



# Christmas Appeal



"We had run out of options and hope..."

## Kate and Mick's story

The day she locked the front door of the house her kids had grown up in for the last time, Kate knew it was all over. "We told the kids we were going on a big camping adventure. But we weren't camping – we were homeless."

Kate and her husband, Mick were hard-working Aussie go-getters. But when their business began to suffer, like many others when COVID-19 hit our shores – their dream began to unravel. They threw everything they had into the business but couldn't save it.

Then things got worse – the owner of the home they were renting decided to sell up, and the new buyers wanted to live in it.

"My stomach just dropped. I knew it was going to be almost impossible to find another place. Who's going rent to us with two kids, no income and a ton of debt?"

Unable to secure a house despite looking everywhere, Mick and Kate – without the safety net of family to fall back on and too proud to ask for help – moved their family to a campsite.

"After the kids went to sleep, we would sit outside the tent crying, and talking through what in the world we were going to do."

Kate struggled to keep up their 'camping holiday' pretence, driving the children to school every day. Unable to afford petrol for the twice daily trips, she would wait in her car for six hours until school let out – desperately making calls and applying for jobs and houses. She never got a call for an interview.

The family's campsite ordeal stretched on for three months. The kids grew increasingly bored, and Mick began to experience severe depression and spiralled into a dark place. Kate, overwhelmed and exhausted, was questioning how much more she could take.

*This Christmas your generosity will bring some unexpected joy and hope.*

Then something surprising happened – their campground manager found out that the family were not really on a camping holiday. But instead of asking them to leave, he looked after them and suggested they call the Salvos.

Kate did just that and was connected with Salvos case worker, Pam.

“I was really nervous ...but Pam was so kind and understanding, [and] made me feel like there was a light at the end of the tunnel.”

Pam made sure the family had what they needed to continue living on the camp site, while looking for a house. And within a week – just in time for Christmas – Kate and her family moved into a home.

And thanks to the kindness of people like you, the family also received food vouchers, presents for the kids, a Christmas hamper, and food for Christmas dinner – things that make a house feel like a home at Christmas. Mick and Kate also received financial counselling and budgeting advice to help them repay their debts and gain greater control of their money.

“I don’t think there’ll ever be a Christmas where I don’t think about the Salvos and what they did for us. I’ll never forget it.”

Christmas can be the hardest time of the year for families already struggling. But one act of kindness from you can provide food, daily essentials, presents for children who would otherwise miss out, and financial counselling and support during the tough times.

Thank you so much for supporting the Salvos through Workplace Giving. With increased need this Christmas, your support is greatly appreciated and will make a significant impact to the lives of Australians doing it tough.

Please contact your Workplace Giving co-ordinator, payroll department or log onto your workplace Giving platform to make a one-off donation to an amount of your choice.



**Please give an additional Workplace Giving gift today and make a real difference!**



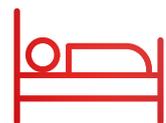
**\$10** helps to provide a meal and some relief from hunger for a person struggling to make ends meet



**\$35** provides a food hamper filled with treats and staples for a family in need this Christmas.



**\$80** can pay for a family doing it tough enjoy a fun-filled day out together and create memories they can cherish for a lifetime.



**\$125** will help provide accommodation and a sense of safety for one person for one night

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