

Wills Update

News & stories from The Salvation Army Wills & Bequests team

This issue:

- Moonyah welcomes Honoured Friends
- Fulfilling the circle of care: Saman's story

Moonyah welcomes Honoured Friends

Twenty-two Honoured Friends of The Salvation Army recently visited the Brisbane Recovery Services Centre (known as Moonyah), where they heard from one of the participants, Ben, about the holistic and long-term support he is receiving.

A swift downfall

Ben had built a happy life as a successful marine engineer. However, when he lost a leg in an industrial accident, he says he also lost his sense of identity.

“After the accident, I lost my career and very quickly lost the life I had known,” he said. “I was on very heavy prescription medication. I fell into depression then alcohol and drug addiction. I lost my wife, my house, even my dog.”

Depressed and suicidal, Ben found himself on the streets. “I had an overwhelming sense of worthlessness,” he said.

Light in the darkness

Ben found refuge at The Salvation Army's Pindari Resident Recovery Service in Spring Hill, Brisbane. It was here that he was told about Moonyah.

“I had no idea places like this existed,” he said. “I thought I had no one to help me. Then I came to Moonyah and went into detox. I came into the program a very angry man with no will to live. But I was loved and cared for, which I didn't believe was possible.

“I am now in good health and under expert care. I can approach anyone here 24 hours a day. Moonyah is very much like a family that loves and supports one another.”



Looking to the future

After sharing his story, Ben thanked the Honoured Friends.

“I'm now full of hope. I have compassion for others and direction in life,” he told the group. “But I'm just one of the many stories here. There are incredible people here of all ages and walks of life, giving and getting support.”

The Salvation Army's Saman Mall, who helped organise the event, emphasises that while participants do contribute, the

service relies heavily on donations from individuals and community organisations, Red Shield funding and bequests.

“It is such a joy to share our work with our faithful supporters,” she said. “We are a team, and it is important to demonstrate the difference Honoured Friends can make in the lives of others.”

If you would like to learn more about the services your generous gift will support, please email willsandbequests@aue.salvationarmy.org

In the next edition...

Evolhope: Where 'love' and 'hope' come together

When her husband, George, passed away, Janet Parker set up a trust to support their favourite charities, including The Salvation Army. But she had no idea how her generosity would impact the lives of disadvantaged schoolkids across Western Sydney.

Fulfilling the circle of care: Saman's story

Seven years ago, Saman Mall left a promising financial career to work for The Salvation Army. And it wasn't a hard decision to make.

Saman and her family, originally from India, first connected with The Salvation Army in New Zealand.

"We had intended to move to Australia," she says. "But there was an issue with our residency applications, so we temporarily moved to New Zealand."

A small miracle

Saman and her family soon learned that holidaying in another country is very different to leaving everything behind to live there.

"It leaves you vulnerable," she says. "We felt lost and isolated."

It was these feelings that prompted Saman and her husband, Ash, to seek out a church.

"It was a Sunday, the day after we arrived in New Zealand," she says. "We were standing outside our place in Auckland looking for a church. All of a sudden, we realised we were living on the same street as a Salvation Army corps (church).

"We went in and it was the beginning of a special journey."

A second blessing

It wasn't long before Saman, Ash and their son became part of the church community. However, despite the comfort and support they received, the young family was still struggling to find their feet.



"I needed to work, but couldn't find a job," says Saman. "Our savings were disappearing quickly."

"After a few weeks, I got a job at a café near the church. I was on a late shift when the corps officers, Paul and Stephanie, came in. They were surprised to see me working so late."

"The next evening, there was a knock at the door. It was Stephanie. She asked if I would like a part-time job as an administrator with the church. I couldn't believe it!

"They were so accommodating. I could bring my son to work or work from home. They showed a lot of confidence in me."

"One Christmas they knew we were a bit tight so they brought lovely toys and food for our son. They didn't just do it for us, but for so many families in the community."

Hope inspires new beginning

While working at the church, Saman also secured a part-time position at a bank.

"When we moved to Australia, I was still working with the bank," she says. "I was promoted, but turned it down when I saw an opportunity to work for The Salvation Army again."

Now part of The Salvation Army's Wills and Bequests team in Stafford, Brisbane, Saman is passionate about raising funds to resource those most in need in the community.

"I have been through hard times and have experienced the kindness of The Salvation Army. That's why I'm so proud to do what I do."

Saman and the Wills and Bequests team are always available to assist in managing your gift in Will. Please feel free to contact us on **1800 337 082** for assistance or visit salvos.org.au/wills.



Thank you for including The Salvation Army in your Will.

For more information, or to update your contact preferences, please call 1800 337 082 or visit salvos.org.au/wills

Published by The Salvation Army Australia Communications and Fundraising Department | PO Box A229, Sydney South NSW 1235