want people to make themselves at home and to treat it like a home, so we've purposely made the space not feel clinical or formal.

We see people affected by the high cost of living coming in, alongside people who are drawn here because they want to make a positive change in their lives—you can see they want to do something but they don't know where to start.'

Rachael's Journey

For Rachael, her path to working at Generation House came from her own experiences with The Salvation Army.

'I used to work for the council and have a background in the arts sector, and I went through an extremely challenging time both there and stemming from when I was younger.

I turned to The Salvation Army for help, and, through being a part of the family, I was able to find my way—it had a huge impact on me and made me realise I am good enough.'

Nathan and Naomi saw how Rachael, with her arts background and passion for helping others, could help grow

the Generation House project. So they offered her a job, which she gladly accepted.

'The idea of using creativity as community ministry was of interest to us and has brought in all sorts—lots of people want to share their voice through arts, painting and music.

When people have that space, they tend to feel more comfortable expressing themselves using an artistic medium.'

"We want people to make themselves at home and to treat it like a home."

The word 'generation' in the name of the project lets people know that all ages and backgrounds are welcome in the space, and encourages them to interact with each other. Rachael says that this idea of 'generational transfer'—that every generation has something to teach other generations—can often be harnessed through creativity and the arts.

'We have a regular craft group that meets here with lots of older ladies, and every once in a while we'll bring younger people over to interact with them.

Everyone has something to teach—the young girls teach the older women how to use computers or technical stuff, while the older women dispense valuable life advice that these girls often can't get from their own parents.'

A Voice for Isaiah

Isaiah is a regular visitor to Generation House from Brackenridge, a nearby organisation that provides support to children, young people and adults with disabilities and autism in Canterbury.

Isaiah found mainstream school difficult due to challenges in his life, which meant he was often called names and shunned by his peers because he was 'different'. He struggled with writing due to his ADD, but he loves dancing—a key way he is able to express himself.

Coming to Generation House, he was able to work in a positive, creative space to channel his abilities into the things he loves. Working with the counsellors, he has slowly been able to 'come out of his shell' and communicate increasingly better with peers and adults in his time there.

Isaiah says that Generation House has made a difference for him, allowing him to 'show others the real me without getting hassled for it'.

'I don't get judged here, I feel safe and comfortable.'

The Future of Generation House

Nathan says that Generation House is not about 'ticking boxes' but instead achieving outcomes for people based on their needs, and he can see the momentum starting to build as awareness of the project spreads.

'This project has been developed based on an understanding of the community, that they needed a space like this to be themselves and to get the help they need.

The variety of people seeking our help has been rewarding—from solo mums accessing our foodbank as a pathway to other services, to high schoolers looking for a place to feel safe and people who feel broken needing help to repair their lives.'





From Our Public Relations Director

As we transition into a new season, I've recently been blessed to see first-hand the work undertaken by The Salvation Army on the frontlines during the cold winter.

Since coming into the role of PR Director earlier this year, it's been humbling to learn more about our vital role in the community. Even though The Salvation Army has had a strong influence in my own life, I hadn't fully realised the breadth and scope of what we do—and how reliant we are on the generosity of people such as yourselves.

The history of The Salvation Army is also something of interest to me, from stories of how our founder, General William Booth, revolutionised concepts such as equality and fair trade—ideals now commonplace today—to our presence during wartime, providing comfort and care to soldiers on the battlefield.

Accordingly, the theme of this edition of Together is around 'generations'. So it's appropriate that we visit Generation House in Christchurch, where we speak with Captains Nathan and Naomi Holt about how the project is changing people's lives for the better.

We also see how The Salvation Army is continuing to help those people impacted by Auckland's housing crisis, speaking with Colin and Sally about how our social housing saved them from homelessness.

And we visit the Army's Back to Work programme in Whangarei, talking with course tutor Carol and client Tim who she helped to find vital employment for.

Looking beyond our shores to overseas, exciting things are happening within our wider Territory. The Salvation Army was recently welcomed into Samoa at the request of their government, with a Corps (church) in the process of being established as well as an addiction treatment centre.

And in Fiji, a fun cycle challenge is being developed as a major fundraiser for the Pacific Emergency Fund.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you to continue making a difference for people in need across New Zealand.

Tim Hamilton
Public Relations Director
The Salvation Army

Cycling for Fiji

In July next year, 20 dedicated Kiwis will be testing their endurance as part of The Salvation Army's inaugural Fiji Cycle Challenge.

This event asks participants to circumnavigate Viti Levu, Fiji's main island, cycling almost 500 kilometres and viewing some of the most beautiful parts of Fiji along the way.

It also provides an opportunity for the cyclists to see how resilient Fijians are, and how many have been able to rebuild their homes and lives following the devastation of Cyclone Winston two years ago.

The aim of this challenge event is to raise up to \$100,000 towards The Salvation Army's Pacific Emergency Fund, to be used specifically for rapid emergency response to the Fiji region.

When Cyclone Winston hit Fiji back in 2016, The Salvation Army was able to rapidly respond to the crisis—providing both short-term relief to thousands of families in the form of food, water and tarpaulins, as well as long-term help like providing tools and building materials to those worst affected.

Following this, The Salvation Army's goal is to be as prepared as possible for future disasters; in the event of another cyclone or natural disaster striking Fiji we need to be ready to instantly respond to help those Fijians who may be affected.

This Cycle Challenge is our first proactive fundraising initiative for the fund, and it promises the participants an epic and unforgettable adventure through rural Fiji—experiencing this amazing island nation not as a tourist, but as someone who is committed to helping Fijians be prepared for the future.

To find out more about the 2019 Fiji Cycle Challenge and enquire about being a participant or a supporter, please go to our website:

www.salvationarmy.org.nz/fijicyclechallenge



▲ TIM AND CAROL AT E&E'S BACK TO WORK PROGRAMME

Back Into the Workforce

For the past 10 years, Carol Richard has been helping to change lives in the Far North thanks to The Salvation Army's Back to Work programme.

The 12 week course is offered by The Salvation Army's Education & Employment (E&E) programme in Whangarei, and focusses on helping people of all ages back into employment. Carol says that often these people have been out of employment a while and struggle to know where to begin.

'Our clients are usually referred to us from Work & Income, we see a lot of solo mums and fathers, people out of work for many years who are desperate to get back in the workforce.'

The programme sees a 70–75% success in placing people into jobs—a boost for the low socio-economic Far North which has some of the highest unemployment rates in the country.

Carol says her role in the Back to Work programme often involves being a navigator and coach as well as a tutor.

'Whangarei has its challenges, it can feel like a dark cloud hangs over this place because of the drugs and gangs in the region—many who grow up in this environment don't know any different.

But we see a lot of good people who genuinely want to make change, and that can start with finding a job; they just need help knowing where to start and how to achieve their goals.'

Carol says she gets a lot of job satisfaction in the role.

'Seeing a client coming in with no skills and who think of themselves as 'unemployable', and then to be able to give them the skills and confidence needed to get a job, it's very rewarding.

We often have to teach our clients a lot of life skills, things like gaining confidence and self-management, how to market themselves to employers, writing cover letters and answering interview questions, even knowing how to read adverts which are relevant to them—this is new ground for a lot of our students.'

Carol says a lot of hard work goes into achieving these outcomes.

'I love my job but it's a challenge. I learn something every day from these fantastic people.'

Carol also provides a pastoral care service for her clients, ensuring those who gain employment remain in the workforce.

'After they get a job, I support them for 3–12 months, keeping in touch with them to see how they're going—if there are any issues then I step in straight away, often acting as a mediator between the person and their employer.'

When Tim first joined the Back to Work programme, a severe lack of confidence meant that he was not mentally or emotionally ready to return to the workforce.

'I struggled with confidence all the way through, job interviews were an incredibly scary thought to me' says Tim.

Carol slowly built Tim's confidence up over the first few months, giving him regular praise and making him realise his capabilities. When she felt he was ready, the E&E team found an employer who was sympathetic to his plight and willing to take a chance on him. Tim was able to ease himself into the low-stress handyman role which gave him vital confidence and a sense of achievement.

Now employed in an autonomous role growing vegetables for a local restaurant, Tim is complimentary of the Salvation Army's Back to Work programme.

'The classes were very helpful and they really seem to work; they're more personal, you're not just a number (like it feels with some government departments), they treat you like a person.'

Tim is particularly thankful for Carol's help, including her 'outside of the box' thinking to get people back on track.

'Carol is really good with people, she convinced me that I could get through this and into a job—she has such a good heart and really takes time to help people.'

A Winter Gift

For Auckland-based couple Lindsey and Marion, the Winter Energy Payment (WEP) subsidy they recently received with their superannuation, represented a chance to give back to those in need.

They chose to gift their WEP to The Salvation Army as part of its Winter Appeal, with Lindsey confident the Army would put it to best use during the cold winter months.

‘The Government gave us the option of giving it back to them, but it seemed to us that someone like The Salvation Army could utilise it more directly than they could.’

The couple had worked hard to set themselves up for retirement, feeling they could live comfortably without dipping into their savings. In addition, Lindsey has an ongoing interest in energy efficiency with their home being well insulated and heated thanks to a heat pump.

‘We’ll use about 250 kilowatt hours of electricity (about \$65 or \$70 worth) for all of our space heating for the whole of this winter, so the \$413 subsidy the government is paying out to cover the average household heating bill for not much over half of the winter, is way more than we’d ever use.’

Lindsey also has an interest in The Salvation Army and its work, dating back to his grandfather being involved in the organisation. He has also helped the community on an ongoing basis through his church group.

Figures as at 31st July showed that of the one million Kiwis eligible to receive the WEP, only 1,975 (0.2 per cent) were confirmed as giving up their payment in the first month.

We think that Lindsey and Marion, as well as others who have donated the value of their Winter Energy Payment to the work of The Salvation Army, have made a fantastic and generous gesture—thank you.

If you’re keen to do the same, please phone us on (04) 382 0744 or email pr@salvationarmy.org.nz



Salvation Army ‘Donut Girls’ in World War 1

To coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1 later this year, The Salvation Army will be opening up their archives to the public to show the important role its soldiers played in this historic event.

While many think of The Salvation Army’s role in this battle as being ambulatory or chaplaincy in nature, some stories might surprise you—like did you know that The Salvation Army is credited with the invention of the donut?

Since 1917, when a cheerful Salvation Army ‘lassie’ (as they were then called) handed a fresh donut to a homesick soldier in France, The Salvation Army donut has symbolised loving concern for those in the armed forces. Not only did these donuts help ‘ease the hardships of the frontline fighting man’ by satisfying their physical hunger on the battlefield, they also provided a vital morale boost to those soldiers.

It all started when Salvation Army volunteers travelled overseas and set up small huts located near the front lines, where they could give soldiers clothes, supplies and more. After 36 days of steady rain, a blanket of depression was hanging over the soldiers and they agreed they ‘ought to be able to give them some real home cooking’.

Supplies were often tough to come by; the only things they could get were flour, sugar, lard, baking powder, cinnamon and canned milk. So two Salvation Army volunteers—Margaret Sheldon and Helen Purviance—began frying donuts, seven at a time, in soldiers’ helmets.

These tasty treats boosted morale and won the hearts of many soldiers, becoming a symbol of hope during the war.

After several soldiers asked, ‘Can you make a donut with a hole in it?’, Helen helped to improvise a donut cutter by fastening the top of a condensed milk can and camphor-ice tube to a wooden block. This simple method became the first known source of today’s donut.

Find out more at www.salvationarmy.org.nz/donutgirls





▲ (FROM LEFT) MAJOR GRAHAM RATTRAY AND COLIN CAMPBELL

A Home for Colin and Sally

Thanks to The Salvation Army, Colin and Sally Campbell went from living in a small caravan for over ten years to a tidy one-bedroom home in south Auckland.

Colin and Sally are one of a number of people that are living in the social housing run by The Salvation Army. The couple used to work in Auckland's CBD, Colin full-time and his wife part-time. In 2013, Sally started experiencing headaches and was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

It was located above her right eye and described as being about the size of a 'squashed-up tennis ball', Colin says.

Sally underwent an operation to remove the tumour, and following the surgery the Campbells went back to living in their caravan. Sally used a walking stick to get around and was cared for by Colin, who says she began having epileptic seizures—some of which could last up to eight hours.

'We knew she might be blind after the operation, but we didn't know anything about this epilepsy business until she started having these seizures once every couple of weeks.'

"Things are much easier now—I would hate to think where we'd be without The Salvation Army."

Colin became her full-time carer, buying a wheelchair for Sally to use as she wasn't able to walk far. They soon found that their living situation made simple tasks difficult, like having to trek to the ablution block to use the bathroom.

'It was a loose metal footpath and if she wanted to go at 10pm in the rain I had to push her there in her wheelchair.'

Colin applied to Work and Income for social housing and was told they may qualify, but there was a very long waiting list. Other agencies he approached had the same outcome.

An internet search led him to information about The Salvation Army's social housing service. He contacted them and said he and his wife were happy to live anywhere in south Auckland. After completing an application, they viewed the Favona home and were immediately impressed.

'We had a quick look and said "yep, that's excellent, if it's still available we'll take it".'

The couple's main source of income is Sally's \$349 weekly benefit, which covers rent, and a small disability allowance. It's been tough for them to make ends meet at times, but their lives have improved since moving into their new home.

'Things are much easier now. It's way better and we're way happier—I would hate to think where we would be without The Salvation Army.'

Colin says there's 'no way' the couple could afford to pay market rent in Auckland. If they hadn't secured social housing they'd possibly be homeless, he says.

'We wouldn't be living in Auckland as we couldn't afford it—we'd possibly be living on the street or in a vehicle.'

The Salvation Army owns multiple social homes in the south Auckland suburb of Favona. Salvation Army Major Graham Rattray manages 25 of these houses, and says he receives up to four applications a week from people needing housing.

'We could fill all our houses twice over—my application list is growing every week but we just don't have the houses.'

Social housing tenants in New Zealand pay about a quarter of their income in rent, with Work and Income paying the rest. There are currently 8704 people on the Government's social housing register in New Zealand as of June 30.

Thanks to Christopher Harrowell and STUFF/Manukau Courier for this story and photo.