

FEATURE

Homelessness is not inevitable

FAITH TALK

Noticing the 'nobodies'

MY STORY

The security of a home

The home truth

Common humanity the key to homelessness support

NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS WEEK 2022



SALVOS

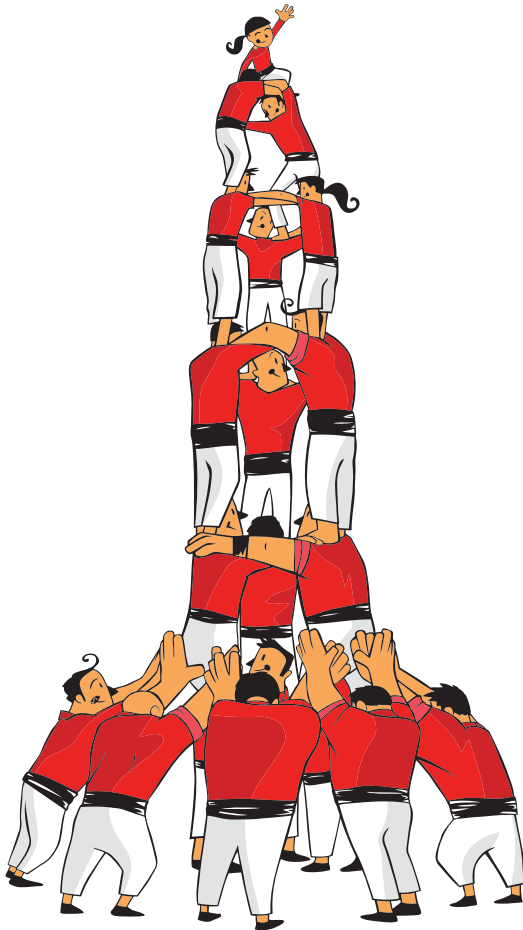
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Do your little bit of good where you are;
it's those little bits of good put together
that overwhelm the world.

Desmond Tutu





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



The Salvation Army Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and well-being of people of all ages, particularly children.

Salvos Magazine

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The security of home

Common humanity

This year, National Homelessness Week takes place from 1-7 August. Everyone needs a safe place to live, but also a space in which to feel at home, confident, secure and cared for.

As the cold weather bites, teams of Salvos nationwide regularly visit parks, bridges and inner-city streets providing hot food, coats and support to a vulnerable and growing population. Salvo homelessness services also work to provide stable and permanent accommodation, and ongoing care, to the many desperate people, our fellow humans, who call the streets, or couches, or hotel rooms, their home.

Each of these people has a story to tell – of addiction, neglect, abuse and, increasingly, of domestic violence, sudden job loss and housing affordability.

This edition of *Salvos Magazine* features the stories of those who have experienced homelessness and the struggles that go with that. They also show how lives can be turned around with support, care and just looking out for our fellow human beings.

Jesus tells us to love our neighbours. This includes our neighbours experiencing homelessness. Let's consider our common humanity and respond.

Simone Worthing **Assistant Editor**

The home truth

Common humanity the key to homelessness support

WORDS Naomi Singlehurst

In the middle of a rental availability and affordability crisis, limited social housing options and often complex individual circumstances, homelessness support must be focused on listening and never lecturing, according to Salvos worker Keith Van Haeften. To mark Homelessness Week (1-7 August 2022), Keith shares his thoughts on the importance of humanity and care at the heart of homelessness support.

In his early days with the Salvos, Keith asked a man struggling with homelessness about his goals. The man began to cry.

He explained to Keith that no one had ever asked him that before. He had always just been told what to do. It was a moment that Keith never forgot.

“

Some people are also helped simply by knowing they have someone ‘in their corner’ ...

”

ON-THE-JOB LEARNING

Keith is a program manager at the Salvos' men's hostel in Alice Springs. He also works with teams on the Todd Street Program (a men's service) and Towards Independence Program (transitional housing and support for families) in the Northern Territory town.

Before this, he spent seven years at the Salvos' Pindari Services in Brisbane, where he worked in various housing and homelessness programs. This included the men's and women's accommodation programs, a

military veterans' support program, and a resident recovery mental health program. He then became team leader of the Upfront Intervention Team – a homelessness first response team.

“When I first came to [the Salvos], the focus was shifting strongly to seeing individuals as the experts of their own lives and seeing our role very much as the support role,” he says.

Over the past two years, Keith has managed the move of the Alice Springs men's hostel from a service with single rooms and shared facilities to a modern complex of 24 independent units.

The service provides accommodation support for single men experiencing homelessness, focusing on Indigenous men. Case managers link residents into appropriate additional support services as they require.

“The process began with extensive consultation with residents, staff members and external organisations,” Keith explains.

“From that, we were able to identify important themes and needs and determine how we could shape and improve the new service.

“The study strongly identified that the men wanted to learn and practise independent living. They also wanted and needed to gain a tenancy history.”

With a large percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, the new service has also employed a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander case manager.

“William, who is now in that role, is not only supporting residents but has taught me and our team so much about families, kinship ties, languages, men’s business, cultural connection and community,” Keith shares.

RESPONDING TO HOUSING SHORTAGES

For staff, management and community members, challenges remain around severely limited rental housing availability, rental prices and long social housing waiting lists for people needing to exit services.

In response, Keith and the team are working on developing ever stronger networks and relationships with local housing and other service providers.

And while professional support and advocacy are essential, some people are also helped simply by knowing they have someone ‘in their corner’, Keith says.

“When COVID-19 first hit, it was difficult. People were losing accommodation as landlords were moving back into investment properties. Many people lost jobs and, for many, it was their first time facing homelessness.

“They would call us not knowing what to do – distraught and highly embarrassed. Our staff would talk them through, saying, ‘We’re here to support you and help you work out what your options are.’ Many people told us that simply having someone at the other end of the phone, even while working to find housing options, made a huge difference emotionally.”

LIFESAVING SUPPORT

Keith says that working with the Salvos and his role in Alice Springs has helped him “come into his being – the understanding



Keith Van Haeften says his work with those experiencing homelessness is both a privilege and a challenge.

that my best work is caring for others, because every life deeply matters, including team-mates and colleagues”.

He says: “What I used to say to staff at the Upfront Intervention Team, which I have carried with me into this role, is, ‘If you have had a hard day, just remember you may have saved someone’s life today’.

“And that honestly is the privilege, the challenge and the reality of what we do!”

For more information, go to [salvationarmy.org.au/national-homelessness-week](https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/national-homelessness-week)



Scan here for information on Salvation Army housing and homelessness support and services.

Homelessness is not inevitable

Salvos call for urgent national strategy

As the largest provider of homelessness services in Australia, the Salvos annually provide 887,500 crisis beds and more than 309,800 sessions of care to people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness, as well as a range of services in areas such as family and domestic violence. However, much more is needed to address the complex issues around homelessness and housing availability.

This Homelessness Week (1-7 August 2022), Jeffrey Milne, Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor, Policy Research and Social Justice for The Salvation Army Australia, explains the need for a new national housing and homelessness plan. For the full version of this article, go to others.org.au.

WORDS Jeffrey Milne

Over many decades, the Salvos have witnessed the many drivers and consequences of housing insecurity and homelessness across the country through our extensive homelessness and community housing services, family and domestic violence and youth services. This is in addition to providing Doorways emergency relief, Moneycare financial counselling, and alcohol and other drug services.

From our frontline service delivery experience, supported by abundant external research, data and reports, the Salvos have formed the clear view that unaffordable housing and homelessness needs to be addressed by developing a national housing and homelessness plan.

We welcome the Albanese Government's housing policy platform and its commitment to a housing and homelessness plan.

NATIONAL PLAN

Within the context of rising housing insecurity and homelessness resulting from unprecedented property price increases, the lack of affordable private rentals and critical social housing deficits, these drivers of homelessness are not just a blip on the radar. The



Jeffrey Milne emphasises the need for a national housing and homelessness plan.

current landscape now requires a deep and multidimensional response – a national one – in the form of a comprehensive national housing and homelessness plan (National Plan).

The development of a National Plan could provide the framework that could consider the critical areas of homelessness need, at-risk cohorts and population dynamics and set clear, achievable and measurable goals to improve Australians' access to secure and affordable housing and eradicate homelessness.

This National Plan would outline what investment in the supply of affordable and social housing is necessary, with clear responsibility for state and Commonwealth input. It would also bring together the economic and social levers for change.

A Commonwealth-led National Plan would work to align state and territory housing strategies with the plan. The role of state governments in planning, development and many other aspects of service delivery could be integrated nationally to ensure maximum benefit to those along the housing spectrum.

To be effective, the Salvos believe that a new National Plan must consider a range of elements including the following:

ENGAGING RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS AND PORTFOLIO AREAS

- Draw together key policy portfolio and funding areas across all three levels of government that impact housing affordability and homelessness.
- Engage research and evaluation experts, practice experts, and people with lived experience.

EVIDENCE AND RESEARCH

- Investigate the structural causes of poverty, homelessness and housing unaffordability through a review addressing the adequacy of income support, Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) and other supplements.
- Research for innovative housing models and strategies.

TARGETS, DATA, OUTCOMES, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

- Commit to the eradication of homelessness, with clear targets to achieve that goal.
- Commit to clear social and affordable

housing targets that are ambitious and proportionate to needs.

COHORTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Fully recognise the many different cohorts, their current and projected numbers and specific housing and support needs.
- Acknowledge the unique housing-related issues and homelessness among young people and ensure an adjunct/stand-alone strategy.

BUDGET AND INVESTMENT

- Develop shared funding, co-investment and incentives needed to grow social housing in partnership with business and the not-for-profit sector.

With the housing affordability crisis knowing no apparent end, the emergence of newly affected cohorts, the risks arising from increases in interest rates and critical public housing infrastructure that has been left in decline for decades, deep, long-term and multidimensional reform is urgently needed.

As a society, we don't have to accept that unaffordable housing and homelessness are inevitable and beyond our control. Therefore, the Salvos are calling on the Albanese Government to develop a National Housing and Homelessness Plan that has the depth and breadth to end homelessness now and into the future.

Segments of this article first appeared in Council to Homeless Persons' Parity magazine – and have been updated following the 2022 federal election.



Scan here for information on Salvation Army housing and homelessness support and services.

Salvos Housing opens innovative complex in Brisbane

Facility to provide stable, long-term supported housing for people in need

WORDS Cliff Worthing

To have the relief of a roof over our head is just an amazing feeling and has been so life-changing," said one of the first tenants approved to move into The Salvation Army's new affordable housing complex in the Brisbane suburb of Chermside.

The complex will provide stable and long-term supported housing for individuals and families with children, catering for up to 100 people at any time. It is expected that thousands of people will be assisted through the complex over time.

BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

The Chermside complex is the first of its kind for the Salvos, according to Derek Brown, Salvo Philanthropy team leader. It is the first purpose-built Salvos Housing project, so the quality is exceptional and specifically meets the needs of tenants, Derek explained.

The 26-unit complex officially opened on 1 July. The project was made possible through a \$5.5 million grant from Cory Charitable Foundation, a sizeable donation from Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust and funding from The Salvation Army.

"I am more than happy today. Everything is way beyond my expectations," said Doug Cory, founder of Cory Charitable Foundation. "Everything has been done with quality in mind and has such a fantastic feel."

Doug explained that a large part of his motivation to be involved with the Salvos' affordable housing projects was his childhood



A statue of Irene, Doug Cory's mother, pays tribute to her struggle in raising a family alone and Doug's determination to help others like her.

experience. His mother Irene, who raised nine children, struggled to make ends meet even with the support of the Salvos and "was only a step away from being homeless".

The project also caught the imagination of the trustees of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust, according to Councillor Adam Allan. He said the trust was delighted to support such a sophisticated project that addressed a growing need in the community.

"I can just imagine a sunny day, fully accommodated, children running around the garden playing, and everyone feeling so much more relieved to have a roof over their heads," he said.



The new affordable housing complex includes a children's playground, multiple outdoor spaces and gardens.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The architects from DC8Studio explained they designed space for community connections, balanced with privacy and security for those who need it. A courtyard between both sets of units creates airflow for hot summer months, minimising energy costs. The complex is surrounded by greenery and has a community garden already stocked with herbs, vegetables and flowers, a basketball and tennis area, a library, and a common room.

The Chermside complex is designed to fill an ever-growing gap between social housing and private rentals, according to Diane Quinlan, Housing Coordinator. Diane will head up the team that supports the tenants daily.

"We are trying to create a community feel here for tenants who are able to maintain a tenancy but can't get affordable options," she said. Diane provided one example of a family who had sustained a private tenancy for over 19 years but had to leave because the

landlord put up the rent by \$100 per week. Now with affordable rent, families will be able to spend more on food, a vehicle, or family outings. The Salvos Housing team can also refer tenants to other support services if their situation changes, such as losing their job.

"I know great things will happen in this complex," said Lieutenant-Colonel Winsome Mason, Assistant Chief Secretary for The Salvation Army in Australia, as she officially opened the complex. "The affordable housing model allows tenants access to an amazing home, at an affordable price, all the while being supported by Salvation Army services to ensure they have the best opportunity to recover and rebuild their lives."



Scan here for information on Salvation Army housing and homelessness support and services.

Noticing the 'nobodies'

Seeing people through Jesus' eyes

WORDS Bryce Davies

As a young teenager, most people would have described me as having a solid build, but I just thought I was fat. Add to this a lack of motivation to study and achieve at school, and you end up with fragile self-esteem. I thought I was a bit of a 'loser', especially compared to my brother and most other kids.

I played Aussie Rules footy and was not fabulous at it. I ended up playing in the back pocket – an innocuous sort of position – but I loved it and played my role in the defensive backline enthusiastically. I've never forgotten overhearing one of the senior staff members at my school commenting to my footy coach, "Crikey, Davo is a tough little kid, isn't he? I love the way he goes in hard for the ball." I was noticed and affirmed, and it felt fabulous. I went on to play for Collingwood – just kidding – but it was a memorable moment and helped me believe in myself a bit more.

Loving people is sometimes as simple as noticing them and making observations about what you see. Talent scouts roam the sporting world just to discover unrealised potential. Shows like *The Voice* and *Australia's Got Talent* are about finding people who have never been noticed and giving them a chance to shine. For me, the most obvious example is singer Susan Boyle who entered *Britain's Got Talent* and went on to have an amazing career.

SEEING POTENTIAL

In Mark chapter 1, verses 16-17, we read of Jesus watching two brothers fishing. He noticed them. He saw them. I'm not sure Simon and Andrew were particularly muscular or unique – just regular fishermen who, for some

reason, Jesus saw and invited into his life.

Many of us hesitate to talk to strangers or be friendly to someone in a way that might create opportunities to include them in our lives or group. We often fear our friendliness may be taken the wrong way, or we might say something inappropriate, or that they will be too demanding or difficult.

American Rapper Kid Cudi has a lyric in one of his songs: "We sometimes think we want to disappear, but all we really want is to be found."

To love like Jesus is to notice people and to have the courage to say "G'day". Not everyone is extroverted, but we can all take an interest in people and find ways to make a connection and encourage them to be their best selves.

In my conversations with people experiencing homelessness, they often say they feel invisible. And being invisible feels like being a nobody or someone of no significance. Jesus noticed Andrew the fisherman. Interestingly, it was Andrew who noticed the small boy with the five small loaves and two fish that Jesus used to feed 5000 (John chapter 6, verses 1-14).

If you love as Jesus loved, you will notice people and see the possibilities.

Major Bryce Davies is a Salvation Army officer (pastor).



Scan here for more
on finding meaning.



The security of a home

Gabbi's journey from domestic violence to housing security

WORDS Holly Reed

After her traumatic marriage of 10 years ended, Gabbi* experienced years of homelessness, which deeply impacted her already complex mental health issues. This Homelessness Week, Gabbi shares her story – from her struggle with homelessness to The Salvation Army's homelessness and housing assistance that helped her finally secure the keys to a home.

Standing in front of a sign crossed with a fresh 'Leased' sticker, Gabbi* was beaming. Five traumatic years of homelessness were finally behind her.

After battling for many years to gain a home in a highly competitive and challenging rental market, she could finally celebrate. "It's just fantastic," she says. "When they put that sticker on the sign ... I finally had a home."

FEELING VULNERABLE

A recent Salvation Army survey found those who had experienced family and domestic violence were more likely to be homeless, or at risk of homelessness, because of the domestic violence.

Gabbi says through tears: "[My husband] never beat me, you know, you didn't see my battle scars [but] even now, even though I know the food in the fridge is mine because I bought it, I still need reminders. Like, 'It's okay for you to eat, it's okay for you to go to the toilet ... it's okay, nobody is going to take your money away ...'"

Unable to secure a private rental property during a severe rental shortage, and with limited availability of social housing, Gabbi went from living in a severely rundown granny flat to a moored boat with no running water, power, heating or a proper bed, to the couches of family members and friends.

Compounding her distress was a string of people who took advantage of her vulnerability, including a relative, who took her in only to access her Centrelink payments.

Eventually, Gabbi contacted a friend who had been homeless for six years, and the two decided to look out for each other. Combining their resources, they negotiated a room at a local motel where the operators showed them exceptional kindness and compassion. Gabbi also got in touch with the local Salvos, who began working with her.

SALVOS SUPPORT

"When I started working with Gabbi, she was about to give up on making applications for private rental properties," says Salvos support worker Trevor. "She was over the continual feeling of rejection that was affecting her mental health. We discussed various properties that were available in the price range, and I assisted her to fill out applications."

Gabbi and her friend paid for their motel room fortnightly, kept it clean and were model guests. After 12 months, they were able to provide a good reference to real estate agents and, along with the support from Trevor, were finally given a chance to lease a property.

GREATER SECURITY

"I've only had one thing on my mind for years and that is stable housing," Gabbi



says. "It's been a long battle since leaving that marriage ... [and] living in other people's houses and other people's spaces when I just wanted my own.

"Having a home and having a key so I can lock the door, I know that my stuff is not going to be touched or moved. I know that my stuff is not going to be thrown out on the curb again, or I'm not going to be asked to leave.

"I can wash my clothes. I can have a shower. I can have a visitor and make them a cup of coffee and have a chat on the couch. And I've got a room to myself, so I can shut the door. I can watch my own TV, watch my own shows. I've got safety. I've got a door that I can lock, and I know that nobody is going to harm me, or take advantage of me, or steal my money."

STABILITY AND HEALTH

Having the stability of a home has allowed Gabbi to focus on getting a regular GP and psychologist, work on her mental health needs, and ensure she has access to medication.

Now settled, Gabbi has grown in confidence. She participates in social events and art classes organised through the local community centre and is building a support network.

"I'm really, really stoked that I've got a place to live, and I have permanent housing, but what I really need to emphasise is that, in this day and age, it took six years to get a permanent residence. It. Is. Ridiculous," says Gabbi.

"I never had to sleep out on the street, but I had to be cold, I had to go without food sometimes, or even fresh water ... It's not just my story; it's the story of [so many] ..."

** Name and some details changed*



Scan here for information on Salvation Army housing and homelessness support and services.

FIND SECURITY THROUGH THE SALVOS

Homelessness services:

salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/homelessness-support-services

Family and domestic violence services:

salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/family-and-domestic-violence

Housing: salvationarmy.org.au/need-help/housing

French toast with fruit



PHOTO: JOSEPH GONZALEZ ON UNSPLASH

Ingredients

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup milk, 3 eggs lightly whisked, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup icing sugar, pinch mixed spice, 60g butter, 6 slices thick white bread, punnet of blueberries, 1-2 sliced bananas, maple syrup to taste, icing sugar to dust.

Method

- Combine milk, eggs, icing sugar and mixed spice in a bowl.
- Melt half the butter in a frying pan over high heat until foaming. Dip three bread slices, one at a time, in the egg mixture and cook each side for 2-3 minutes or until golden brown.
- To serve, put one bread slice on a plate, sprinkle blueberries and banana slices on top, place another slice on top, add fruit then top with the third slice of bread and more fruit.
- Pour over maple syrup and dust with icing sugar. Repeat with remaining bread and fruit.

Tum-Tum

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



Quick quiz

1. What were the Commonwealth Games originally known as?
2. Where were the first Games held in 1930?
3. How many times has Australia hosted the Commonwealth Games?
4. According to tradition, where does the Commonwealth Games baton relay start?
5. What is the motto of the 2022 Birmingham Games?



Bible byte

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah chapter 40, verse 31

N A L T C C I O T E U Q C A R L N O S N
 I A L C Y T R T T A L R A C Y T I T N W
 G W E Y Y L T E A R C H E R Y Q R H I A
 N R L R T L E C T T K G U B E I B T Y L
 I A G B A W O C R E A C T O K L C R T K
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 N C R T S T T I O P Y T H L T A L K L T
 A U T B A O A I B G L I I B L C B Y E G
 C O C C B O A C K L L N A C R T I A C H
 K I K E E F O A E E G S Y C S I L C U C

Wordsearch

Words are hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forwards and backwards. Enjoy!

- Archery
- Athletics
- Ball
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Bat
- Bowler
- Canoeing
- Competition
- Cricket
- Cycling
- Football
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Hoop
- Kit
- Net
- Netball
- Puck
- Racquet
- Rugby
- Striker
- Team
- Tennis
- Track
- Training
- Volleyball
- Walking



HAVE A LAUGH

Why did the man keep doing the backstroke?
 Because he'd just had lunch and didn't want to swim on a full stomach!

Why didn't the dog want to compete in the swimming events?
 It was a boxer!

Why isn't suntanning a sport in the Commonwealth Games?
 Because the best you can ever get is bronze.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 22nd Commonwealth Games will be held in Birmingham, UK, 28 July to 8 August

The Games mascot is a bull named Perry after Perry Barr, an area in Birmingham.

Birmingham 2022 is aiming to be the first-ever carbon neutral games by offering free public transport during the Games and planting 2022 acres of forest.

For the first time in global multi-sport history, there will be more women's events than men's, with 136 medal opportunities for women and 134 for men.

Answers: 1. British Empire Games Palace 5. 'Games for Everyone', 2. Hamilton, Canada 3. Five 4. Buckingham on page 9?

Have you taken
care of your Will?



A gift in your Will can help
The Salvation Army create
a long-lasting impact in the
lives of those experiencing
hardship.

Together, we can give hope
where it's needed most and
you can start or continue
your legacy of generosity.

For information or a free
copy of Your Will booklet



Please contact:

salvationarmy.org.au/wills
or scan the QR code



The keys
to home



Homelessness Week 1-7 August 2022
salvationarmy.org.au/national-homelessness-week