

Your *Hope* in *Action*



## YOUR REPORT FROM THE SALVOS AND THE PEOPLE YOU HELP

## Summer 2026



## INSIDE: How you...

...helped Grace and her children find a stable home and so much more.

...brought joy into  
people's lives at  
Christmas.

...have an impact  
in your local  
community.



Dear Friend,

A very warm welcome to your first *Hope in Action* report of 2026.

Inside you can read how, once again, you and the Salvos community came together over the festive period to support your fellow Australians in times of need.

Opposite, you can read how your kindness helped give Grace a safe place to go after escaping domestic violence.

Many Australian families have been pushed to the brink by the continually rising costs of food, power, petrol and above all, housing. With so many Australians feeling overwhelmed by mounting financial pressure, your support is needed more than ever. You provide practical support for families who are facing hardship and even homelessness. Most importantly, you provide hope for a better tomorrow.

We would also like to update you on our Christmas Appeal and how, thanks to generous support like yours, people like Paula and Amy have found the hope, joy and relief.

Support like yours provides hope in the lives of people facing crisis right across Australia. Thank you so much for your continued belief in our work.

**Colonel Rodney Walters**  
The Salvation Army

# Your support

## gave Grace and her family hope for the future

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When Grace and her children escaped from her abusive husband, she had no money, no home and no idea what to do. Sitting in her local park, researching homelessness support services, the loving mother felt incredibly isolated and anxious. It's frightening to think what might've happened next – if it wasn't for caring people like you who helped provide life-changing support in those critical moments.

### Reaching out

Grace and her children soon discovered the comfort and safety of Salvos care. The most pressing priority was to get the family off the streets and into safe accommodation, so temporary accommodation was arranged straight away.

Having a safe roof over their heads meant everything to Grace.

As she shared, "It's really nice. It's got three bedrooms and the yard. It's a good feeling when you have your own place and can feel comfortable and safe in your own home."





## Christmas as a family

The first Christmas they spent in their new home was especially joyous. As Grace recalls, *“When we put the Christmas tree up in our own place, we were so happy about it. Then we cooked our meal in the kitchen and we were all really happy.”*

As well as housing, Grace received dedicated one-on-one support from a Salvos caseworker, practical help with the cost of school uniforms and books, and all the help she needed to rebuild her confidence and her family’s future.

## In a better place

Today, thanks to caring support made possible by you, Grace and her children are thriving. Grace completed her teaching studies and found a job as a teaching assistant, giving her and her children financial stability moving forward. For Grace, the most important thing is seeing her children safe and happy.

*“Seeing my children smile, it makes me happy. I feel blessed. We will be forever grateful for what you’ve done for us.”*

**Thank you for making stories of hope like this possible.**

## At Christmas across Australia...



**57,000 people**  
were supported  
through our programs.



**Almost 89,000**  
nights were provided to people  
in need of accommodation.



**Almost \$2 Million**  
in financial assistance was  
provided to people facing  
financial hardship.

# Thank you for being the hope people need

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Appeal and our goal to raise \$29 million. Your generosity brings relief into the lives of people like Paula and Amy when they need it most.

Our Christmas Appeal featured Paula's moving story and how, just weeks before Christmas, she faced homelessness after escaping a violent relationship.

Thanks to wonderful supporters like you, Paula's story has a happy ending. Today, because of the support she received at the lowest point in her life, Paula gives back as a Salvos volunteer, offering hope to others in crisis.

*"When I first walked through the doors of the Salvos, I felt like I was nothing. But now, I feel like I am someone in this community, like I am a contributing member of society now, that I am of value, and that I have worth. I've done a full circle."*

*"With every single person that I help, whether that is a man who is homeless, or a woman who has escaped domestic violence, that is me healing myself on the inside. I feel stronger as a person."*  
- Paula



**“If it wasn't for the Salvos, I wouldn't have made it through.”**

- Paula

## The need at Christmas...



There was a **22% increase** in demand for food parcels compared to the Christmas season before.





Our Christmas Appeal also featured Amy's family, and how they unexpectedly experienced hardship and uncertainty as a result of rising costs and the shortage of affordable housing.

Amy found herself moving her family between motel rooms and friends' places, feeling increasingly distraught because she couldn't provide the stability of a home for her children.

Thanks to support like yours, all that changed the moment Amy walked through the doors of The Salvation Army. We supported her and her family with emergency food relief and vouchers for the children. Most importantly, you helped us to provide safe transitional housing, giving Amy and her children the stability they urgently needed.

For so many people like Paula and Amy, their only hope is the Salvos and support made possible by love and kindness like yours.



**“My kids and I feel stability for once in our lives.”**  
- Amy



Demand for food parcels **more than doubled** at Christmas time compared to other months of the year.



You helped to provide food parcels or meals to more than **17,500 people** in need.

# Christmas cheer...

# thanks to you



Once again, Salvos communities across Australia came together to bring joy and relief into the lives of those in need.

Whether it was through volunteering, donating and sorting food hampers, or toys for children, families across Australia had a special and joyful Christmas thanks to the efforts of kind people like you.

Our Salvos team want to share a heartfelt appreciation for everyone who contributed and make this possible.

***"We are overwhelmed with gratitude for our incredible local community, supporters, and volunteers! Your generosity this Christmas has truly warmed our hearts."***

## Your generosity had a big impact at Christmas.

Across The Salvation Army nationally...



**184,000+ meals**

were provided to those experiencing homelessness.



**350,000+ gifts**

were provided to families in need.

## Bringing generosity

## to the table

The launch of Salvos Giving Table was a brand new way to bring communities together to support Australians doing it tough at Christmas.

Across the country, communities, businesses and families opened their hearts by hosting Giving Tables - setting up spaces to gather together, share a meal and raise funds.

Thanks to wonderful hosts and generous supporters like you, vital funds were raised to help bring hope and support where it's needed most.

**From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who joined in and made our very first Salvos Giving Table such an inspiring success.**





# Letting *kindness* live on

Mary's connection to The Salvation Army goes back to a very young age. As she recalls, *"We had our Grandmother living with us and she was always commenting on the Salvos and what a wonderful job they did."* She also recalls running out into the street as a young child to see The Salvation Army band play.

Mary's support for the Salvos over the years is driven by the family values her grandmother inspired, as well as a deep sense of concern and compassion for others. *"I feel that I have been very lucky in life,"* she explains. *"The very thought of me being in a nice warm house knowing that there are people out there who are sleeping in a doorway makes me feel guilty."*

Mary feels that after a lifetime of support for the Salvos, she wants to continue bringing relief and hope to others when she's no longer here. That's why she's decided to leave a gift in her Will. She knows that her meaningful gift will provide practical and compassionate support to people, no matter what hardship they're facing in their lives. As she says, *"There are many ways that people need help and I think the Salvos are more aware of what is most needed at the right time."*



We're so grateful for our Honoured Friends who support us with a gift in their Will like Mary.

## CELEBRITY SUPPORTER

# "The Salvos don't judge. **They listen and help.**"

Channel 9 TV presenter Peter Overton, shares his reasons for supporting The Salvation Army.

*"They are part of the fabric of this country. Mention the Salvos and you think of good people doing good things. In my media role, it has been important to use our Nine News bulletins to help the Salvos and make the community aware of their needs. And without putting too finer a point on it, they need money to continue doing their critical work."*

**A big thank you to Peter, and all our wonderful celebrity supporters, who spread awareness of The Salvation Army's vital work you help make possible.**



## CHRISTMAS EVENTS



# The Salvation Army's Carols in the Domain

Since 1983, Carols in the Domain has been one of Australia's most treasured Christmas traditions.

For decades, The Salvation Army has proudly been part of the celebration as the official charity partner.

For the very first time, The Salvation Army was the official naming partner of Australia's largest Christmas event – now proudly known as **The Salvation Army's Carols in the Domain**.

**An important part of the event is the sale of candle bags, funding vital frontline Salvos' services that can provide meals, safe housing and hope to those doing it tough.**

## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We'd like to say thank you to all our community partners, and their staff and customers, for uniting with us at Christmas and bringing joy and practical relief to thousands of Australians in crisis.

**Some incredible contributions included:**

**MYER**  
COMMUNITY FUND



Thank you

**Be hope**

13 SALVOS (13 72 58)  
[salvationarmy.org.au](http://salvationarmy.org.au)