

Honoured Friends



Thank you... for leaving a gift to
The Salvation Army
in your Will.

Merrill's compassion at work

A life guided by kindness and care.

Merrill's connection with The Salvation Army began long before she ever became a donor. It was woven into her childhood memories, shaped by family stories, the sounds of the Salvos brass band playing on the street, and the steady presence of compassion in everyday life.

Growing up in Port Melbourne, Merrill shared her home with her grandmother who held a deep admiration for the Salvos and the work they did.



That admiration was echoed by Merrill's grandfather, who spoke of seeing Salvation Army officers enter hotels during wartime, connecting with people where they were, and offering practical support in difficult moments. As a child, Merrill remembers racing into the street with her neighbours whenever The Salvation Army band arrived at Christmas time to join in with the carols.



Throughout her life, Merrill has quietly lived out those early lessons of generosity and kindness. A lifelong supporter of charitable causes, she has given her time and resources to helping people, animals and the environment. She donates regularly to The Salvation Army and is deeply involved in community-based charitable work. For decades, Merrill has participated in local knitting groups, producing garments for people in need.

“ *The thought of me being in a warm house knowing there are people sleeping in doorways makes me feel guilty,” she says. “Every winter I feel it.”*

Merrill's story is one of quiet resilience and enduring empathy. She speaks candidly about how deeply affected she is by homelessness, domestic violence and the suffering of others.

It is this awareness that led Merrill to include a gift to The Salvation Army in her Will. This was a decision she made thoughtfully and purposely. She believes the Salvos are aware of what's needed at the right time as they are embedded in the community.

“There are many ways people need help, and it might only be once in their life, but that can be enough to get them back on their feet. Ordinary people looking after ordinary people,” she says. “That's what matters.”

At 88 years young, Merrill continues to live with humour, humility and grace.

Through her legacy gift, Merrill hopes to ensure that kindness continues long after she's gone - that it offers warmth, dignity and practical help to those who need it most. It's a kind generosity, rooted in memory, compassion and a lifelong belief in helping others, simply because it's the right thing to do.

“ *I've always felt that if I can help, then I should,” she says simply. “Give where it's really needed.”*

Her compassion was also shaped by personal hardship. Merrill cared for her husband, Gus, through 11 years of serious illness and hospital stays before his passing in 1999. During that time, she was also supporting her ageing mother, often travelling between two hospitals and home, and managing responsibilities largely on her own.

Your kindness lives on

By leaving a gift in your Will to The Salvation Army, you can continue your kindness long into the future, helping provide shelter for people experiencing homelessness, safety for those escaping violence, hope for people recovering from addiction - and vital care wherever it's needed most.



A legacy of kindness

Practical care on the frontline.

For Wendy, generosity is not a single decision but a way of life – shaped by faith, family and the example of her mother, Noel.

A long-time supporter of The Salvation Army, Wendy has taken the important step of including a Gift in her Will.

“ I try to live simply, serve God, and serve the people He puts around me,” Wendy says.

That outlook was shaped early by Noel. Known for her hospitality and quiet generosity, Noel looked out for neighbours, supported charities, sewed clothes for people doing it tough, and welcomed visitors with tea and homemade treats. She supported The Salvation Army whenever she could, drawn to its practical response to people facing hardship and crisis.

Widowed at 55, Noel rebuilt her life independently, returning to work and eventually achieving her dream of owning her own home, while continuing to care deeply for others.

Affectionately known as “Bammie,” she remained active well into later life, moving to Western Australia to be closer to Wendy and continuing to volunteer and attend church.



Wendy, Honoured Friend, pictured in her garden.

When Noel passed away in 2014 at 97, Wendy reflected on the values her mother lived by – generosity, hospitality and care for others. Including The Salvation Army in her Will became a meaningful way to carry those values forward.

After selling her mother’s villa, Wendy also chose to respond to a practical need. Learning that Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) volunteers lacked a small bus to transport teams to disaster zones, she funded a minibus – now affectionately known as Bammie’s Bus.

Today, Bammie’s Bus supports volunteers across Western Australia as they travel to provide food, refreshments and care to first responders and communities affected by bushfires and other emergencies.

For Wendy, leaving a gift in Will is not an end point, but part of a broader commitment to sharing what she has and helping others stand on their feet. Through both her legacy gift and her everyday generosity, Wendy continues a legacy rooted in faith, kindness and practical care.

‘Bammie’s Bus’ for SAES, Western Australia



Others Award:

Andersons Solicitors

The Salvation Army's Others Award recognises individuals and organisations who generously support our mission through their exceptional service, dedication, and community support. Each year, only a small number of partners are honoured for their outstanding contribution.

Solicitors play an important role in helping people navigate Wills and estate planning with care and integrity. In South Australia, Andersons Solicitors has been a valued partner since 2010, supporting The Salvation Army's Community Wills Day Program. Through this initiative, firm members volunteer their time to help people prepare a simple Will.

Andersons Solicitors also supports clients who choose to leave a gift to The Salvation Army in their Will, helping fund vital programs addressing homelessness, domestic and family violence, and other critical social issues.

In 2025, The Salvation Army proudly presented Andersons Solicitors with the Others Award in recognition of their longstanding commitment. We thank the Andersons Solicitors team for helping ensure hope, dignity and care for generations to come.



Award accepted by Michelle Hutton, Partner, and Antony Boonen, Associate of Andersons Solicitors. (Pictured) Suzanne Brown and John Tobin from The Salvation Army, with representatives from Anderson Solicitors.

Remembered with gratitude

Bill (William) was a generous and compassionate man whose giving reflected his genuine care for others. Supporting charitable causes brought him great personal fulfilment and was an important part of his life.

Curious and thoughtful, Bill loved history and politics and enjoyed engaging with the world around him. He followed cricket passionately, earned a black belt in martial arts in his younger years, and had a lifelong love of dogs.

Family was at the heart of Bill's life. He was a devoted son who cared for both his parents in their later years, and he approached life with kindness. He also held deep admiration for The Salvation Army and the support it provided to soldiers during World War II.

Reflecting his values of generosity and care, Bill chose to leave a gift to The Salvation Army, continuing to make a lasting impact on the lives of others.



William Giles McCasker (1949 – 2024)



Scan here to find out more

You're welcome to share this newsletter with anyone who may be interested in becoming an Honoured Friend.

Thank you for including The Salvation Army in your Will. If you'd like to receive future updates or event invitations, please get in touch.

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