

PARRAMATTERS

SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2020

Parramatta Salvation Army

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with links for Home, About The Red Shield Appeal, Support my local Salvos, Find a Fundraiser, Login, and a red FUNDRAISE button. The main content area features a dark blue box with the heading 'DO THE DIGITAL DOORKNOCK' and text explaining the campaign. A red button labeled 'START FUNDRAISING' and a link 'HOW IT WORKS' are also visible. The background of the website shows a smiling young girl and a woman.

COMMUNITY VISITORS SCHEME UPDATE

In a time when we cannot visit Aged Care Facilities it certainly changes the way we have to connect with the residents who usually have a Community Visitor. Visiting for now will be a weekly phone call, FaceTime or a card to the resident. Leanne has also spoken to facilities about other residents who may benefit from a phone call and they will be connected with a volunteer visitor. These certainly are different times but it just means we have to look at different ways of connecting with everyone and especially those in aged care.

CONNECT SITE UPDATE

Surprisingly there hasn't been an increase in the number of people coming in to the Connect Site for assistance during the Coronavirus. On average we are probably seeing about 6-10 people per day. This may be due to the government stimulus package and people not wanting to break the social distancing rules. However, some of the people who have come in have said they do feel somewhat isolated and our regular visitors, who usually enjoy the social interaction, are staying at home. Selome has been calling our regular visitors to check in on them.

SELF DENIAL APPEAL

There is still time to donate to the Self Denial Appeal. If you would like your offering to be collected please call the office and let Karen know. If you need assistance using the online service please let us know and we can help you with that, too.

ONLINE CORPS DIRECTORY

Our online Church Directory is up and running. To access it, go to ChurchConnect.online, and enter your email address. If your email address is in the Church Directory, a login code will be sent to your email address. Once you are logged in, you can browse the directory. If you need assistance accessing the directory, please contact us and we will assist.

PRAYERPOINTS

Together we are praying through our corps directory... this week we are praying for:
Graham Lang, Helen Li, Catherine & James, Paige, Arrabelle and Bronte Lloyd, Ken & Bell Loughhead, Paul & Val Lucas, and Narelle Luxford.



Please pray for our nation as we face the spread of the Coronavirus. We pray the numbers of those infected will continue to decline.

We pray for those nations around the world who are suffering in great numbers due to the Coronavirus.



Continue to remember those in our corps family who are unwell, receiving treatment or have ongoing medical needs.



If you would like us to pray for you or your loved ones, contact either Marty Bust or Dot Griffin for it to be included in the newsletter.

FINANCES AND BUILDING

Firstly, some good news. We want to say thank you to you. You continue to give generously to our corps. We've taken a look at our income this week and our Planned Giving has held steady, particularly as lots of you have found alternative ways to give.

The other great news is that The Salvation Army applied successfully for the Federal Government's Job Keeper scheme. This is a great relief. It means that the Government will pay the salaries for most of our staff for the next six months (officers are not employees so are not eligible). This is very helpful as we've lost the income from our Shopping Centre and Stations ministry.

We also want to say thank you to Selome and Karen who very generously offered to, and did, cut their hours to help us through the immediate crisis, however, we'll now be able to reinstate their hours. We appreciate their willingness to help us.

The other challenge is more long term. We have a ten-year financial plan for our corps which is based on very substantial income from rental income from our ground floor tenancies. This is of course the worst possible time to try and get new tenants! Not only that, our finances are fully stretched to get the build finished. This means that we can't fit out the shops to make them more attractive and we'll just rent them as empty shells. Therefore, we'll need to offer prospective tenants substantial rent-free periods in their leases. And that means less income for us. We have a team in the property department and Raine and Horne who are working very hard to get the best results for us, but it is likely that we won't see significant income from the building until the middle of 2021.

So how can you help your corps and help us get our building completed and fully operational you ask? Simple. The Red Shield Appeal. We've obtained approval to direct money we raise locally in the appeal to the fit out and refurbishment of the Community Services portion of the build as well as our community services operations. That is, the northern end's café, counselling rooms, case worker spaces, and our Connect site. This then frees up corps' money to be directed to the southern portion of the building and our congregational ministries.

This means you can make a tax-deductible donation to the Red Shield Appeal and in so doing help your corps!

We have our very own, very easy to use, Red Shield Appeal web page, where you can donate. We understand that many of you have just given generously to the Self Denial Appeal and that for many of you personally these are uncertain times, nevertheless we'd ask you to consider supporting our corps through your donation.

May God bless you.

Sharon and Grant

If you would like to give to the kingdom building activities in and through our Corps by transfer please use the following details: **BSB 032078; Account No. 000810288; Account Name - The Salvation Army, Parramatta.** Please include an applicable reference on the transfer so we can accurately record the gift.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please send your details to parramatta.corps@gmail.com



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