

IMPACT REPORT

2025



Shire Salvos



Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight, alongside others, to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.





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Our Vision, Mission & Values

INTRODUCTION

Vision

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight, alongside others, to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

Mission

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus. We share the love of Jesus by:

CARING FOR PEOPLE

Being there when people need us most. We offer care and compassion as a sacred encounter with transformative potential.

CREATING FAITH PATHWAYS

Taking a holistic approach to the human condition that values spirituality. We graciously share the Good News of Jesus and grow in faith together.

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Investing ourselves in relationships that promote mutual flourishing. We find the wholeness God intends for us in community.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Tackling the social systems that harm creation and strip away human dignity. We join God's work to build a fairer world where all can thrive.

Values

Recognising that God is already at work in the world, we value:

INTEGRITY

Being honest and accountable in all we do

COMPASSION

Hearing and responding to pain with love

RESPECT

Affirming the worth and capacity of all people

DIVERSITY

Embracing difference as a gift

COLLABORATION

Creating partnerships in mission

From our Leader, MARK SOPER

One of my favourite passages of scripture is found in Matthew 25:34-40, it speaks about a unique idea, which is that whenever we show compassion, support and help to those in need, it's like we are doing these things for Jesus himself. Early on in my life, this passage taught me that how I treat others is important to God himself. God calls us to value and appreciate people just as he does, basically, everyone is called to love and serve others.

In 2025, there are more needs and complex issues in society than ever before, and if I'm honest it can be overwhelming at times. This has impressed on me more than ever that no one person, one Church, or one organisation can bring meaningful transformation and blessing to our community, rather, the key is us working together to meet these complex needs.

Imagine for a moment what our community would look like if all the Churches and organisations worked together. Imagine us all coming together to journey alongside individuals and groups in our community with love and respect. This would surely create greater pathways for people to experience full, whole, and healthy transformation in their lives. I believe that we will be more affective if we "Build Community Together." To this end, around 12 months ago a simple initiative was started by a group of Churches called Hope Shire (www.hopeshire.org), where people in our community can go to connect and experience the great hope Matthew 25:34-40 speaks to.

As a follower of Jesus, my focus has and always will be to love others the way Jesus demonstrated. What does that look like in our modern world? As you read our impact report, I hope you get a glimpse of what this looks like, and what is possible when people come together for the glory of God and the benefit of our community.

Regardless of your belief system, I want to invite you to join the fight against hardship, injustice, poverty, violence and despair. Join us in the vision for the Sutherland Shire to be transformed.



Mark Soper

Shire Salvos Team Leader

Our Shire Salvos

FOCUS



Pursuit for Unity

Built Through Healthy Relationships, Partnership and Team Work

We believe God is calling The Salvation Army to pursue greater unity in the Sutherland Shire.

We believe our vision is possible through unity, team work, and healthy partnership and relationships with local churches and community services in the Shire. We will strengthen each other and increase our effectiveness as the body of Christ.

We will not re-create the wheel, but honour and support like-minded people, organisations and churches, with the belief that this will allow people to experience and see genuine transformation in the Christian community.

A key landmark centred around unity will be the centre of transformation in Miranda, that will be built to bring multiple community services and faith communities together to create a purpose built holistic community centre. We believe we are stronger together as unity commands a blessing.



Kingdom Agenda

*Based on John 13:35 (Love) & Mathew 25:40 (support for vulnerable in community)
Jesus is the agenda!*

We desire to ensure that Jesus is reflected by the way we love, serve, support and empower the most vulnerable in our community. Glorifying Jesus and representing Him is our only agenda as we want to see long term transformation in our community.

Jesus is the agenda and our commitment to prayer and partnering with the Holy Spirit will be matched with the practical love, support and services we offer our community. It is not one or the other, it is both.

Our goal is to grow the Kingdom of God, not just The Salvation Army. When the body of Christ is winning and growing, so are we. We will not be short sighted and will always look to bless and support others wherever possible.



Being a Sent Church

Building the church beyond four walls

Every Salvation Army location including Salvos Stores in the Sutherland Shire, will be seen as a place for people to find Jesus through friendship and practical support.

Every Salvation Army location will have a Mission Leader appointed to ensure that our vision is being lived out in its truest sense, and raising up others to do the same.

We will equip and release people who will build and invest more in relationships, serving and caring for our community with greater boldness in sharing the good news of Jesus built on friendship.

We desire that everyone would have the opportunity to be part of a caring Christian community and not just focused around a service but genuine friendship and relationship. Every Christian has a part to play in this.

What we CURRENTLY DO

HEATHCOTE

Transitional Housing - for vulnerable individuals.

Community Food distribution - a collaboration with partner charities to ensure food relief support is available.

Homelessness Services Casework - 1:1 case management for those at risk of homelessness.

Laundry & Shower facilities - provision of facilities that can be utilised by those sleeping rough or at risk of homelessness.

In-Kind Cafe - A community space for all people to sit, connect, belong and realise they don't need to go it alone.

Small Groups - connect group/bible study, prayer meeting.

Material Assistance - Food, clothing, vouchers for vulnerable community members.

Referrals - Drugs and Alcohol, trauma, counselling and domestic violence services.

Pastoral care - Support, mentoring and offering ongoing care, PLP.

SALVOS STORES

For second-hand clothing, furniture and toy donations.

Current locations are: Helensburgh, Sutherland, Menai, Engadine and Panania. Within the Salvos store, we have a space allocated for a Mission Leader/ Community Engagement Worker, who connects with community members offers pastoral care and refers to local services and churches.

MIRANDA

Financial Crisis Assistance - being there when people need us most. We offer care and compassion as a sacred encounter with transformative potential.

Transitional Housing - for vulnerable individuals and families.

Reconnect - a service committed to helping young people (12 -18 years old) and their families restore healthy relationships within the family and wider community.

Soul Food - an informal and relational community sharing a meal and reflections on faith.

You're the Boss Program - a financial education program for 16 - 25 year olds.

Community Co-Op - a collaborative initiative with partner charities and organisations to support existing community service groups, provides hampers to those in need, ensuring the required quantity, consistency and quality of food relief support is available.

Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD)- 1:1 case management, access to support group (Foundations Program), assesment into residential services.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

We currently have 3 houses which provide transitional housing for vulnerable families and individuals.

We have a collaborative partnership with Platform 9 (Kingsway Community Care) to help provide case workers, supporting these community members in establishing long term housing and other services required to empower them for the future.

PANANIA

Salvos Store - See 'Salvos Stores'

The Village Cafe - A communal space for people to connect and belong.

Material Assistance - Food, clothing, vouchers for vulnerable community members.

Referrals - Drugs and Alcohol, trauma, counselling, domestic violence services.

Pastoral care - Support, mentoring and offering ongoing care.

Music & Play - A music program for kids and parents and a space for families in the community to connect and build relationships.

Book Club - A group stated to help connect locals looking for friendship and community.

MENAI

Sunday Worship Services - A welcoming and inclusive space for individuals and families of all ages to gather, worship, and grow in faith.

Children and Families - Programs and events that build relationships with families in the local community and offer support to parents and caregivers.

Small Groups - social groups and bible studies.

Youth & Young Adults - Regular gatherings, events, and bible studies designed to support connection, leadership purpose, and faith exploration.

Seniors' Activities - Social gatherings, events, and programs designed to support connection, purpose, and fun for community members aged 50 and over.

Pastoral care - Support, mentoring and offering ongoing care, PLP.

Material Assistance - Food, clothing, vouchers for vulnerable community members.

Referrals - Drugs and Alcohol, trauma, counselling, domestic violence services.

HELENSBURGH

Salvos Store - See 'Salvos Stores'

Material Assistance - Food, clothing, vouchers for vulnerable community members.

Referrals - Drugs and Alcohol, trauma, counselling, domestic violence services.

Pastoral care - Support, mentoring and offering the Positive Lifestyle Program.

Combating loneliness and isolation - Coffee and chat groups, craft groups.

Discipleship groups - For people who wish to explore or go deeper with their faith.

See Change - 6-week course on the psychology of change.

Family Empowerment - 12-session course assisting families who have a loved one with challenging behaviours.

SCHOOLS ENGAGEMENT

Fundraising & Social Justice Initiatives - Empowering students to identify community needs and lead action-based responses that make a tangible difference.

School Workshops - Interactive, one-off sessions exploring key social issues in Australia and the ways students can contribute to change, supported by The Salvation Army's work.

Breakfast & Lunch Programs - Partnering with local schools to provide meals that support student well-being and strengthen school-family connections.

Positive Lifestyle Program for High Schools - Adapted for teens, this 8-session program focuses on self-awareness, goal setting, and emotional health.

Community Kids Camp - Biannual camps for referred Year 5 and 6 students, combining adventure, team-building, and personal growth in a fun, supportive environment.

Focus on **HEATHCOTE**

Heathcote Community of Hope offers essential services for the everyday to the most disadvantaged members of Sutherland Shire community. We offer shower and laundry facilities, internet access, food relief, and support services for those who are at risk and/or are experiencing homelessness. It also features a space to grab a coffee, enjoy a chat, foster community and offers opportunity to purchase second-hand goods/receive in kind. Our purpose is to be a welcoming sanctuary bringing Hope to people whilst providing support and connection to those in need.

- Emergency relief and support for those experiencing homelessness
- Financial counseling and welfare support
- Food Assistance
- Coffee and connection

Community Worker James Redwood and Outreach worker Chez Wilson at the Shire Salvos Heathcote site.



Hope Shop- A Store with a Difference

A unique 'Community of Hope' at Heathcote in southern Sydney is a place of belonging and welcome to all.

The Heathcote 'Hope Shop' is part of Shire Salvos and combines a second-hand retail store, with a community space for people to enjoy hot drinks, warm meals, and a chat.

The centre is equipped with a large kitchen to cook and supply meals to people in need. Fresh food and groceries are also available. It has an office where a Salvation Army homelessness support worker assists people experiencing, or at risk of homelessness.

The suburb of Heathcote, on Sydney's southern edges, borders onto the Royal National Park, where many people experiencing homelessness live.

The idea for the 'Hope Shop' came from a local woman, Barbara Koppe, who began to connect with the work of Shire Salvos in nearby Helensburgh. She shared her heart for the population of people experiencing homelessness who lived in the national park, and wondered if there was anything that The Salvation Army could do. That then led to a meeting between the Barbara, Shire Salvos representatives and the owner of a local second-hand store, who was looking to retire, and thrilled when she heard what The Salvation Army wanted to do in the space.

"There is a real culture in Heathcote of people giving back," said Mark, referring to the beautiful work that was already being done in the community to assist locals in need through the second-hand shop and also a free-food ministry run by a local couple that The Salvation Army now partner with.

The centre is run by Salvation Army community worker, James Redwood and part-time outreach worker Chez Wilson, (nicknamed The Salvation Army's 'pocket rocket' for her huge faith and heart for others, despite her small stature!) Salvation Army homelessness support worker, Niasha Love also works on-site three days per week. And, the centre's heartbeat are its passionate, local volunteers.

There's a plan to convert one of the toilets out the back into a shower for people who are experiencing homelessness, and the Hope Shop also has a laundry facility. Already, James, Chez and Niasha have built good relationships with local people in need and people who are experiencing homelessness. Sleeping bags, tents and camping mattresses are kept on site to give to those sleeping rough.

The Heathcote Hope Shop is a beautiful place of community where people, regardless of what they're going through, can experience belonging, connection and hope.

The Salvation Army honours and remembers Barbara Koppe, whose vision for The Salvation Army to assist people in need in her local area has now been realised. Unfortunately, Barbara passed away before the opening of the Hope Shop. She will be lovingly remembered by all who knew her.



SCAN



To make a donation to support the work of The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos Heathcote. Or, to find out more about how you can partner with Shire Salvos Heathcote, give us a call or pop in and say hello.



Volunteers make a huge difference to the mission of The Salvation Army in the Sutherland Shire.

Focus on **MIRANDA**

Miranda Salvos offers financial assistance, crisis support, and a range of social services, including financial counselling, drug and alcohol addiction support, youth counselling, emergency food relief, free community meals, and spiritual and pastoral care. Programs at this site cater to youth, families, and individuals, fostering community engagement and well-being.

- Emergency relief and support for those experiencing homelessness
- Financial counseling and welfare support
- Food Assistance (food hampers) and a hot meal
- Community groups, including basic cooking classes and a womens pilates program

- Drug and alcohol support services
- Family and domestic violence support
- Youth services and education programs
- Drop-in centre

In the last year over 65 vulnerable families have been given donated furniture and household items, to help set up housing and allow a new beginning somewhere safe.

Fitness sparks friendship at free Pilates class

A pilates group at Shire Salvos Miranda Salvation Army food relief and assistance centre, meets more than just physical health needs.

SCAN THE CODE

Salvation Army workers Moira Guthrie (Community Services Coordinator) and Melissa Fowler (Doorways Case Worker) started the weekly Pilates-based group at the Shire Salvos' food relief and assistance centre at Miranda.



SCAN

To make a donation to support the work of The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos Miranda. Or, to find out more about how you can partner with Shire Salvos Miranda, phone us on (02) 9542 9500



"Melissa and I saw a need to offer a safe space and some self-care for local women, and so began our first women's-only Pilates class," Moira said.

"Many women can't afford classes like Pilates (which can cost up to \$30 per session) consider it a luxury, and it is at the bottom of their needs list when it comes to trying to make ends meet."

Moira Guthrie is the Community Services Coordinator for Shire Salvos Miranda. "Shire Salvos' strength is partnering with other like-minded organisations in the area. While working closely with Orana Women's Health Centre, we were able to secure a Pilates instructor who volunteers her time."

Women are referred by local community and caseworkers, and bookings are essential.

The class is offered on Wednesdays when the centre is only open for appointments, so the Pilates area is a private, safe space.

"One of the most prevalent issues in this area is family violence," said Moira. "But it's not often talked about. Women are mostly in caring roles, so they put themselves last and offering this consistent opportunity for them where they can give themselves self-care (at no cost) and the ability to find support with other like-minded women is wonderful."

One woman, who booked to attend the Pilates classes when invited by a friend, says it's been wonderful: "I lost my little dog last year, and I walked with my dog twice a day, so I wasn't walking anymore. It makes you feel good, and it gets you out in the community and meeting people."

Moira and Melissa say some of the most powerful moments of the new initiative have happened during the coffee and chat time after class. "We sit around and have coffee and cake, and they can meet other like-minded women, and we can connect them to other services if they open up about things that are going on in their lives," said Moira.

Melissa said one participant commented to her about the progress and improvement she had seen in both her physical and mental health since beginning the weekly class: "The Pilates class is creating an opportunity to look after the biopsychosocial needs of women in the community. It has quickly become a valued and key connection point for women in this area."

The class is about nurturing body, mind and soul. And while The Salvation Army is often associated with financial, housing and other practical support measures, its mission pillars of Caring for People, Building Healthy Communities, Working for Justice and Creating Faith Pathways are more wholistic – which is why initiatives like this are so important.



Focus on **PANANIA**

Shire Salvos Panania is the home of 'Salvos: The Village' – a café, Salvos Store, and mission hub in the south-west Sydney suburb. Here, we meet people where they are at, whether they're sustainable shoppers, locals experiencing hardship, or coffee-lovers!

Panania features a community café and focuses on community outreach, food relief, and crisis support for individuals and families. The site offers a supportive environment where people can access the resources needed to overcome challenges and improve their well-being. In addition, Panania hosts a family and children's program, including Mini Music and Playgroup, providing opportunities for connection, learning, and fun for families with young children.

- The Village Cafe
- Emergency relief and financial assistance
- Community groups, including seniors programs and children and family programs
- Food Assistance

The Village

A Salvation Army café in south-west Sydney, offers locals top-quality coffee, chats, and connections to life-giving community and services.

'The Village' was a concept several years in the making: "We dreamed of a place that operates like a town hall," Shire Salvos Panania Mission Leader, Sandra Godkin said during the conceptual stages. "Where all people from the community could come, be heard, be seen and feel welcome. The Village is all about loving people and helping people to realise their full potential."

Now, the doors have been open for a year, and the dream is reality.

Customers who enter The Village will notice a few differences. It is located within the same building, but separate to, a Salvos Store, with access points to the store through the café. A QR code on its business cards and menu take people to a website explaining how The Village is more than an ordinary café, that it's a place of connection and hope. A screen on the wall showcases different ways people can connect in community, and how the profits from The Village go towards helping others.

"Within our team we are creating a culture that yes, we need to serve good coffee and food, but the main thing we care about above that, is the person," said Sandra. Small things like not having table numbers, but instead asking customers their name when they order, ensure that connections are made.

"Every day, we have rostered on a 'connector'," she explains. "Their role is to basically just be present to the people that are in the cafe. It doesn't mean that they are going to sit down with any group and chat at their table – some people won't want that! But, the role of the 'connector' is to say 'hi' to people and if someone is sitting by themselves, they will have a brief chat and – if that person seems to want to chat for longer – they will sit down and engage."

Further connections can be made, depending on people's openness and needs. For example, someone who shares that they are struggling financially, might be given The Salvation Army's Phone Assistance Line (PAL) number, or referred to a Shire Salvos Doorways caseworker. Food assistance and other ways of coming alongside people in need are being developed, and it's envisaged the different connection groups will begin operating on the sunny outdoor café deck in the near future.

"Shire Salvos Panania already has a thriving playgroup," said Sandra "and we want to add to that by offering groups that people can join. a Book club, a retired men's group, a Bible study and Mother's groups have started meeting here. Maybe we will start a 'Boost' group [The Salvation Army First Floor Program's Boosted positive psychology program], PLP or Seniors activities. There are so many possibilities for connection and we are being guided by the needs of our community."



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To make a donation to support the work of The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos Panania. Or, to find out more about how you can partner with Shire Salvos Panania, phone us on (02) 9773 4107

Focus on **MENAI**

At Shire Salvos Menai, we are dedicated to making a difference in the 2234 community by living out our faith and caring for others. Guided by our mission to love God and love others, we grow together in faith, encourage one another, and nurture a community that embraces every generation with the love of Jesus.

In addition to providing opportunities for people to grow in their faith, Menai offers a welcoming space where individuals can find connection and practical support, including food assistance, community programs such as playgroups, youth services, and seniors' groups.

As part of the Shire Salvos worshipping community, Shire Salvos Menai provides support to other Shire Salvos locations in their missions, through resources and volunteers, while continuing to serve and care for our local community.

- Faith-based support, including church services
- Financial counseling and welfare support
- Community groups, including seniors programs and children and family programs
- Youth services and education programs
- Food Assistance



Menai Marketplace – a place where Salvos connect with our community

When Michelle Wheatley heads out for her Thursday morning Salvation Army collection shift at Menai Marketplace in southern Sydney, she always asks God for opportunities. And God always answers her prayers.

The Shire Salvos Community Engagement/Mission Leader splits her work time between being a community worker embedded in the Sutherland Salvos Store, and engaging with the Menai community. She began collecting at her local shopping centre, Menai Marketplace, in 2023 and found it was the perfect place to meet people.



SCAN

To make a donation to support the work of The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos Menai. Or, to find out more about how you can partner with Shire Salvos Menai, phone us on (02) 9543 0487



"I have people that come in to see me every week," she says. "People just want to talk."

Michelle believes that The Salvation Army's style of collection, where nothing is asked of people, opens the doors to great conversations. Whereas other organisations might wish to speak to local shoppers about their cause or ask them to donate, Michelle says she just offers a smile, a sticker or Kidzone magazine for kids, and a listening ear.

"There's no strings attached," she says. "I'm not asking for anything in particular, although if people want to donate, they can. I just offer a smile, and people feel comfortable to have a chat. And, all of a sudden, lots of different conversations start flowing."

Michelle has been able to direct many people to food assistance and other services, both Salvation Army and other community organisations, and follows up with them on how things are going on their journey the next time she sees the person. Her role as Shire Salvos Community Engagement/Mission Leader enables her to offer Salvation Army services to needy people. And then deliver on those promises.

"There is an older gentleman who comes to see me every week," she says, "and he needed some furniture taken away, so I made a few calls, and I was able to organise that for him."

"There is another woman who has shared a lot about the difficult circumstances that she is facing, and we began to meet up outside of my collection shift to have a deeper conversation."

Michelle is a trained facilitator for The Salvation Army Positive Lifestyle Program and looks forward to offering that to people she forms relationships with through her shopping centre collection shift. "So many people are sad and they're lonely, and they want to talk to someone and connect with someone. I do feel a strong sense of purpose that this community needs a non-threatening smile and a listening ear."



Focus on HELENSBURGH

Helensburgh Salvos provides local outreach services, including food and material aid, pastoral care, and crisis support. The site is dedicated to supporting vulnerable individuals and families with compassionate, practical help.

- Emergency relief and welfare support
- Food Assistance
- Community groups, including walking group and coffee and chat
- Drug and alcohol support services
- Family and domestic violence support
- See Change course
- Positive Lifestyle Program
- Case management & referrals
- Small groups
- Bible Study

Seeing Change in Helensburgh

A Salvation Army course and ongoing support assists people to make positive life changes

There's a saying: 'you can't teach old dogs new tricks' for a reason. Reactions and behaviours that are ingrained over time can be hard to change, even if they are detrimental to a person's wellbeing. At Shire Salvos Helensburgh, a Salvation Army developed course is assisting community members tackle the change process.

Called 'See Change', the six-week course was developed by The Salvation Army's First Floor Program, based in the Illawarra, and the University of Wollongong's psychology unit. It was designed to assist families impacted by loved ones with challenging behaviours.

2508 Salvos in Helensburgh began offering the course in 2022, with participants meeting once a week for six weeks to learn about the process of change, strategies to re-claim a healthy, safe and functioning life and ways to enhance personal and family wellbeing.

"That first course was so powerful," 2508 Salvos Mission Leader Lauren Martin said. "We knew right then that See Change was something special. A space where people could be totally authentic and vulnerable about the struggles they were having in implementing positive changes they so desperately wanted to see in their lives."

Lauren and her 2508 Salvos volunteers have now facilitated five See Change courses. "We have had people attend who struggle with anger, who have chronic health issues, who have unhealthy stress-coping mechanisms in play in their lives," said Lauren. "But one of the key consistencies that we have seen in people attending the See Change course is what I call a 'self-worth deficit'.

"If we can empower people to truly see their worth and value, through the See Change exercises and tools that they start to implement in their lives, they see some powerful changes start to take place."

One woman gave feedback after the course that "the invitation to See Change probably saved my life!" Another said that the course helped to "increase her self-awareness" and assisted her to "re-focus on what's important to me and 'cement' it into my general living."

Every single person who completed the See Change course with 2508 Salvos noticed an increase in self-worth.

In 2025, The Salvation Army in Helensburgh, working in conjunction with the First Floor Program, introduced an extension to the See Change course – the Family Empowerment Program. This 12-month course supports families and individuals with information, support and resources to move forward and build the kind of future they want – even when difficulties within the family still exist.

Participants meet once a month, and have access to a mentor who they meet in between the monthly sessions. "Supporting people long-term as they work to make positive changes in their lives and in the lives of their families is incredibly rewarding," said Lauren. "We see people start to introduce healthy boundaries, envisage and work towards goals and put in place strategies to deal with stressful circumstances."

This long-term support for people complements the emergency and short-term assistance The Salvation Army gives to people in the 2508 area through food and financial assistance, and referrals for case-work and specialist support.

"We want to see individuals and families in 2508 thrive," said Lauren. "It's about wholistic support, for as long as it's needed."



SCAN

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Mission Leader, Lauren Martin runs a number of small groups in Helensburgh.

Focus on

ENGADINE & SUTHERLAND

More than a store

Shoppers at Engadine and Sutherland Salvos Stores have their retail experience boosted with the addition of a Salvation Army community worker on site several days a week.

Shire Salvos Mission Leader, Michelle Wheatley has a big smile and an even bigger heart! Greeting people with a smile and a warm welcome when they enter Salvos Stores in Sutherland isn't Michelle's only gig. She's tasked with living out The Salvation Army's four mission pillars – Caring for People; Working for Justice; Building Healthy Communities; and Creating Faith Pathways – both within the store setting and in the wider communities of Sutherland and Menai.

"I'm here to come alongside people in our community," she said. "To chat to people who are lonely, to refer people to services if they are in need."



Mission Leader, Chez Wilson, at Engadine Salvo store.

SCAN



To make a donation to support the work of The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos Sutherland or Engadine. Or, to find out more about how you can partner with Shire Salvos Sutherland or Engadine, phone us on (02) 9543 0487.

"Everyone's important, everyone deserves to feel loved and valued, and my role is to give people a sense of community so that they feel like they're part of something, and to know that someone loves and cares about them."

Salvos Stores is often the only point of contact members of our communities have with The Salvation Army, so it makes sense to locate mission at the heart of the action. Michelle acts as a link in the chain between people in the community and the range of Salvation Army services available within the local area.

"I am a facilitator for The Salvation Army's Positive Lifestyle Program, so I can come alongside people who want to take that journey," she said. "I'm also studying a Certificate IV in Community Services, and I've completed my Mental Health First Aid course."

Her colleague, Mission Leader Chez Wilson, is based part-time at Engadine Salvos Store and over the past two years has built up supportive relationships not only with store staff and volunteers, but with regular customers.

"My role is to meet people where they are at, listen and respond to their need and connect them with the right help and supports either in the local community or in the wider LGA as appropriate."

Shire Salvos Mission Leader Mark Soper says locating community workers within Salvos Stores means that wherever people see The Salvation Army red shield, they know they can find someone who can assist them with whatever hardship they may be facing. "That assistance may be in the form of a referral to another Salvation Army or different partnering agency, it may be just that they need a listening ear and someone to support them, or we might be able to help them with food and other emergency assistance."

Focus on SUPPORT

Mario finds hope at Shire Salvos

A first-hand account of The Salvation Army's mission to transform the Sutherland Shire, one life at a time, with the love of Jesus.

I came here broken two years ago [to Shire Salvos Miranda Food Relief and Assistance Centre in southern Sydney.] I was heavily drinking and heavily using drugs. I was in a lot of depression, anxiety and stress. I was having suicidal thoughts.

I found Shire Salvos Miranda because I rang Lifeline. I was so broken, I was in tears, I had given up on life. I had recently separated from my partner, who had found out that I was using drugs, so she didn't want a bar of that.

I was also in the process of being evicted, so I was very close to being homeless.

I came from a good, hardworking family, but I had broken all bridges with my father and brother because I had abused them so much. I was blaming everyone else for my problems.

I remember being in line [for a Salvation Army food hamper] when a Salvation Army Moneycare financial counsellor came and spoke to me. She said, "I haven't seen you here before", and I just broke down in tears. She brought me inside [to the office] and said, "It's going to be OK", and she introduced me to some staff members. They made me feel really welcome and made me feel safe.

There was either death or change for me. I was that broken.

I always knew I was a better person. I knew I was a good person and had a good heart, but I was obsessed with depression and stress. I got exhausted from that lifestyle and didn't want to do that anymore. I wanted a better life.

I then met with a Salvos AOD [Alcohol and Others Drugs] worker and pretty much surrendered in her office. I told her everything. She told me about a place at Callum Park in Sydney called WHO's (We Help Ourselves). I got a place and was there for three and a half months.

SCAN



To make a donation to support the work of
The Salvation Army at Shire Salvos.



Mario with Miranda Salvos Mission Leader, David Godkin.

I'm now 16 months sober. My life is amazing right now. I am discovering the person I'm meant to be. I feel that God's called me ... he's grabbed me and said, "I need you to help others." I'm at peace now. I'm not in my head anymore. The fog has lifted, and I'm clearer. I hold myself responsible for my actions, and I do the next right thing. I don't associate with anyone I knew prior to rehab. I have made great new friends. I walk every morning and go to an AA meeting every night.

I've made amends with my mum and my father. I now have the best relationship ever with my brother and my mum and father. I owe my life to the people here at The Salvation Army who gave me hope.

WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN
OUR WORK



Shire Salvos