

GLOBALLINK



Giving Hope Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

SPRING 2022



Girls from the Bapatla Hostel receive their daily lunch.

COOKING UP JOY

By Major Heather Matondo

For several years, the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship Program has supported children's homes throughout India.

For many of these projects, this support includes funding for meals, school fees, recreational and educational materials, and medical supplies.

Recently, there was a very specific need that was identified at The Salvation Army's Girls' Hostel in Bapatla.

Koteswamma is passionate about her job. Having been a cook at the hostel for many years, she enjoys preparing the meals for the children and cares for them all as if they were her own.

She requested that a new kitchen facility be built to ensure the growing needs of the children were met. As a result of the financial support from Canadian sponsors, that request became a reality.

The entire kitchen was upgraded, with a new and improved gas stove, pantry area, drying area, gas room, platforms and racks.

"The new kitchen facilities have brought joy and happiness in the faces of the cooking staff," says the hostel staff.

Koteswamma is especially grateful for the new facilities.

"Now I am preparing food very fast," she says. "I'm able to give the children more time. My heartfelt thanks to the Canada and Bermuda Territory for sponsoring our hostel."

With continued support from our sponsors, the 50 girls who live at the hostel can enjoy healthy and nutritious meals every day, while Koteswamma enjoys serving them in food and fellowship.



If you'd like to become a sponsor and make a practical difference in the lives of vulnerable children around the world, please visit [SalvationArmy.ca/brighterfutures](https://www.salvationarmy.ca/brighterfutures)



GENERATIONAL HOPE

By Kathy Nguyen

Whether it's a child growing up in a Salvation Army children's homes or a senior spending their final days in our senior care homes, The Salvation Army has played an instrumental role in the lives of many, meeting human need and restoring hope at every age in every corner of the globe.

For Anton Joseph, The Salvation Army was always there when he needed it most.

His story with the Army began in 1958 when he attended the Rajagiriya Salvation Army Boys' Home, a children's home in Sri Lanka that continues to operate today.

"I received my education from this home," he says. "I received security, protection and several other benefits while growing up there."

Once Anton graduated school and aged out of the children's home, he started to build his life by forming various businesses. He was doing well until one day, he became sick and had to get his left kidney removed.

"I couldn't do the work on my own anymore," he says. "Income was no longer stable, and it was difficult to carry on."

And in his time of need, he remembered the home he once grew up in.

"I finally decided that the best thing to do was enter The Salvation Army Elders' Home at Rajagiriya," he says.

Colonel Nihal Hettiarachchi, territorial commander of The Salvation Army in Sri Lanka and a former Rajagiriya Salvation Army Boys' Home resident, was the one to submit the request for Anton's enrolment to the Elders' Home.

Today, he continues to receive shelter, meals and spiritual care at the home—just like he did when he was a child.

"I would like to thank all those who served at the homes," he says. "Thank you for serving God's blessings. May God bless The Salvation Army and all!"

The Salvation Army was there for Anton in the early stages of his life and will continue to be there until his final days.

Donors in Canada and Bermuda financially support the Rajagiriya homes for boys and seniors. With your support, we can provide hope, love and compassion to every generation around the world.



After the long dark days of November and December, it's a welcome sign when you look out the window at 5 p.m. and see that the sun is still shining. I don't know if you have noticed it yet, but the days are getting longer as we commence our march towards spring, and with spring, comes new growth.

It's a time of rebuilding and renewing, which is the theme of this issue of *Global Link*. As you read through the stories captured in this edition, you will see how your donations are helping others beyond our borders renew hope and rebuild lives.

Many of you will remember the devastation caused by the Australia bushfires, how homes were destroyed, and families displaced. But take courage, for people are resilient, especially when others have reached out to help them in their time of need. These families are rebuilding.

A small kitchen in the community of Bapatla, India, needed a renovation and your donations renewed the space, making it functional so that the cook can meet the growing needs of children.

When the darker days are over, we remember that hope springs us forward. Check out these and other stories, and as you do, I hope your spirit is renewed, knowing you have made a significant difference in the lives of many.

Sincerely,

Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray

Director of International Development



AN OVERFLOWING GIFT

By Robyn Goodyear

According to the United Nations, one in three people worldwide does not have access to safe drinking water, with most living in rural areas.

Clean water is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle, preventing dehydration and illness, as well as being key in sanitation and hygiene practices. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the need for clean water in communities to help prevent the spread of disease. Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals is to “Ensure access to water and sanitation for all,” by the year 2030.

With the financial support of donors across Canada and Bermuda, The Salvation Army in Southern Africa is contributing to the achievement of this goal by constructing two new boreholes in rural Southern Africa.

Boreholes are drilled deep into the ground, accessing water which is then extracted and filtered by a pump. The pump is powered electrically using renewable energy generated by solar panels.

This makes boreholes a clean and sustainable solution for communities dealing with water scarcity, particularly those with limited access to natural bodies of fresh water.

Through this project, vulnerable families in the communities of Langelooop and MjeJane will reap the life-saving benefits of accessibility to clean, safe water.

The Salvation Army in Canada has built hundreds of boreholes, wells and latrines in the most vulnerable communities around the world.

We’re committed to bringing clean water, sanitation and hygiene to communities in every country where we are at work.



If you'd like to support clean water initiatives, visit [SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope](https://www.salvationarmy.ca/giftsofhope)

AUSTRALIA AFTERMATH

By Kathy Nguyen



In March 2020, the Australia bushfires that burned over 18 million hectares of land, affected nearly three billion animals and destroyed more than 4,000 homes, were finally contained and extinguished.

When the bushfires began, The Salvation Army in Canada acted fast to send our practical support. Through the generous support of Canadians, nearly \$500,000 was raised to support recovery efforts.

But while the fires were contained, another disaster swept the nation and the world, as COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic shortly after. Lockdowns were enforced around the globe, which severely disrupted normal operation systems and procedures.

Despite the barriers imposed by lockdowns and social distancing, the local Salvation Army was able to provide 100 families directly affected by the fires with \$5,000 grants to help replace household essentials.

“We have appreciated the support from around the globe in our response to this disastrous fire,” says Major Drew Ruthven, general manager of The Salvation Army’s strategic emergency and disaster management team. “Two years on and the communities are still struggling with the damage that resulted from this event. Many families have told us of the great help our support has been to them in this recovery. Australian families are grateful for your help and these household grants have helped people get under way again.”

Even after the fires were contained, the smoke continued to make it difficult for many to breathe. Thanks to your support, families were able to breathe a little easier, figuratively speaking, knowing they had prayerful and financial support from caring Canadians.

With a five-year plan to provide long-term and sustainable solutions, The Salvation Army continues to help affected Australians rebuild their lives.



FULFILLING A DREAM

By Kathy Nguyen

The Salvation Army has partnered with Canadian Foodgrains Bank to help build harvests, homes and hope in the warm heart of Africa.

Through the generosity of Canadian donors, we're working with The Salvation Army in Malawi to implement the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security project.

Through this initiative, more than 400 farmers across rural Malawi are being trained in conservation agriculture, crop and livestock management, and entrepreneurship workshops for livelihood development.

"Prior to this project, many of the families were food insecure and couldn't produce enough food to last throughout the year," says Ibrahim Thawani, project manager at The Salvation Army in Malawi. "This was due to a lack of knowledge, skills and negative climate conditions."

Catherine, a single mother of four, was one of the many farmers who struggled to provide for her family. But through the hardship, she had dreams of building them a safe place they could call home.

After attending various training sessions and receiving seeds, fertilizer and crop inputs, she put her learning into action and produced 14 bags of maize, each weighing 50 kilograms.

"This a lifelong dream for the family," says Ibrahim. "That amount of maize can last households 11 months."

Not only was Catherine able to provide nearly a year's worth of food for her family, but she started a small business selling fruits and vegetables.

And after selling some of her maize, she was able to buy 12 of the 30 iron sheets needed to build her home.

With the tools she's been given and the lessons she's learned, Catherine is confident she'll start building her dream home this year.



To learn how you can support farmers like Catherine, email SAID@salvationarmy.ca



Brighter Futures

THE SALVATION ARMY CHILDREN'S SPONSORSHIP

Empower a child today.

With the gift of food, clean water, health care and education, you are giving hope not only for today, but for future generations.



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