



OM

the scene

'Trek for HOPE'

Emily giving back to protect victims of trafficking and modern slavery

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with no end



So many of the real-life stories featured in this issue of *On the Scene* beautifully illustrate the incredible investment that you – our supporters – make.

One life saved, transformed or strengthened in a time of hardship often begins a ripple effect. Children have healthier, more stable parents, and that flows on positively through generations.

And so often, one person helped in a tough time, then goes on to help others, and they in turn others and so on – often far beyond our ability to measure.

So your support truly is a gift that never ends.

Thank you again for partnering with us in this life-changing work.

Neil Venables (Lieut-Colonel)

The Salvation Army

13 SALVOS (13 72 58)

salvos.org.au

Cover shot: Emily on her Sri Lankan trek

Adventure Fundraising

Emily – strong enough to invest in others

As one of eight trekkers who travelled on The Salvation Army's Adventure Fundraising 'Trek for Hope,' walking from Colombo to Kandy in Sri Lanka in late 2017, Emily has a deep sense of 'giving back'.

Each participant on the trek raised funds to support Australian Salvation Army services that protect victims of trafficking and modern slavery, plus those that provide refuge to survivors of family violence. A donation was also made to The Salvation Army's work in Sri Lanka.

The group visited a range of Salvation Army programs for women and children, and trekked through rainforests, mountains, tea plantations and villages.

At the age of 28, Emily (who works in early childhood and also writes) believes she probably owes her own life to long-term Salvation Army support. She had struggled with severe anxiety, depression and low self-esteem throughout her teenage years and started to binge drink. At 18, she tried to end her life.

Emily says she started drinking “to gain peace and happiness, to block out the negative thinking”. But soon she found herself increasingly trapped.

“I come from a great supportive family and was blessed to go to a good school and have other opportunities, though I still never felt good enough and struggled with depression/ anxiety,” she says.



Faith and hope

Emily eventually completed 10 months in a Salvation Army residential recovery centre and while there, she also came to Christian faith.

“I feel as though a weight has been lifted,” she says. “I have no logical explanation for it, and that’s because there isn’t a logical explanation. It has been a very spiritual experience. I believe God goes in search for the one lost sheep and God came and found me and continues to guide me!”

Thanking the donors and supporters for the support she received, Emily says she was mentored by “an angel” – a woman who was also mentored by The Salvation Army and had been through Salvos recovery herself.

“It flows on,” she says.

“I wanted to go on the Trek for the experience, but I also wanted to raise funds that would give back to the organisation that helped me to get well.”

“I hope that through my fundraising, someone else can now access support to help them find hope and freedom too.”

For details on Adventure Fundraising opportunities in the near future

www.salvos.org.au/adventure

Generations of Salvos care

More than 15 years after attending a Salvation Army kids' camp in Sydney that changed his life, Jason Poutawa returned as a youth leader with a group of young people from Moree.

Jason grew up in a public housing estate in Sydney which was so violent police dared not enter. His destiny may well have been a local youth gang.

Then, a Salvos couple moved into the area, opening their home and lives to the community.

Jason soon became a regular at homework club, cricket group and holiday programs. He also attended youth events, youth group, church and says the opportunity, at the age of 13, to attend a Red Shield Kids' Camp (RSKC) at Collaroy in Sydney*, also significantly helped shape his identity and character.

He says: "For me, meeting so many

RIGHT: JASON AND JESSICA POUTAWA ARE EXCITED TO BE SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE NORTH-WEST TOWN OF MOREE (ABOVE).

positive people in one place really changed me. I thought 'whatever they've got, I want that too.'

Moree ministry

At the age of 17, Jason decided he would study youth work and has now worked for The Salvation Army for over a decade.

Last year Jason and his wife Jessica moved to Moree where they developed the Gumma-Li (Gathering Place) youth and community centre as part of a focus on youth, children and families.

Having the opportunity to take their first group of kids from Moree to RSKC, Jason says, was a "full circle moment" for him and a thrill for the kids who walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge; visited Taronga Park Zoo, and enjoyed other activities, while building friendships, and exploring faith.



Unlocking potential

Jason says: "These kids are amazing. Sadly, many face a wide range of challenges such as poor reading and writing skills, family relationship breakdown, financial pressure, poor social networks and support. Others face issues of distance, or they live with relatives after, say death of parents.

"We see our role as being able to offer support and partner with families to help unlock the potential of every young person."

*The Salvation Army runs a number of different camps at Collaroy in Sydney each year for kids, single mums and grandparent carers. The centre has just celebrated 30 years in its current facility.

Water project brings hope to struggling farmers

In 2015, Salvation Army supporters Allan and Lyn Davies, through their Dalara Foundation, helped create the 'tanks and pipes' project. Allan and Lyn have a mining background, but are also farmers and they know the challenges faced in many rural communities.

The foundation has committed around \$30,000 a year annually to assist farmers in need (via Salvation Army rural chaplains) in the Hunter Valley and Western NSW, purchase and install new water tanks and/or associated piping/plumbing.

This has included supporting a number of farm families whose drinking and stock water systems were wiped out in fires in February 2017, near Dunedoo (NSW) – which destroyed more than 30 homes, including an

entire village, and around 50,000 ha of (mainly) farming land.

The Dalara Foundation also recently funded replacement of aging tanks at the Leadville (NSW) hall – a community hub, a popular stopping point for travellers and as a reservoir of water for emergency services.

Rural chaplain Di Lawson says of the chaplaincy work and the project: "People have been through droughts, deaths in families, accidents, flooding events, fires



SALVATION ARMY RURAL CHAPLAINS RUSTY AND DI LAWSON WITH LYN AND ALLAN DAVIES.

and it just seems to pile one on top of the other. Sometimes it's very overwhelming and they can't see light at the end of the tunnel. But then people who care come along and offer glimpses of hope and all of a sudden there is light."

Mother's example inspires daughter

***"I can't express how appreciative my mother was and just how highly she spoke of the Salvos because when they helped her she had no-one. She was so young and felt all alone. The support meant everything to her."* – Kylie**

Every year since she was 14 and able to earn her own money, Kylie – today a Training Manager with an international airline and a mother of two – has supported the work of The Salvation Army.

For Kylie, the connection to The Salvation Army is a very personal one.

Her mum Catherine and her siblings went to the care of an aunt after their parents passed away. Then at the age of 16, Catherine fell pregnant.

It was a very strict household and Catherine was sent away to Canberra to

secretly give birth and then have Kylie adopted out. Instead, Catherine managed to find a way to live independently; until and after Kylie was born – with ongoing support from the Salvos.

The Salvation Army then helped the pair return home to Sydney and reunite with family when Kylie was around seven months old.

Catherine eventually married and had five more children.

Kylie says: *"Sadly mum passed away in 1997. I know parts of the story, but I wish I could ask her more."*

"Mum was a very hard-working, giving woman, with a very strong will," she says. "Morals and honesty were incredibly important. She also taught us to appreciate the small things and not be materialistic. Whenever she could (especially when she returned to nursing as her children grew older) she'd always donate to The Salvation Army."



ABOVE, FROM TOP: KYLIE & HER FAMILY; KYLIE'S MUM, CATHERINE.



To join Kylie and make a gift today, visit salvos.org.au/OTS or call **13 72 58**

I was given a second chance

At the age of 27, Melissa found herself dressed in an 'anti-suicide gown' after trying to take her own life. In trouble with the law, she was locked up, facing serious prison time, separated from her son and at rock bottom. She was addicted to ice – frightened, angry and alone.

Then came a glimmer of hope. A mental health nurse referred her to a program offered through The Salvation Army Moonyah (Brisbane Recovery Services).

Two years on, a confident Melissa shared with guests at a 2018 Red Shield Appeal opening – talking about her incredible journey of depression that took her from a "wonderful childhood" – loved by her parents and engaged in

ballet, soccer and horse-riding – to the depths of addiction.

"In Year 7 I started to get bullied. I developed depression and started to self-harm," she says.

Her depression never left and she started drinking and partying to mask it.

Melissa trained in beauty therapy and held down a good job. But after her best friend died in a car accident, Melissa's addiction grew. Time in and out of trouble with the law followed.

By the time she arrived at Moonyah, she says *"I was completely broken"*.

"The Salvation Army began to love me back to life. Rehab was not easy. I was resistant (at first). I also attended church at (Salvos) God's Sports Arena, looking for some hope."

"I found a connection with my loving, higher power – God. All that brokenness began to heal," she shared. "I also

started to build a wonderful network."

Supported by her parents and a number of Salvos mentors, Melissa then had to appear in court.

She says: *"The judge asked me to stand... I stood ready to be re-handcuffed. But the judge agreed with all the hard work I had put into turning my life around and all the support from my family and The Salvation Army I posed no threat to society."*

"I was given a second chance."

Melissa returned to Moonyah and then graduated from the residential program into Salvation Army transitional accommodation and now lives independently. Although there are still very real challenges, she says her son finally "has his mum back".

"The Salvation Army saved my life," Melissa says.



get involved



Doorknock update

Thank you for your generous support at our Red Shield Appeal in May!



It was another fantastic community event with over 60,000 Australians volunteering their time to support people in need.

Over \$7 million was raised, which will go a long way to supporting our programs including providing shelter for the homeless, assisting families in crisis through practical support and financial counselling, and guiding people with addictions through to a clean, healthy lifestyle.

Coming up



APR 29-MAY 8, 2019

Red Shield Ride – This ride is not for the faint-hearted! Start training now to join us for 1,400km over 10 days as we ride from Sydney to Melbourne, via Canberra and the Snowy Mountains, taking in some of Australia's most scenic countryside. salvos.org.au/redshieldride

SEPT 8-19, 2019

Kokoda Trek for Hope – Trek the highlands of PNG, learn more about WWII history and how the Salvos played a part in 1942 on the track. You will also visit TSA centres in Port Moresby.

Applications open in August, express your interest now.

salvos.org.au/kokoda



Freedom Partners offer long-term hope

Salvos Freedom Partners (who donate every month by direct debit) partner with us to sustain our vital services. That

regular support is essential to help us plan, prepare and budget for the future.

Salvos Freedom Partner Geoff says he is honoured to regularly support The Salvation Army, because he has seen first-hand the effectiveness of the work of The Salvation Army – as a recipient himself and as a volunteer.

In one of his many volunteer roles, Geoff helped his local Salvos distribute hampers and toys at Christmas-time. This meant a great deal to the 74-year-old grandfather of nine, not just because of the hope it gave families who were struggling, but also because it is something he'd also experienced as a child.

Childhood support

Geoff was born in England in 1944 – the result of a wartime love affair. After the war ended, Geoff's father returned to a Canadian wife and family. In turn, Geoff's mother was left to face social stigma and economic challenges of life as a single mother.

"I still remember the feeling on Christmas morning. I'd wake up and there would be all these toys under the tree and then lovely food,"

Geoff says. "Eventually my mum sat me down and explained that The Salvation Army had helped us for a number of Christmases."



GEOFF WITH HIS WIFE JANICE.

The Salvation Army stepped into Geoff's life again to help fight to keep Geoff with his family when authorities tried to separate him from his mother and grandparents as part of the post-war child migration scheme.

Connections through life

The Salvos connection continued after Geoff moved to Australia.

He says: "My sister in Canada contacted me about 20 years ago through the Salvos Family Tracing Service. I now communicate with the whole family in Canada like we've known each other all our lives."

"I have great pleasure being involved with The Salvation Army and I have been blessed again and again to see how the Salvos give to others from the heart."

Help us help more Australians by becoming a monthly donor – join us as a Salvos Freedom Partner:

☎ **02 9466 3180**

🌐 **salvos.org.au/partners**



CRAIG AND HIS FAMILY SAY DONORS NOT ONLY HELPED PRACTICALLY BUT GAVE THEM THE HOPE AND INSPIRATION NEEDED TO REBUILD.

PHOTO COURTESY THE NORTHERN STAR.

Partners in emergency relief and recovery

“We’d knock on doors and found while some were OK, others were absolutely broken. Many had lost everything and some felt they’d been close to losing their lives.” – Salvos emergency recovery worker following Lismore floods 2017

For Craig and Belinda, flood damage to their Lismore skating rink in 2017 was devastating.

Eleven years ago, the couple took over the Lismore business (which has been in Craig’s family for 30 years). When floods threatened, the couple initiated their proven flood plan – moving everything into a purpose-built loft.

However, the floodwaters were significantly higher than anything they had ever experienced, or had been predicted. *“Walking back in after the water had receded; the scene that greeted us was heartbreaking. Everything was damaged from floor to ceiling, nothing was spared,”* Craig says.

“We were just gutted. We felt we

would have to walk away from it all.”

Caring locals soon rallied with manpower and a funding page – so the couple started to rebuild.

They often worked 16-hour days cleaning out mud and debris; then rebuilding and painting the building; cleaning and rebuilding skates and much more. Because they had lost their income source, Craig also took on a night job.

After four months, they were exhausted and so were their funds. There was barely enough spare to put food on the table.

Hope at last

“When the Salvos came along, we were mentally just done,” Craig shares. *“We just didn’t know where to turn, or what to do. When the Salvos helped us, Belinda and I broke down in tears.”*

Local Salvos joined in working bees at the business and The Salvation Army was able to pass on disaster funding. The local Salvos corps (church) members also personally donated to send the couple and their children on a mini holiday.

By Christmas, although still struggling, Craig and Belinda were

trading again and donated skates to the Salvos to support the community at Christmas-time. Craig also shared his story at the local 2018 Red Shield Appeal launch to further support the work of The Salvation Army.

Emergency recovery

During the initial disaster, and to date, The Salvation Army has employed part-time emergency recovery workers to support those struggling to rebuild their lives.

Since March 2017, through the generosity of donors, we have supported over 650 flood-affected households in the Lismore area (with many unable to gain flood insurance due to proximity to rivers and creeks). In total more than 4,300 households in Northern NSW and Queensland affected by Cyclone Debbie and associated floods, have been supported to date.

Thanks to donors

Craig says: *“We are just so grateful to people from the community and so thankful to those (Salvos) donors who didn’t know us personally, but were thinking of people who were in need! It brought this sense of hope and wonderment to us, that there still are people in the world who really care for others.”*