

Helping forever 'break the cycle'

"We had a young girl whose parents had never worked a day in their life, and their parents had never worked. She came in at the end of last year and she was working and was so proud. She said: 'I just told Centrelink 'I don't need you, I don't want you'. That's huge – that's generational! She is going to teach that ethic to her own kids one day." – DARRYL SMILES

Salvation Army Youthlink Café Horizons trainer and assessor Darryl Smiles knows his surname doesn't always match his outward appearance. He laughs and says he probably seems quite "gruff" to new trainees on the innovative program. He pushes them hard to achieve their very best; to offer an excellent standard of professionalism to customers and become as highly "work ready" as possible in 20 weeks.

Darryl understands the issues and stigma that many youth in the St Mary's area of Sydney (NSW) face better than many. He grew up in the area and says, "It's tough here. It always has been."

"I got a job at the Sydney Opera House as an apprentice chef," Darryl says. "People were actually scared of me ... So I 'get' these kids."

Café Horizons St Mary's (with another at Cabramatta) provides work experience and accredited vocational training to at-risk young people, including many recovering from drug dependence.



DARRYL SMILES WORKS TO PREPARE CONFIDENT, "WORK-READY" GRADUATES.

The service provides the opportunity for local young people, who do not fit traditional training programs, to gain a Certificate II in Hospitality. Staff also help trainees with life skills training.

"We are a little bit different," Darryl says, "but it works."

"About 80 per cent of our clients leave to go on to bigger and better things."

"One girl came back last week and she has just finished her fourth year of her apprenticeship and is going to work in England. That's phenomenal."

For recent graduate Alex, who was disengaged from school and life, Café Horizons not only prepared him for employment, but also offered much-

needed personal and emotional support.

"School really wasn't for me, I didn't get along with many people and teachers and my father was very ill," says Alex. "So I had a lot of troubles emotionally."

He connected with Darryl, especially after his father's death just before the course started, who he says really pushed and motivated him to finish the program.

Alex found a job almost immediately after finishing the course and has big plans for the future.

Darryl says that despite personal tragedy, Alex showed "such resolve and strength" to finish training and find a job.

"I get a bit choked up when I talk about Alex," he says. "That's pride." ○

Red Shield Appeal Doorknock raises over \$10 million. Thousands of Salvationists and community volunteers across the country helped make this year's Red Shield Appeal doorknock a success.

New Recovery Services Centre opens The Salvation Army's Dooralong Transformation Centre on the NSW Central Coast has officially opened its doors, providing recovering addicts best practice treatment in a beautiful bush setting.

Caring for Canberra's Youth The Salvation Army is the lead service agency for the ACT's new Youth Emergency Accommodation Network, which was officially opened in April by the ACT Minister for Housing, Shane Rattenbury MLA.

Best practice recovery The Salvation Army's Recovery Services has been awarded the 2013 Excellence in Treatment and Support award at the Australian National Drug and Alcohol awards. 2013 is the second year The Salvation Army has been recognised, winning a joint award in 2012 for Excellence in Research.

New Era of Care The Salvation Army has officially opened a new state-of-the-art aged care centre on Sydney's northern beaches. Elizabeth Jenkins Place has been designed by industry experts and its home-like environment offers residents a great place to live and the best in clinical care.

Drumbeat for Life A new program using drumming to promote social understanding and connection has been launched by Salvos Counselling Brisbane.

Stan a fan of the Salvos

To help those in greatest need, New Zealand-born singer, Stan Walker threw his support behind the 2013 Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal.

Stan embraced the role of 2013 Red Shield Appeal Ambassador because the Salvos are "about bringing hope to people".

Stan, who featured in several TV commercials and other promotional material for the Red Shield Appeal, says he has always been a "huge" supporter of The Salvation Army.

His new single, Take It Easy, featured in the Red Shield Appeal commercials and the lyric "you and me together" from the song was adopted as the theme for the campaign.

Following the appeal, including the doorknock campaign, Salvation Army spokesperson Major Bruce Harmer offered a heartfelt "thank you" to individuals, corporations and celebrity supporters for helping make a positive impact in the lives of more than a million people in crisis each year.

"We thank Australians for their tremendous generosity towards The

Salvation Army," he says.

"We also thank the many thousands of volunteers who assisted us with the doorknock, to help raise vital funds. In particular, we were encouraged by the number of young people who chose to volunteer."

The appeal is the major fundraising event for The Salvation Army annually and enables it to help those most in need.

In the past 12 months, this included helping over 230,000 people through provision of emergency relief; providing more than 100,000 meals; and nightly provision of more than 1000 crisis and 6000 non-crisis beds.

According to Major Harmer, the level of poverty and need within the community, including among a significant number of families with children, single-parent families and retirees, continues to grow and ongoing support is always urgently needed.

"We know many Australians are struggling to make ends meet and household budgets have been impacted by increasing costs of living," he says.

"Data released by The Salvation Army

recently indicated that 2705 of our clients who were surveyed, 66 per cent had cut down on basic necessities; 28 per cent could not even afford a substantial meal once a day (but would make sure their children were fed); 27 per cent couldn't afford heating in just one room of the house, and 58 per cent couldn't pay utility bills on time.

"It is to meet these and many other needs faced by everyday Australians that The Salvation Army still urgently needs ongoing public support." 



SINGER STAN WALKER SAYS HE'S A "HUGE" SUPPORTER OF THE SALVOS.

Depth of care grows from pain



VOLUNTEER CAROL HAS GAINED UNDERSTANDING THROUGH HER OWN SUFFERING.

“No matter where or what part of the socio-economic level you come from, you just don’t know what tomorrow may bring. I never imagined in my wildest nightmares that I would end up in a situation like I did.” – CAROL

She has faced almost unimaginable loss over the years including the death of two of her children, and yet Salvation Army volunteer Carol stresses again and again how deeply privileged she now is to be able to help others.

Carol recently chose to share some of her experiences for the 2013 Red Shield Appeal launch in Cairns (Qld) and made an impassioned plea to donors to continue their much-needed support.

“I have seen so many people that are absolutely literally on the bones of their bottoms with nothing and The Salvation Army, through donations, were able to help them with food, clothing, a roof over their heads,” she says.

Carol knows about this type of help first-hand, not only as a volunteer, but also as a recipient. “If it wasn’t for The Salvation Army and the beautiful people there who dedicate their lives to helping others, I think we would (all) be in real trouble,” she says.

During a 35-year career in administration, and while raising four daughters, Carol (who is now a grandmother and great-grandmother)

says she always tried to help others.

She served for years as the District Chairman of the National Council of Women, and has chaired Inner Wheel (linked to Rotary). She has worked with children with special needs for many years and continues to do so.

However, her life has also been filled with heartbreak.

Her youngest daughter died from an undiagnosed brain tumour, just weeks after her 16th birthday. Then, five years later, her 27-year-old daughter died of a heroin overdose.

“She (her older daughter) never got over her sister’s death,” says Carol.

“Recently my third daughter has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.”

Carol herself suffers from a range of serious health issues, and also has responsibility for her husband’s care.

“I have a beautiful husband, a very talented and beautiful man, who has had two strokes and has recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s,” she says.

“Unfortunately that led to a violent outbreak.”

Carol was forced to leave her house for a time and, too ashamed and shocked to involve friends and family, found herself outside her home “basically in the clothes in which I stood”.

“I felt so alone and I really didn’t know where to turn,” says Carol who was badly hurt in the violence. “Apart from having to bury two of my

precious daughters and watch the suffering of my husband, it was one of the hardest things I had ever had to deal with.”

Blessed with a “very positive attitude” and “a very strong faith in God, in our Lord Jesus” Carol says she still desperately needed support.

She was helped by the Salvos with advocacy through the court case, short-term emergency accommodation and some material support.

“The Salvation Army arrived and asked me what they could do for me,” she says. “I had no clothes – they clothed me; I had no food – they fed me; I had no support – so they prayed with me; I had no roof over my head – so they found me a place ... where I was safe.”

To “give back” to others, Carol started volunteering with the Salvos and says she has “nothing but absolutely wonderful things to say about them”.

Cairns Salvos Corps officer Lieutenant Karyn Kingston, who still supports Carol with prayer and friendship, says the respect is mutual.

“Carol comes in several days a week to help out at reception and she’s just fabulous with our clients,” says Karyn.

“She is really calm, she is very warm and I know, particularly welfare mornings, there can be a lot of angst in the room.

“Carol is just fabulous at making people feel welcome and in offering them (care with) dignity.” ○

