

# Together

Spring 2017

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



Te Ope Whakaora



▲ FROM LEFT: GEORGIANA, JADE AND HAYDEN

## A Path to Success for Jade

**For 15 year old Jade, school was not a happy or exciting place. As with many of today's youth, she struggled with self-esteem, relating to her peers and trying to 'fit in'.**

Jade's school got in touch with The Salvation Army's Linwood Community Ministries in Christchurch, who arranged for her to attend the Army's Aspire youth programme. Currently operating from 25 centres, Aspire is a year-long programme involving weekly sessions for groups of 10 youth, focusing on developing teamwork, communication and self-awareness.

Led by experienced Salvation Army youth workers, Aspire provides a fun, supportive environment for personal development, helping youth to connect positively to others, achieve and master essential life skills, take responsibility for their decisions, and find purpose. Social and youth workers also work alongside Aspire families to provide additional support to strengthen the home environment.

Jade was introduced to Hayden Mundy, Linwood Community Ministries Youth, Children & Families Coordinator and the head of Linwood's Aspire programme. Hayden has been

based at Linwood for the past four years, and says he loves engaging with young people and bringing hope to those who feel hopeless.

'Our youth deserve to hear positive things about themselves, and we're here to provide that positivity for them. These kids have an awesome future, we just need to help them find it.'

Hayden says that when we first met with Jade, she was extremely shy and quiet. To help build up a rapport, Jade's Aspire sessions included adventure-based learning activities, focusing on trust-building and communication and dealing with topics such as anger management.

***'These kids have an awesome future, we just need to help them find it.'***

Often before the Aspire session begins, they would do an exercise called 'sweet and sour', where young people talk openly and honestly about one good thing and one bad thing that had recently happened to them.



Jade says this gave her the opportunity to discuss the hard subjects, the 'not-fun things'.

'Normally people tend to talk to you about good, happy things, but Mr. Mundy gets us to talk about the things that need to be talked about, so we don't keep it bottled up inside.'

Jade was also encouraged to express her feelings through art and drawing, as well as writing and poetry.

'Sometimes it's easier for me to draw what I'm feeling instead of saying it.'

Jade began to look forward to the weekly Aspire programme, and her view of school as 'boring' also began to change. She attended a restorative meeting with her school with Hayden as her support person.

But a few weeks into the programme, Jade experienced a setback - her one friend who she spent the majority of her time with, suddenly stopped being friends with her.

This hit Jade extremely hard. Her confidence plummeted and she was left feeling isolated and alone. Jade says she felt like she had lost all hope.

'I had no one my age to talk to about what was going on and how I was feeling - it took me to some very dark places.'

Hayden and Georgiana, another youth worker involved in the programme, stepped up their support and mentoring of Jade over this time. They worked on coping strategies to help Jade work through her issues, letting her know that the loss of her friendship was not the end of the world.

Hayden says in one of her letters she wrote to him and Georgiana, she thanks them for being there, as it meant she wasn't alone during a dark and depressing time of her life that had threatened to overwhelm her.

***'They're always there to talk when you don't have anyone else to talk to.'***

Now seven months into the Aspire programme, Jade is again flourishing. Through the programme she has been setting goals and thinking about her future - possibly a flight attendant or something to do with her art.

She has also been attending The Salvation Army's fortnightly 'Slam' youth programme, where she has built relationships with other teenagers through fun and challenging activities.

Hayden is proud of Jade's progress and says that one of the biggest differences is that she's learnt to trust people again.

'Jade is able to trust more friends and adults, she's learning to be more relaxed around new people, her confidence has noticeably grown - and she smiles more and is happier.'

I'd like to see her continue to strengthen her peer relationships, to build up that vital support network and to be able to comfortably talk with others her age.'

Jade appreciates how Aspire has helped her to grow.

'They're always there to talk when you don't have anyone else to talk to. They've taught me to be more patient and to forgive people more.'

## ***Building a Bright Future***

Thanks to The Salvation Army Education and Employment construction programme, Caleb is well on track to achieving his goal of becoming self-employed.

Being home schooled by his parents until he was 15 meant Caleb did not have recognised qualifications, a potential barrier to future study and employment.

So in 2016, Caleb enrolled at Education and Employment (E&E) in Tauranga, one of 18 such sites set up around the country.

The Salvation Army E&E programme is focussed on delivering education that helps people achieve qualifications, and matching people to jobs. Over the years they've helped thousands of people into brighter futures with credits toward nationally recognised qualifications, job training, job placement, and life skills and work ethics that help people get ahead.

E&E Students come from all walks of life, from teenagers who struggled in a traditional school environment or who had behavioural/learning issues, to people like Caleb who needed an alternative pathway to achieving his learning and employment goals.

Debbie Johnstone, Tauranga E&E's site administrator, says Caleb slotted well into the programme, despite being a first timer in an external learning environment.

*Story continued on back page.*





## *From Our Public Relations Director*

It's scary to think we're already into August this year, when Christmas seems like only yesterday.

The Salvation Army can proudly look back at our life-changing work with thousands of Kiwis in need during this time - but we need to also look ahead at the many more who will need our help in the future.

Following our Red Shield Appeal earlier in the year and its theme of 'It's time to end poverty in New Zealand', I'm pleased to see the robust conversations this idea has generated in the public space.

People at all levels of society - from the community to businesses and even politicians - are asking the hard questions about what needs to be done to turn things around, so that every New Zealander has a chance for a brighter future. This is encouraging.

In this special edition of Together we focus on how The Salvation Army - with your support - are working in new ways to ensure that people in need are provided with the support and life skills to realise their potential.

You will read about young people who, with some support and guidance, are turning their lives around and creating and realising plans for a brighter future.

We also feature an exciting new model of care - The Hope Centre - that we believe will transform the way in which we work within communities. And we provide you with a unique opportunity to be a part of this 'change for good'.

As we consider the opportunity for positive change, I am reminded of a bible verse that says 'I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness' (John 10:10b). And that's what it's all about - people realising their potential and living full, positive, and happy lives.

Thank you so much for your continued support as together we provide the opportunity for people to 'change for good'.

**Shane Chisholm**  
Public Relations Director  
The Salvation Army

## Instrumental in their Success

In the four years since it was first launched, the Just Brass music programme is having a uniquely positive impact on Christchurch youth.

Run by Christchurch City Salvation Army, the programme provides primary and intermediate children from two nearby schools with free brass instrument tuition, along with band practice and school holiday activities. There are currently 50 children in the programme, with 20 positions made available annually to each school.

Each school typically puts a pupil forward if they feel that music could be a positive influence in their lives and schooling, and could give them some added stability in their lives.

Recently 170 people, including proud parents and friends, attended the programme's end-of term concert, and shared a meal before watching the children play a selection of music they had practiced.

Lynley Robertson, one of the Just Brass Coordinators, says that many of the families involved would otherwise be unable to give their children the chance to learn musical instruments.

'The parents are grateful that their children have an opportunity like this, and they can see how their children are benefiting from it.

The children are not only learning music, they're learning about commitment, discipline and teamwork; that if they don't practice their part of the music, they're letting the rest of the band down.'

Lynley says that the children are provided with constant encouragement, and she can see the students growing in self-confidence as they progress with their instruments.

'The gradual mastery of their instruments help give them a huge sense of achievement.'





▲ AN IMPRESSION OF THE NEW WELLINGTON HOPE CENTRE

## New Hope for Kiwis in Need

The Salvation Army is embarking on a unique and ambitious plan to help solve the most acute and complex problems being faced by its clients.

In early 2018, The Salvation Army will pilot a new model of working in communities. This new model focuses on increasing the quality of service provided to those who may seek support as well as driving internal efficiencies – ensuring that we are streamlined and connected and doing the very best we can with the resources we have.

Multiple services in Wellington will be physically co-located in a new purpose-built facility, creating a ‘one stop shop’ for those seeking support. This new and innovative operating model will realise an increased ability to tailor support to individual needs.

Central Divisional Commander, Captain David Daly, believes that this new way of working will transform The Salvation Army’s delivery of vital community services.

‘The needs of our clients have become much more complex and in-depth - we don’t just give them a food parcel and

think that everything’s going to be fine. For some families these demands, combined with the higher costs of living, have created a cycle that’s almost impossible to break from.

Our clients often present with multiple personal issues that in turn require multiple services – which experience shows us should be contained in a single facility to allow us to deliver a highly integrated service to those in need.

The Hope Centre will lead the way in this change.’

Currently the services provided by The Salvation Army in Wellington are valued and well utilised by the community, with a number of services based in and around Newtown.

But currently these services operate as separate entities scattered across multiple sites, with Captain Daly saying that this physical and structural separation hinders the Army’s ability to provide an effective and convenient ‘wrap around’ service for its clients.

‘We don’t want the most vulnerable in our community to fall through the cracks, which is why this integrated model of care is an absolute must.’



Te Ope Whakaora

### You can be a part of a Change for Good

*Help bring hope to Kiwis in need by supporting the Hope Centre project. Together, we can be a part of a ‘change for good’.*

In this special edition of the Together newsletter, we are offering you - our valued supporters a unique opportunity to be a ‘change maker’. To realise this new way of working we need your financial support.

**Please, will you consider making a special donation towards the Hope Centre?**

Your support of the Hope Centre will allow us to change the lives of the thousands of people who come to our doors for help each year. You can find out more about this project by going to [salvationarmy.org.nz/hopecentre](http://salvationarmy.org.nz/hopecentre)



▲ COMMISSIONER ANDREW WESTRUPP VISITS THE CONSTRUCTION SITE

Captain Daly believes that up to 25% of clients that are referred from one Salvation Army service to another do not manage to make the 'connection' - in part due to the current physical distance between the services and the need to 're-engage' at each service.

'Just imagine what 25% better support outcomes for some of New Zealand's most vulnerable families would look like.'

The new Hope Centre is being developed at a cost of \$17.5m, with The Salvation Army covering \$15m of this cost and public support is being sought to help cover the remaining \$2.5m.

Captain Daly says that the new Hope Centre will have a direct impact on the thousands of families, children and individuals that seek the Army's help each year.

'We know that this new Hope Centre and the operating model it supports will greatly improve the quality and efficiency of the life-changing help we provide to those in need.'

### Here's how you can support this vital project:

- Complete the **donation form** and post it to us at The Salvation Army, PO Box 27001, Marion Square, Wellington 6141.
- Or, visit us at **salvationarmy.org.nz** and make a secure online donation using your credit card.
- Or make a donation using internet banking—our bank account number is **BNZ 02 0568 0091726 00**.
- You can also phone us on 0800 53 00 00 or email [pr@salvationarmy.org.nz](mailto:pr@salvationarmy.org.nz)

## A Blessing to Others

Ollie Seumanufagai has been the Service Manager at the Wellington Hope Centre for the past nine years. A social worker by trade, he has helped hundreds of people in crisis during this time.

Ollie's role means that he has seen a lot of the challenges that people in the community face on a daily basis.

'Housing is a huge issue for families in this community, with people affected by overcrowding, an inability to pay rent, and the threat of homelessness. Just today we are dealing with a family of four who have been evicted and have nowhere to go – our social workers are busy trying to find them a place to stay.'

Through all the challenges he faces when trying to help those in desperate situations, he lives by a simple mantra: 'Being a blessing to others.'

Ollie is excited by what the Wellington Hope Centre and its new delivery model will mean for his clients.

'Having a one-stop shop, everyone in one location, will really help alleviate some of the issues our clients face and will make follow-up so much easier.'

Many families who come for a food parcel, when we talk with them we find there's a whole lot of underlying issues, and they need additional help like counselling, addiction services and guidance to get them out of the situation they're in.'

Ollie says that with the new Hope Centre, these wraparound services will be able to be provided faster and more streamlined.

'The beauty of this model is that a client won't be having to move from appointment to appointment and wait for when different services are available to meet with them. We can respond more urgently and effectively to people in crisis, and this collective approach means we can support more people coming through our doors.'





## Winter Warmth

There's nothing like a cup of soup to warm you up on a cold winter's day, especially when it's free.

Recently The Salvation Army teamed up with five Wellington eateries to provide soup en masse – 1000 cups to be precise – as part of our annual Winter Appeal.

The idea behind the week-long event was to raise awareness of the rising need for food, warmth and shelter that many Wellingtonians have at winter time.

This time last year, The Salvation Army saw a 9.7 per cent increase in people needing help with food compared to the previous three months across the Wellington region. However, the local need extends far beyond just food, with power bills and unexpected medical costs also making things hard for people.

Public Relations Director Shane Chisholm was heartened by the number of restaurants that had been keen to come on board with the soup-based events, giving up their time not only to prepare the food but also hand it out at lunchtime.

'The reception was fantastic. It's a great opportunity for them to contribute to the community.'

Le Cordon Bleu was the first off the mark, giving out 200 cups of warm French Onion soup to surprised passersby.

'It's about sharing and giving to others and that's why we want to be involved in things like this appeal. It's always good to give back', pastry lecturer Thomas Holleaux said.



THOMAS HOLLEAUX FROM LE CORDON BLEU ▲

## Building a Bright Future

*Story continued from inside left page.*

'From day one, he knew what he wanted and was one of our most focussed students. There was no holding him back, even though he wasn't used to mixing with other kids in this type of environment.'

Caleb raves about his time spent at Tauranga E&E, and following in the footsteps of his father, who is a builder.

'I love building and working with my hands, constructing things is what I really enjoy. I thought E&E was great as you get all the benefits of school, literacy and numeracy, NCEA credits and NZQA qualifications, but in a practical way.

Learning by doing is how I best understand, and that was supported and encouraged at E&E.'

Over the course of the year, Caleb thrived in the programme as one of their top students. After entering the programme with no formal qualifications, he achieved NCEA levels 1 & 2, a certificate in building and construction (BCATs), along with literacy and numeracy qualifications.

With these qualifications in hand, Caleb applied for the

Warehouse Stationery Scholarship which is administered through The Salvation Army. This was successful and he is now studying level 3 and 4 building at Toi-Ohomai Polytechnic which includes an apprenticeship.

Caleb is loving where he's at in life.

'Between the study and the apprenticeship, which my course allows me to do, it's the perfect balance between theory and practical and I'm seeing how the industry works.

Working in the booming building industry has been a dream come true, and studying at E&E gave me the start I needed to progress onto a building apprenticeship and into my current employment.'

Caleb hopes to move on to construction management in the future, and to be self-employed. Debbie says that she's proud of what Caleb and the other students have achieved.

'At the heart of E&E is the philosophy that each person has great potential no matter their upbringing or current situation. Caleb is a testament to that.'

Visit [educationandemployment.org.nz](http://educationandemployment.org.nz) to find out more.