

**RECEPTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS AND
STAFF OF THE SALVATION ARMY, TASMANIA DIVISION
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2024**

VICE-REGAL SALUTE

Good evening, everyone. I warmly welcome you to Government House for this reception to acknowledge volunteers, supporters, and staff of the Salvation Army.

May I begin by acknowledging the Muwinina people upon whose land we gather. I acknowledge today's Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as ongoing custodians of Country. I recognise their enduring culture and deep connection to land, sea, sky, and waters.

The Salvation Army gives hope to those in need in cities, towns, and rural areas across our Nation. Since 1880, when the first leader, John Gore, said, "If there's a man here who hasn't had a square meal today, let him come home to tea with me," the Salvation Army has fed hundreds of thousands of Australians yearly.¹

Providing meals to those in need has been a cornerstone of the work of the Salvation Army, but significant social work programs are also undertaken. These programs encompass work with discharged prisoners and addicts, operating employment bureaux and programs to help the unemployed, homeless, and those suffering child abuse, and family violence.²

All this work would be impossible without the commitment of volunteers, supporters, and staff. May I extend my thanks to Divisional Commander Major Tracy Briggs and the entire Salvation Army team for their commitment and dedication. Your commitment to lifting the spirits of Tasmanians and helping those in need is inspiring and valued.

¹ <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/our-story/> accessed 25 Nov 24

² <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/our-story/our-history/history-of-social-work/> accessed 25 Nov 24

Tonight, we celebrate the impact of your work which is possible because of the contributions of many. Over the past twelve months, the Salvation Army has assisted more than 14,500 Tasmanians.³

With increasing financial pressures, including rent, mortgages, and the cost of groceries and medical services, your programs have significantly increased uptake. This is likely to continue as we draw closer to Christmas.

Your iconic Red Shield Appeal is your main source of income for social services and programs, with some \$80 million donated annually.⁴

There are other forms of fundraising undertaken by supportive organisations; for example, students and staff of Calvin Christian School took part in the Salvos Sleepout and raised more than \$8,000.

And our Government House provides pre-made food utilising our garden's produce to help families have a nutritious meal.

The Motorcycle Riders' Association South (MRA South) held its 45th annual Toy Run just over a week ago. Every year for the last six years, the funds raised have gone to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal, with nearly \$300,000 in gifts, food, and donations. Shortly I shall present a 'Hero of Hope Award' to the MRA South to recognise their efforts.⁵

On behalf of a grateful community, thank you all for your work to assist those in need. Your work is largely unseen but has an enormous impact on those that you help. As you end another busy year, I hope you can have some time with family and friends to recharge to continue your important work.

Thank you. David ...

[David invites Major Briggs to the stage. HE and Major Briggs present the Hero of Hope Award to MRA South representative.]

³ Email Amelia Natoli / David Hughes 14 Nov 24

⁴ <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/about-us/our-story/our-history/how-did-the-rsa-start/> accessed 25 Nov 24

⁵ Email Amelia Natoli / David Hughes 14 Nov 24