

FEATURE

Havens of hope

NEWS

Modern slavery
statement
released

MY STORY

Faith, family
and friends

What can I do for you?

Giving vulnerable people the opportunity to be heard



SALVOS

MAGAZINE





Accessibility is
being able to get
in the building.
Diversity is getting
invited to the table.
Inclusion is having a
voice at the table.

Belonging
is having your voice
heard at the table.

Author unknown



The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

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.

Mission Statement

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

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice

Salvos Magazine

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Sense of identity

"The Salvation Army does not tolerate modern slavery." That approach, and the values behind them, have been driving the Salvos in its work against slavery since the beginning of the movement in the 1860s in East London. They also form the basis of the modern slavery statement recently released by The Salvation Army Australia (see page 7).

In this edition, we look at the women's refuges in remote Western Australia and the work they are doing to give women and children a safe, peaceful and supportive place that they can call home. The women have a voice in these refuges, which Star Conliffe writes about in Faith Talk – the importance of not assuming we know what people need and want, but giving them the opportunity to use their voice, be heard and belong.

Rob also shares his personal journey battling drugs, alcohol, depression and trauma, and how finding faith in God in a caring and supportive environment through the Salvos has enabled him to turn his own life around and help others as well.

For these stories and more, check out salvosmagazine.org.au

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

Havens of hope in Western Australia

Salvos Women's refuges provide safe accommodation and support

WORDS JESSICA MORRIS



The Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia are vast and remote. So, finding secure and stable accommodation is crucial for women and children fleeing domestic violence in this part of Australia.

That's why the Salvos women's refuges at Karratha in the Pilbara and Graceville Centre in Perth stand like beacons in Western Australia. Last year, they housed women and families from across the state impacted by domestic violence and homelessness. And, while COVID-19 created a unique set of challenges for staff and clients, they've risen to develop an even more life-giving service.

"Back in March, when we had state borders in lockdown, going interstate was such a high risk," says Kristy Staples, State Manager for Family Violence with the Salvos in Western Australia. "And we experienced that in the Kimberley, Pilbara, and even the mid-west Gascoyne region.

"The demand on our staff was tough ... as it was for the traumatised families and children we work with. Our program delivery ceased, so we had to tackle creating safety for women and children in a therapeutic way."

GRACEVILLE SPREADS ITS WINGS

Renovations in recent years to the Graceville Centre, which the Salvos have owned since 1894, made it ideal for catering to the needs of clients during the lockdown.

The centre is now split into three separate wings.

The Byanda wing provides two families with independent units. Big enough to house nine children plus a parental figure, case workers focused on delivering meals and activities to the families.

The Nunyara wing, built in 2011, provides six



PHOTO: HARRY CUNNINGHAMUNPLASH

“

They provide women and children with a holistic approach to recovery ...

”

women with an independent unit each.

Managing isolation is extra challenging when you have limited space to shelter vulnerable people. That’s where the addition of the third wing, Cornelia Court, came in handy. Consisting of two units, usually used as transitional housing, this wing allowed staff and clients to isolate themselves while waiting for COVID tests.

“Graceville functioned at some level of

normal,” Kristy says. “We saw our clients’ mental health impacted significantly because they were isolated. So, in August, when numbers eased, we opened the communal areas for solitary use, and their mental health improved.”

The use of Graceville’s green space, barbecue, pool, playground and ‘path of hope’ lifted everyone’s spirits. And when additional services were reintroduced, including counselling, an outreach worker, financial advice, and a general practitioner, it meant that clients could do more than survive – they could heal.

KARRATHA THRIVES ON CARE

Graceville’s ‘sister site’ at Karratha is more than 1500km north. The Karratha Women’s Refuge team works on a smaller scale, but the need is just as large. Situated on the land of the Ngarluma people, the building was old and run-down and, due to COVID-19 restrictions, could only house two women or families at a time.

It was a challenge for the community when the nearest refuge is more than two hours away by car. But soon it was ‘all hands-on deck’ to transform the Karratha facility into a 24/7 women’s refuge, suitable for families and people of all abilities. And the staff particularly wanted it to feel like home for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who came through, which make up 88 per cent of the client base.

“On the first day of lockdown, we began working to align a 24/7 service across both centres. We had over \$750,000 worth of donations come in to renovate,” says Kristy. “Now it is disabled accessible, there is a secure sleepover room for staff, and the floors were replaced, and we have new linen. The whole point is we want people to feel at home.” ▶



Karratha Salvos officer Major Pam Marshall is the chaplain at the women's refuge and says God is moving in the remote community.

All six rooms at the Karratha refuge were given a fresh coat of paint in colours that related to local Aboriginal communities. Comfortable furniture was put in place, security doors were updated, and the whole building made to feel welcoming.

And they're not done yet. Kristy and the team have plans to fill the hallways with Indigenous art from the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi peoples. And they will soon start transforming the outside. The kids will have a sandpit, while parents can walk along a scenic path. The addition of shade sails will also give some respite to Karratha's hot climate, with temperatures often sitting in the 40s.

"I spoke to one mum who often comes through the Karratha centre. She is blown away by how nice it is. It has made clients feel good. They feel valued and supported," says Kristy.

The list of organisations and places that donated to the refuge upgrade is ongoing and includes the City of Karratha, Lotterywest, Rio Tinto, Horizon Power, Woodside and Rotary. It also indicates the community's generosity towards the wider Salvation Army in Karratha, where Salvos officer (pastor) Major Pam Marshall plays a vital role as refuge chaplain and provides a link to other Salvos services.

"Residents come in for clothes, as many can't return home. We get the kids school equipment and uniforms, and we resource them with gift vouchers from Coles so they can cook," says Pam.

Together with a Doorways (emergency relief) worker, they provide women and children with a holistic approach to recovery, enabling them to get back on their feet, find permanent housing, and find hope. And many people want to give back. "We even had some of the ladies sit and collect for the Red Shield Appeal with us!" says Pam.

PEACE AND HOPE

Staff at the Graceville and Karratha refuges have a complex job. And it often takes more than one stint in crisis accommodation for women and children to start a new life for themselves after experiencing domestic violence. Yet by creating a safe, secure home away from home, they show these families that they deserve comfort, peace, and hope.

And through it all, Pam says that God is moving. "Yes, the spirit of God is alive. People are searching," she says. "People are disillusioned. The world can't promise what people are looking for, that is, life in fullness which we know is Jesus."

There is always more to do, and the need is still great across Western Australia. But there is hope for women and families fleeing domestic violence, and the Salvos are determined to play their part.



Scan here for more information on Salvos domestic and family violence services.

Salvation Army releases

modern slavery statement

"As consumers, we have power," says Jennifer Kirkaldy, General Manager Policy and Advocacy for The Salvation Army Australia. "How we choose to spend our money can make a difference in preventing modern slavery – so long as we're aware of where the things and services we buy come from and who produces them."

The Salvation Army Australia has just released its first modern slavery statement. This statement – a response to the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Clth) for which the Salvos were key advocates – focuses on identifying, managing and combating modern slavery risks in The Salvation Army's operations and supply chains.



"As one of the largest providers of social services and programs for people experiencing hardship, injustice and social exclusion, we recognise our responsibility for ensuring modern slavery does not take place in our operations and supply chains," Commissioner Robert Donaldson, leader of The Salvation Army, Australia, wrote in his introduction to the statement.

"The goal of our first modern slavery statement is to share our collective actions in addressing modern slavery risks during the FY2019/20 reporting year. We express our ongoing commitment to the journey that will continue to build effective systems of control to ensure modern slavery does not occur within our supply chains.

"The Salvation Army Australia is committed to delivering its mission in a responsible and ethical manner and does not tolerate modern slavery."

The Salvation Army Australia also has a supplier code of conduct standard in place, which outlines the expectations of suppliers and their supply chain when providing goods and services to the Salvos that pertain to modern slavery.

The Salvation Army Australia is also committed to ethical lending and investments and works with its suppliers to manage modern slavery risks. Additionally, its policy and advocacy function collaborates with governments and parliaments on social policy and social justice issues, including addressing human trafficking and modern slavery issues.

– Simone Worthing

More than a music program



Stuart Lees leads JustSong at Preston Salvos, where people of all abilities enjoy music and friendships.

The JustSong program at Preston Salvos, Melbourne, is a music therapy program that engages up to 80 people every week who live with some level of disability.

“JustSong is more than a music program – it’s a socialisation program with music as the excuse to get people together,” said Stuart Lees, program founder.

“In the last 22 years JustSong has developed into a two-stream program – disability and aged care.”

Stuart has connections with more than 40 care centres across Melbourne, and many ‘bus in’ clients and their carers so people of all ages can enjoy the benefits of rock’n’roll.

People of all abilities participate in JustSong by playing drums, fretless guitars, old keyboards, using fake microphones and simply dancing.

“It really is a God-given program,” shares Stuart. “We need connection and community, and music is a powerful thing for people. It just works.”

ANZ banks on appeal blanketing city

The Victor Harbor branch of the ANZ Bank has launched its 2021 Winter Appeal, with donations given to the Salvos to distribute to people experiencing homelessness and the vulnerable within the seaside community on the Fleurieu Peninsula, 85km south of Adelaide.

The appeal runs from the beginning of June until early September. Donations come from

not only bank customers but across the community and include quilts, crocheted and knitted rugs, blankets and beanies.

Victor Harbor Salvos officer (pastor) Captain Nathan Hodges, said homelessness was “a big issue” in the city. “The Winter Appeal is a brilliant way to support the community. There are a lot of people in need.”

Finalists at state awards

The Nangara Group, a small team of early-childhood professionals from different organisations, including the Salvos, recently made the finals of the Queensland Premier's Reconciliation Awards in the Education category. The award highlighted the program the group developed to help early-childhood educators and teachers include Indigenous perspectives in their curriculum.

Uncle Barry Watson, Elder in Residence for the Salvos Communities for Children in Logan, 50km south of Brisbane, is a member of the Nangara Group. "I felt very proud of our team

to be nominated and make the finals," he said. "We all agree that our efforts and hard work are for the benefit of our children."

The group meets monthly and aims to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures into the community through planned activities and gatherings. The group's largest community event is held during NAIDOC Week (4-11 July). The Under 8s day on 15 July will feature performances by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dance groups, traditional face painting, nature craft activities, the Dreamtime Show and weaving demonstrations.

Top End reconciliation

The Salvos Sunrise Centre in Darwin, a recovery services centre for those struggling with alcohol and other drug issues, joined with its House 49 (accommodation), Street to Home (homelessness and housing) and Doorways (emergency relief) programs last month, to celebrate reconciliation.

Participants gathered for the celebration with a community of Indigenous people experiencing homelessness at the city's East Point Reserve. "This was an opportunity for everyone to share stories, and importantly for us, to listen to the Indigenous community about what reconciliation means to them," said Fred Docking, Salvos State Manager Homelessness.

"The handprints in the painting are from people who are not always heard or recognised – an under-represented voice in Australian history. There are also handprints from our case managers who are committed to sharing the journey of reconciliation and advocating for the empowerment and recognition of Indigenous peoples."



Indigenous artist Anastasia Ross with the finished painting produced during the reconciliation celebration.

Artist Anastasia Ross connected the hands with dots as a symbolic gesture of everyone's commitment to each other. The painting is hung at House 49.

What can I do for you?

Giving vulnerable people the opportunity to be heard

WORDS STAR CONLIFFE

Have you ever walked past a person begging for money on the footpath and wondered how they got into that situation? Maybe, like me, you've also wondered what can be done to help them. I see people sleeping rough everywhere in Melbourne, where I live, and sometimes it seems obvious why someone is in a crisis. They appear to have an addiction or mental health issues, which have led to this crisis. And if, like me, you have a helper type of personality, your first instinct might be to try to fix their situation.

I've been known to interrogate people: Where are you sleeping tonight? Do you need to talk to the crisis team? Can I buy you a loaf of bread? You should go here for a hot meal. I can get fixated on trying to solve what I think is someone's problem instead of connecting with that person.

There's a story about Jesus in the Bible, in the Gospel of Mark, that teaches us that the first thing we should do is listen. As Jesus was walking towards Jerusalem one day, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus heard that he was passing by and started calling out to him. The people in the crowd near Bartimaeus told him to be quiet, but he yelled even louder. Jesus soon asked the crowd to bring Bartimaeus to him.

However, when they were face-to-face, Jesus didn't rush to diagnose or fix Bartimaeus' problem. Jesus simply asked, "What do you want me to do for you?" This might seem like a strange question. Of course, if he's blind, he will want to see again, right?

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To be included and respected is better than being helped.

”



This reminds me of a conversation I had with a woman who uses a wheelchair to get around because she has a disability. She was nervous about attending a new church because of her experience with some (well-meaning but pushy) Christians. They would insist on praying for her to be healed without asking her what she truly wanted. She wanted them to understand that despite being in a wheelchair, she didn't see her



We might think we know what is best for people, but we don't. Sometimes, the obvious thing to us is not what someone needs to be helped with. This is why communities that experience marginalisation often use the slogan 'Nothing about us without us'. True inclusion is being asked about what you want and having opportunities to use your own voice and help yourself.

I pray that in our families, churches and communities, we would learn not to silence the voices of people like Bartimaeus. That we would be less like the crowd and more like Jesus. That everyone who feels excluded from our community would find a place to belong and to be heard.

Lieutenant Star Conliffe is a Salvation Army officer (pastor) in Victoria.

disability as something she needed Jesus to heal her from. What she really wanted was to be included and accepted as she was.

Jesus paid Bartimaeus the respect of asking him what he wanted and gave him the opportunity to speak because he understood something that is hard for us humans to learn: Having a disability or being different does not mean that a person is unable to live a fulfilled life. And, to be included and respected is better than being helped. Because people usually know their own needs best, and if we rush to help before asking, we are likely to get it wrong.



Scan here for more on the need for community.

Finding faith, family and friends

Rob discovers help and hope when he thought none existed

WORDS ROB BENNETT

I was born in Prahan, Victoria, in 1970. My dad passed away when I was two. He committed suicide, which, of course, had an impact on our family life.

Dad had run a couple of car yards. He'd also won a lot of money at the horse races as a younger man, which got him into gambling. He'd gambled most of his money away, had lost his car yards and was also diagnosed with cancer. He was facing a lot of pressure and loss.

After he died, Mum and I moved to Brisbane. There were always a few guys hanging around, which made me feel like I would lose her. Even at a young age, I was worried, anxious and protective of Mum. Life wasn't stable.

Mum married again. My stepdad used to hit her, and I witnessed that. I was only seven or eight, and there was nothing I could do. Nobody wants to see their mum getting hit. They split up when I was around nine.

I was a troubled child. I had a bad temper, rebelled against everyone and everything, got into fights at school and was always breaking the rules. I ended up in the Royal Brisbane Hospital for attempted suicide.

Mum sent me to the Daintree [Far North Queensland] for two years to live with my uncle when I was around 11. It was nice to be out of the city, but my uncle was strict and angry, and I had to tiptoe around him all the time.

I returned to Brisbane and got involved in martial arts. The older men there led me



Rob is now clean and actively involved with the Gold Coast Salvos.

down a path to strip clubs and bars.

I left school after Grade 10 and got involved with drugs, alcohol and gambling at casinos. I was injecting methamphetamines, LSD, everything except heroin.

I went to jail for two armed robberies. I got out in 1996 and was on parole for 4½ years after that. I quickly went back to drugs and alcohol. I worked here and there. I was suffering from anxiety and depression.

At the age of 46, I decided I'd had enough of the whole scene. My best friend at the time had a heart attack in front of me, and I couldn't revive him. People who knew him

“

I knew God would help me when nobody else could.

”

Rob shared his story at the Gold Coast launch of the Salvos Red Shield Appeal.



thought I had let him die to get his money. I was on the streets, homeless. It was bad.

I went to the Gold Coast and squatted with a friend, injecting meth and waiting to die. My stepdad found me and, by the grace of God, took me to live with him. For a year, though, I couldn't come out of my room due to depression and trauma.

I finally went online and looked for help. I eventually contacted The Salvation Army's Gold Coast Recovery Services (Fairhaven). I went to their Pathways program for those contemplating getting clean.

I really believed that nobody could help me. At one of the Pathway meetings, they spoke about God and Jesus Christ. Something happened to me there I had never experienced before. I felt that God introduced himself to me and called me. I left there changed. I now knew that God would help me when nobody else could.

I stayed at Fairhaven for 7½ months and completed the rehabilitation program. It was hard. My life of drugs, alcohol and abuse was taken away, and all the underlying issues were exposed. I asked God to search my

heart and show me what was there.

I graduated and then went into the transition house and extended care program – all part of the Gold Coast Salvos. I finally got a housing commission unit and am blessed to be in a wonderful complex.

I am involved with the Gold Coast Salvos. I am a volunteer member of The Salvation Army Emergency Services team. I have also helped with several Red Shield Appeals, at the Blues on Broadbeach festival and drive the church bus. I have found faith, family and friends.

I feel called to bless others. I have empathy for those going through similar struggles because I know what it was like for me.

The Salvos are selfless and loving people. They've helped me and many other friends and colleagues.

Thank God for the Salvos.



Scan here for information on Salvos alcohol and other drug treatment services.

Beef mince curry



Ingredients

2 tbsp vegetable oil, 1 brown onion, finely chopped, 2 garlic cloves, crushed, 2 tbsp Madras curry paste, 650g beef mince, 400g can diced tomatoes, 1 cup frozen peas, steamed rice (to serve), mint leaves (to serve), pappadums (to serve).

Method

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat.

Add onion and cook, stirring, for 3 to 4 minutes or until soft.

Add garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add curry paste and cook, stirring, for 1 minute or until aromatic.

Add beef and cook, stirring with a wooden spoon, for 4 minutes or until browned. Add tomatoes and bring to the boil.

Reduce heat to medium. Cook, uncovered, for 5 minutes or until liquid has almost evaporated. Stir in peas and cook for 1 minute or until peas cooked through.

Spoon curry over rice.

If desired, top with mint and serve with pappadums.

Have a laugh

I got my husband a fridge for his birthday. His face lit up when he opened it.



Our wedding was so beautiful ... even our wedding cake was in tiers.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down!



Bible byte

Celebrate with those who celebrate, and weep with those who grieve. Live happily together in a spirit of harmony, and be as mindful of another's worth as you are your own.

Romans chapter 12, verses 15-16
The Passion Translation

		3	4			6	5	7
5			8	7		1	4	2
	7		2	5				
	4		9	3			6	
	5	2					8	
1	6			8				
			3			9	7	
			5	4	7	2		6
		5			9	4	3	

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tum-Tum

On which page of this week's *Salvos Magazine* is Tum-Tum hiding?



Answers: 1. 14-20 July 2. 1.8 million 3. 280 4. Maintaining a healthy weight and lifestyle. 5. Three – types 1 and 2 and gestational diabetes. 6. More than \$3.5 million
Tum-Tum: is hiding next to a speaker on page 8.

2	8	3	4	9	1	6	5	7
5	9	6	8	7	3	1	4	2
4	7	1	2	5	6	8	9	3
6	4	7	9	3	2	5	6	1
3	5	2	1	6	4	7	8	9
1	6	9	7	8	5	3	2	4
0	2	4	3	1	8	7	6	5
0	2	4	3	1	8	7	6	5
7	1	5	6	2	9	4	3	8

Quick quiz



1. When is National Diabetes Week?
2. Around how many Australians have diabetes (all types)?
3. Approximately how many Australians are diagnosed each day with diabetes?
4. How can type 2 diabetes be prevented or delayed in up to 58 per cent of cases?
5. How many types of diabetes are there?
6. How much money does Diabetes Australia invest into research annually?

Did you know?

- Humans share 50 per cent of their DNA with bananas.
- A snail breathes through its foot.
- Mel Blanc, who played the voice of Bugs Bunny, was allergic to carrots.
- 160 billion emails are sent daily, 97 per cent of which are spam.



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