



Te Ope Whakaora

# Your Support in Action Together

Spring | 2024



▲ Destiny (right) and her mum, Roberta.

## You Helped Destiny Get Things Cooking in Her Life

**Destiny first experienced support from The Salvation Army through transitional housing for her and her young family. But it was when she discovered our cooking programme that her self-confidence really started to shine.**

‘Before I got help from The Salvation Army, I was so anxious and scared of where life would take me. I first heard they could offer help for someone like me through my case manager for transitional housing, and since then the Sallies have offered me and my little family so much.’

Destiny has four-year-old twin boys, and also looks after her 13-year-old little sister. She saw our cooking classes—run in many centres across the country—as the ideal opportunity to develop her food nutrition, cooking, budgeting and shopping skills. She wants to see her boys grow up strong and make good food choices, and has been eager to save money on food.

‘Like a lot of littlies, my boys are honestly so fussy. One likes meat and sweets, and one loves fruit and veggies. You could say I’m still getting their palates used to trying new foods, but I also love to try cheap and easy food challenges from books and online recipes.’

The Salvation Army cooking course helped Destiny hone her cooking skills, and also helped bring her out of her shell. ‘I am a very shy person, so I was a little nervous at first, but I loved my cooking classes. The atmosphere was warm and content; the tutors and other learners were so friendly. They made me feel like I could be myself. And it was so good learning how to cook new things that I never knew were so easy, cheap and delicious.’

‘I learnt so much, especially how to make tomato relish. The taste reminded me so much of my nan’s homemade relish. She always had tons and tons of tomato relish, and I’d have it with everything—from sandwiches to hot meals, and even boil-ups!’

When Destiny eventually finds her forever home, she plans to start growing her own veggies. In the meantime, she’s starting to get her kids interested in gardening. ‘My mum has lovely plants, and my kids love to help water them when they’re at their grandparents’ house.’ ▶





▲ Destiny (right) with cooking tutor, Sheryl.

**‘...Mum and I did the Building Awesome Whānau course which teaches families skills such as communication skills and setting boundaries.’**

Destiny’s confidence is growing too, thanks in part to her newfound love of cooking. ‘From the situation I came from before I met The Salvation Army, I can now say I am really positive about my and my three kids’ futures.’

‘The cooking class was a real turning point for me finding myself again and finding ways to be a better parent for my kids. It wasn’t just the skills I learnt. It was everything. From bonding and sharing kai with the lovely workers and volunteers, right around to taking it home to your whānau.

‘There are so many services they provide that I didn’t even know about. For example, Mum and I did the Building Awesome Whānau course which teaches families skills such as communication skills and setting boundaries.

‘The Salvation Army have given me so much; I feel I would like to give something back in the future. I sit here and look back at what I’ve done, and I see how much it has helped me and my family.’

## Motivated To Support Our Mission

**For Wayne Freeman and his wife, Caryl, choosing to become recurring givers in The Salvation Army’s True Heroes programme was about an alignment of values and belief in our mission.**

Wayne is semi-retired and helps with treasury matters for Wycliffe, which makes the text of the Bible accessible through translation into local languages. Often, once the organisation is in touch with local communities, practical help is also offered, including work to increase literacy. The couple have travelled to far-flung destinations to help on the ground; notable trips have included Chad, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea.

Caryl says that lessons drawn from the Bible are clear and reliable, helping people change their lives for the better. And it is this reliability that the couple appreciate about The Salvation Army.

‘We’ve always had a heart for the poor and the needy,’ says Caryl. ‘That’s easy

to say, so we asked ourselves, “how can we do more?”’

With their clear belief in our mission—to care for people, transform lives and reform society—Wayne and Caryl joined True Heroes to support our work.

‘We’ve been blessed with much, so we wanted to give back,’ says Caryl. ‘It appears to me, when I look at the literature, that when someone is in great need there’s always someone from The Salvation Army who can walk alongside them.’

Wayne adds, ‘The Salvation Army is trustworthy. It makes us feel so hopeful that support is available for those in dire situations. We wanted to be part of helping people make positive changes.’

The couple became Christians in the 1970s and like to find ways to practically live out their faith. They also hope to inspire others.

‘We’re getting old,’ says Wayne. ‘So, it’s got to be the younger generation



▲ Wayne and Caryl

walking behind us who also take up the mantle to help.

‘Without a clear framework to follow, people can get trapped in the situation that their parents and their grandparents were in. Anyone can make a difference in the lives of others and together, big things are possible.’

## TRUE HEROES

To become a True Hero like Wayne and Caryl, contact Gabrielle today. Email [trueheroes@salvationarmy.org.nz](mailto:trueheroes@salvationarmy.org.nz) or call 021 352 742.



## From Our Territorial Leaders

Kia ora and welcome to our *Together* newsletter.

Amid this season of change and challenges for many, we would like to thank you for the tireless mahi and invaluable support you offer. Hebrews 10:24 says: 'And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,' and this verse is in our hearts as we work to help individuals, families, and communities across Aotearoa to fulfil our mission to care for people, transform lives and reform society by God's power.

Your contributions of any amount are a true blessing that power what we do to make a real difference in the lives of people throughout the motu.

Someone who has experienced personal transformation is Tanya. Years after she received financial mentoring from us, Tanya returned to The Salvation Army to explain that she had put what she learned into use and now has a new husband and a beekeeping business.

'Back then, I found myself pregnant, and in emergency housing in a new area. The organisation that had been helping me referred me to The Salvation Army for wraparound care. It gave me emotional support and I felt heard.'

You can also read about Bobby. When Bobby went to his local Salvation Army to ask for a pair of shoes, he couldn't have dreamed how much more he would receive. That one request for help sparked a sequence of events that has transformed his life in many wonderful ways.

Wayne and Caryl Freeman share about how they chose to become recurring givers in The Salvation Army's True Heroes programme because of an alignment of values and belief in our mission. 'We've always had a heart for the poor and the needy,' says Caryl. 'That's easy to say, so we asked ourselves, "how can we do more?"'

Let's help others in this time of need, so that we may show God's love.

Thank you for your support.

Ngā mihi nui,

**Mark and Julie Campbell**  
(Commissioners)

Territorial Leaders,  
The Salvation Army  
New Zealand,  
Fiji, Tonga and  
Samoa Territory



## Celebrating Corporate Partnerships

**In July, we hosted a team from Woolworths NZ, led by Managing Director Spencer Sonn for our Open Doors afternoon. This initiative is impactful and motivational, growing the depth of connection between Woolworths and The Salvation Army.**

The afternoon comprised a tour of Salvation Army Auckland facilities, interspersed with keynote presentations during the day. We visited Royal Oak Community Ministries and Social Housing, and the new Hauora Medical Centre.

A real highlight was having Commissioner Mark Campbell, our territorial leader, as one of our team for the day. It was great to have him involved with our highly valued corporate partner.

This opportunity gave key executives from Woolworths a deeper knowledge of our work and purpose. We are so grateful for the support of Woolworths, for their Winter and Christmas Appeals, donations of rescued food for our 68 foodbanks and their partnership with The Foodbank Project.

Corporate partnerships add depth to our work, allowing us to support our frontline staff with funding for vital work towards food security and wraparound care such as counselling, lifestyle programmes and social work.

The Salvation Army would love to partner with your business, enabling you to make a positive, lasting impact in the communities where your business operates. Please contact one of our corporate team today.

Email: [partnering@salvationarmy.org.nz](mailto:partnering@salvationarmy.org.nz)





## Giving the Gift of Hope

**Tribute Giving is a way to recognise, honour and celebrate people and events that are important to you by giving back to others. It is a wonderful way to acknowledge and celebrate a special person.**

Tribute gifts are also an especially meaningful way to honour the life of a loved one or to show your support to family during a loss, which can

provide comfort through a difficult time. Remembering or recognising someone special through a tribute gift is a beautiful way you can enable their life and memory to live on through our work. When someone we love passes away their memory becomes a gift. The loss can be immeasurable, but so is the love that is left behind. You can feel confident that your in-memory gift is being utilised for good

as we, in turn, honour your loved one and further help the most vulnerable in our communities.

To talk about Tribute Giving, please contact a relationship manager on our website: [salvationarmy.org.nz/help-us/tribute-giving](https://salvationarmy.org.nz/help-us/tribute-giving)

## A House of Peace

**‘Managing your money and being a good parent starts with getting help for yourself,’ says Sarah. ‘I can’t teach my kids if I don’t start with making good choices myself.’**

When a family member passed away leaving eight teenagers (four sets of twins) in need of a home, Sarah opened her door without question. ‘That’s what you do for family,’ she explains.

Sarah had been working with a Salvation Army financial mentor to get out of debt. It had already been a steep learning curve for Sarah, but with eight additions to provide for, the real climb was just beginning.

‘When I first came here, I was so lost. I wouldn’t be the mum I am today without these guys—I call them family now. The thing I love about The Salvation Army is that they don’t turn you away. Ever. They will keep saying “come in.” They keep helping you. I’m so grateful.’

Parenting one young child is challenging at the best of times, but adding eight grieving teenagers into the mix seemed an impossible task.

**‘The thing I love about The Salvation Army is that they don’t turn you away. Ever. They will keep saying “come in.” They keep helping you.’**

‘Before I did the parenting course, it was so tough. I would go into my room and sob saying, “why did you do this Sarah?” I was that typical mum—yelling, nagging and demanding. But now there is peace in our house. The parenting programme changed the way I see things—mostly the way I see myself. You can’t run a household when you are angry all the time. The parenting course helps you to heal.’



Sarah now has a peaceful home, where the rules are clear and so are the consequences and rewards.

‘Before the parenting course the TV was on all the time, there was music blaring, the laptops and devices were out, and I was yelling over all that. Now I can talk normally to the kids and I’m a better mum. We joined the library and now everyone has books of their own and we are not in each other’s face all the time. It’s family quiet time from 6pm and there are no devices allowed. We read and sing and talk, and we pray together every night.’

The parenting programme holds an extra special place in Sarah’s heart because after 24 years of estrangement, Sarah has reconnected with her own mum. A family bereavement brought them together, giving Sarah the opportunity to extend an olive branch. ‘I had been so angry with her, and if I hadn’t done the parenting course, I would have been attacking her straight away. But we had a heart-to-heart, and I went from hating her to saying, “love you Mum” when she left.’



**2500** people were helped through our development programmes between 1 January–31st August 2024.

# Keeping up with the Demand for Kai

**The cost-of-living crisis continues to hit people hard. The Salvation Army cannot keep up with the demand for food assistance.**

Food parcels are often the first step to receiving support through our wraparound services, including supported accommodation, financial mentoring, and counselling and addiction services—vital help that can transform lives.

The Salvation Army's Jono Bell says inflation, changes to social support and housing insecurity have created the perfect storm for poverty.

'These complex issues impacting people's wellbeing mean that those on the lowest incomes are simply not getting the increases in income to keep pace with rising expenses. And the harsh reality is that we simply don't have enough funds to service the need we're seeing on the frontline.'

We now heavily rely on donations from the public to support our food provision. Unfortunately, due to insufficient funds, we have had to reduce our food response by 25 percent nationwide from 1 July to meet the ongoing demand.

Public donations to The Salvation Army's Foodbank Project continue to provide local foodbanks with the necessary food and funds for products needed by families who are

receiving food support. Our food security team is always seeking partnerships and exploring ways to use our funds more effectively.

Donors like you offer vital support that helps us provide healthy and varied food options, ensuring families have the essentials they need to thrive.

Nutritious food is far more important than merely filling food, as it ensures a balanced diet crucial for development and sustaining overall health and wellbeing. Every donation received directly contributes to delivering high-quality, nutritious food to those in need.

Your support is vital for a healthier future for those in need. Thank you!

- **\$30** for food support provides basic pantry staples.
- **\$60** for a food package will help provide nutritious ingredients for family meals.
- **\$90** for a large family bundle will sustain a family for three days.



In the first six months of this year, food assistance was provided to more than **60,000** New Zealanders.

## A New Life Thanks to Financial Mentoring

**Years after she received financial mentoring, Tanya returned to The Salvation Army to explain that she'd put what she learned into use and now has a new husband and a beekeeping business.**

'Back then, I found myself pregnant and in emergency housing in a new area. The organisation that had been helping me referred me to The Salvation Army for wraparound care. I was assigned to an amazing social worker and received counselling and financial mentoring. Food parcels also made all the difference when I was pregnant and then a new mum.

They gave me emotional support and I felt heard. That was big, because the relationship I was in wasn't as it should be. Half the time my partner was on remand and I was alone with our son.

My financial advisor, was so clever. She could see things I couldn't see at the time, and she taught me to be brave and courageous. I was struggling with my bills, but with support I was able to get a part-time job which gave me independence.

I was on a joint benefit with a partner, who was spending on cigarettes and booze while I was trying to pay the rent and power with my portion. The budgeting kept me strong and opened my eyes to what was happening.

I knew I had to be straight up about my situation. The meetings were a blessing, just to be able to come and tell someone what was happening.

The third time my partner came out of prison, he was still bailed to my home, but I told the officer we were no longer



▲ Tanya

in a relationship. I was able to prove he wasn't a part of the household and finally split from him. The budgeting help had given me the confidence to advocate for myself.

I started to develop a garden at home, growing my own food to be thrifty. Then I met my now husband and started a beekeeping business. When I did a harvest recently, I couldn't wait to come in to The Salvation Army with some honey as a gift and tell my financial mentor how content I was with my life now and that her patience had paid off.'





▲ Bobby

# Saved from Falling through the Cracks

**Bobby came to The Salvation Army with a simple request. What he got was dedicated advocacy from staff members which led to a new life filled with hope for the future.**

When Bobby went to his local Salvation Army to ask for a pair of shoes, he couldn't have dreamed how much more he would receive. That one request for help sparked a sequence of events that has transformed his life in many wonderful ways.

He happened to leave his wallet at the centre that day, and when staff went to return it, they found him sitting on a bench looking downhearted.

'They asked me if I felt comfortable to tell them what was really wrong,' says Bobby. 'I'd been turned away at lots of different places, but they were offering me their time and patience so I felt I could open up to them.'

Staff learned that Bobby, who has cerebral palsy, was in quite a predicament. He was about to be moved on from his accommodation, with just three days before he would be rendered homeless; his support worker had stolen from him; he wasn't getting the right support from MSD; and his electric scooter wasn't working.

The next day, the team set about working on emergency housing and assessing Bobby's other needs. Temporary accommodation was secured through MSD and work began on finding a permanent solution, as well as helping with other immediate needs, like food deliveries.

Bobby's Salvation Army mentor says, 'It's fair to say we didn't quite know what we were in for the day Bobby walked in.'

'We worked closely with Bobby's budget advisor, who specialises in disabilities. She was happy to see us helping him as some things had not been adding up. Bobby had been let down by several agencies. Yet, Bobby continues to

defy the odds that are placed against him. He's very driven, motivated and capable.'

In a bid to improve his prospects, Bobby had asked if The Salvation Army could help him find work. Before long he was training for his forklift operator licence, which he passed with flying colours.

'This qualification opens up a working future for me,' says Bobby.

One of the biggest changes in Bobby's life came organically. Having long yearned for a greater sense of whānau, Bobby discovered that two local men, whom he'd previously met, were actually his uncles. As they talked about their lives, Bobby explained that he was being helped by The Salvation Army and was due to be moving into permanent housing. One of his uncles said he could go one better, and invited Bobby to live with him and has taken over his care.

Bobby is delighted that life is more settled and has signed up to volunteer with his local Salvation Army Family Store.

'When I think of where I was at the start of this journey, and where I am now, the feeling is amazing,' he says. 'I can get out and do things now.'



Thanks to generous donations from people like you, our programmes can support families across New Zealand. **Please scan the QR code to donate today.**