



At the Heart

"While women weep, as they do now, I'll fight; while little children go hungry, as they do now, I'll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, as they do now, I'll fight; while there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets...I'll fight - I'll fight to the very end!"

General William Booth, Founder of The Salvation Army

A HAPPY ENDING THAT TOOK 70 YEARS

Each year The Salvation Army give care to one million people because of the support Salvos Crisis Partners like you make.

One million Australians.

It's almost impossible to imagine that many people. Think about it this way. If all those people stood side by side, there'd be a line stretching from Adelaide a long way past Melbourne. You could drive for 10 hours at 100kmh and still not reach the end of the people you're part of helping.

But let's stop for a minute. And instead of talking about one million people, we'll drop the 'million' and just talk about **one**.

One, because the care you give to people through Salvos Crisis Partners is one to one. They aren't numbers to be processed, they're people to be loved. Individuals. Each person you help has had a conversation with someone from the Salvos. For many, it may be the only person they've talked to all week. And for many, the help they receive goes far beyond the help they asked or thought they needed.

Like Jim.

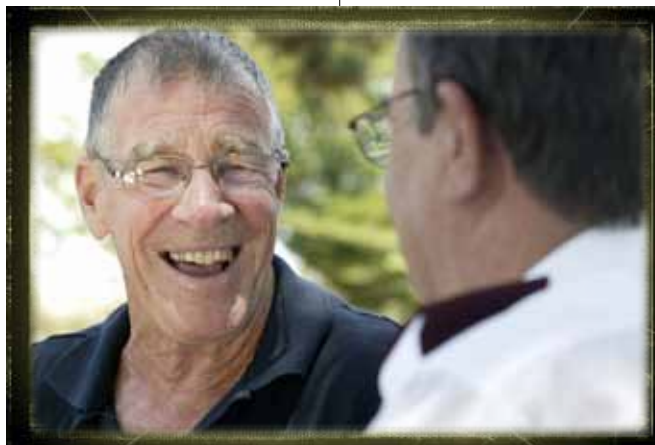
You may not realise, but Salvos often visit boarding houses in communities, seeking out people who may need extra care. Who, if Salvos didn't visit, might just fall through the cracks and disappear.

(These private boarding houses can often be horror stories. Ruthless proprietors exploit people who don't easily fit into the regular

accommodation system. You might pay \$160 a week for a tiny windowless room with a single bed, and a bathroom you share with 10 others. Lights are broken, water is cold, there's no heating, everything smells of urine.)

It was at one of these boarding houses that we met Jim.

Now in his 70s, Jim told us he'd been placed into care at the age of 6, while his sister had been adopted out. Their father had died during World War 2, and their mother couldn't cope.



Jim is cross-eyed.

Being 'different' meant he'd been singled out for teasing during his childhood. Worse, he'd suffered major abuse. This scarred him emotionally, so that he'd never had a relationship in his life. He said he 'didn't feel worthy of anyone'.

Jim was also almost completely blind, had skin cancer, and because he couldn't see had badly hurt himself in a fall. His clothes were stained and ragged, but he didn't know because he couldn't see them.

It took some convincing but we finally got Jim to agree that he needed better care than what he was able to provide for himself.

We took him into a Salvos hostel, where he could be warm and safe, have hot meals and showers, and people who'd listen when he talked. Jim's reaction was different to what you might expect. He started crying.

Then he said, "This is like the Hilton. I don't deserve this."

Once Jim was settled, we were able to provide him with good clean second-hand clothes. We also arranged for treatment of the skin cancer.

The story doesn't end there. We used our Family Tracing service to locate Jim's sister. She was married, and had two children, and we were able to reunite Jim with her and her family.

It took more than 70 years, but finally this man's life had a happy ending.

What's special about Jim? Everything ...

...and nothing. If you sat down and talked with any one of those million people helped through the Salvos in a year, you'd hear a story to tear at your heart.

Poverty. Grief. Sickness. Loss. Old age. Mental illness. Loneliness. Abuse ...

... the list of pains people suffer seems to know no end. Thankfully the love and care and generosity of people like you seem also to know no end. And as Jim will tell you, a happy ending after 70 years is still a happy ending.

One million. One. Thank you and God bless you for the help you give through the Salvos!

THANK YOU NOTE

To the absolutely wonderful ladies and gentleman who were the happy workers on Tuesday, I'm writing to express my heartfelt thanks and love for your assistance and generosity towards me in a very desperate time of need.

You all showed super-human warmth, sincerity and kindness with of which I haven't seen in a very very long time and you will always be remembered and never forgotten.

Thanking you all, with all my heart.

...A note of thanks from a lady who visited a Salvos Community Support centre.

THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE

It's a privilege to have you stand right there beside us when we take your care to people on the streets and the people who knock on our doors. The support you give through Salvos Crisis Partners means people who have nowhere to turn, living on the edge, have a chance to turn their lives around. Thank you!



Here's what you've helped achieve through being a Salvos Crisis Partner:

- *Helped serve over 100,000 meals every week to hungry people*
- *Given 4,000 beds each night to people who would otherwise sleep rough*
- *Helped 50,000 Australians find employment last year*
- *Assisted 1,500 farmers with Drought Relief grants totaling \$1.2 million*
- *Treated 7,000 people suffering addiction to alcohol, drugs or gambling each year*
- *Given 5,500 food vouchers to families who would otherwise go hungry every week*
- *Provided Youth Support Services to young people who are alone and need the direction to make a future*
- *And much more.*

When you think about all the things you help give, remember that not only do you give people the things they need then and there, like food or shelter, you also give them a friend they can trust, someone who will listen. You are letting them know that someone cares.