

Refugees Find Safety with Help from The Salvation Army

The refugee crisis is labelled as the worst humanitarian disaster of our time. Civil war has forced nine million Syrians to flee their homes, taking refuge in neighbouring countries. Many of these people are children, vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation and susceptible to malnutrition and diseases related to poor sanitation.

On September 12, the Canadian Government announced that they would match refugee donations to registered charities up to \$100 million. This includes The Salvation Army who is at work, travelling through Germany to assess where help and support are most urgently needed.

*“It is moving
to hear stories
of the journeys”*



Refugees find shelter in safety at The Salvation Army camp.



Beds have been provided at Salvation Army camps. 

Refugees waiting to be accepted into the camp. 



Major Cedric Hills, Emergency Services Coordinator, International Headquarters, is one of those travelling and writes: “It is moving to hear stories of the journeys to get to Germany—often across several countries. Even more moving is to see the photo of a day-old baby girl born in Syria to a father who is desperate to be reunited with his wife and new family member. These are heartbreaking stories, but it is a hugely inspirational ministry.”

Providing shelter is a key component of The Salvation Army’s response efforts. Refugees are able to obtain food, clothing, legal assistance, language-skills training and help in finding suitable housing. This gives them a sense of safety and security, dignity, positive self-esteem and hope for a great future.

“The refugees have said their welcoming has been so warm that they have encouraged other asylum seekers to request a transfer to The Salvation Army’s shelter,” says Major Hills.

An Introduction to Our New Associate Director of World Missions

Greetings!

I am delighted to join the World Missions office. I have recently returned from living in London, England, and while there had the privilege of serving at International Headquarters. This experience provided significant exposure to the global work of The Salvation Army and the rich heritage that is ours.

Over the past number of years, I have had the joy of working in a variety of areas in Canada from coast to coast, including emergency housing for women and children; camping and youth ministries; public relations and development; government relations and hospice.



I have participated in short-term mission teams in Zambia and co-led five mission teams to various parts of Cuba. I have been 'Called' to serve in missions and I believe today I am serving with the World Missions office as a result of that 'Calling'.

These are exciting days and I look forward to working with you. Together we can bring hope and dignity to all situations and the people that we serve.

Major Brenda Murray
Associate Director
World Missions

Fighting for Equality

In developing countries, there is a significant difference in the number of girls in school versus the number of boys. The fight for gender equality has been happening for hundreds of years and still many struggle for their rights.

The Salvation Army works to ensure that not only boys receive an education, but girls as well. The Brighter Futures Sponsorship Program is one avenue of reducing the inequalities, while providing a safe environment to live, grow and develop essential skills.

Arpita, 10, lives at Fariyabag Boarding School in India Western. Her parents are illiterate and have low-income jobs. In her village, there is no school and Arpita was very vulnerable being home alone. Her parents couldn't afford to send her to school. The Salvation Army heard her story and welcomed her into the school.

"My life has changed," says Arpita. "I am very happy here. I am doing well in school and my parents are pleased seeing me in this wonderful place. I am very thankful to The Salvation Army for accepting me."

Annie's story is very unique. She was raised in The Salvation Army Integrated Children's Centre (I.C.C.) in Bangladesh.

"My father was a day labourer and my mom was a house wife," says Annie. "They didn't earn enough income to send me to school so The Salvation Army took me in."

Following I.C.C., Annie went on to secondary school and then to university. It was then that she returned to I.C.C. to teach.

"From my childhood until now, The Salvation Army has taken care of me; my education and my health," says Annie, "I was able to reach my goal successfully and I am grateful for all of the sponsors who continue to help other children reach their dreams."



Arpita

Moving from Emergency to Long-Term Recovery



Helping families move from recovery to a sustainable future.

In just over seven months since the earthquake in Nepal damaged or destroyed more than 700,000 homes and buildings, The Salvation Army shifts from recovery to long-term recovery.

Nine projects have been successfully completed, with seven more wrapping-up. The Salvation Army's International Emergency Services has departed and a new team has moved in to work alongside local Salvation Army team leaders and begin new long-term projects.

Within these seven months there has been great success—food, tarpaulins and tents; the building of temporary learning centres and houses; the construction of septic tanks and toilets for camps, communities and schools; the management of refugee camps; thousands of quilts and blankets, hundreds of hygiene kits and kitchen sets, clothing and school books have all been provided through Salvation Army donors.

Kathmandu, Nepal, like other urban settings, is an area in which violence against women and girls—including trafficking, child marriage, domestic and sexual violence—remains a serious problem. With the relationships that have been built, the Army has a greater understanding of the needs in the communities affected. We are responding to those needs by providing health education and training to women and children, support for the advocacy of women's rights, and training to develop a post-disaster plan to minimize risk to vulnerable women and children.

"The International Emergency Services team leaves the country with an enormous sense of gratitude for the support it has received," says Mary Jane Phelan, International Emergency Services. "However, there is plenty more to do."

Sustainable Development Goals

At the Global Summit in New York City, September 25-27, 2015, The United Nations officially adopted *Transforming our world; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)*. A total of 193 countries agreed to the 17 goals and are aware that they pertain as much to their own country as they do in developing countries. The goals have no borders.

The Salvation Army believes that 'every person matters'. We encourage you to read and engage in this call to action. It is time to end poverty and the sustainable development goals will help to provide a framework that The Salvation Army can align with. This will require a collaborative approach with all levels of government, organizations, NGOs and individuals working together in order to achieve this objective.

In future issues of *Global Link*, specific Sustainable Development Goals will be highlighted through stories of Sponsorship and Gifts of Hope items.

It is because of your partnership that we are able to do the work that has been accomplished. Let's continue to address the gaps and together work to 'end extreme poverty, inequality and injustice and fix climate change' (www.globalgoals.org).

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The Other Side of Bali Island

Tourism on Bali Island is magical. The most famous island in Indonesia, Bali displays spectacular mountain scenery, beautiful beaches and a vibrant culture. But there is a darker side that is rarely spoken of—poverty, exploitation and human trafficking.

At The Salvation Army Anugerah Girl's home in Bali, walls have been built higher and windows are barred to ensure their safety. Residents come from vulnerable situations— orphaned, abandoned at birth or families living in extreme poverty.

The Brighter Futures Sponsorship Program provides a safe environment to learn, where the students build positive self-esteem and strengthen social skills. The girls learn how to cook, use a computer, sew, sing and perform traditional Balinese Dance, which will help to keep them off the streets and gain employment after their schooling is finished.

Another unique training opportunity for the girls is to learn aquaponics, a system that combines raising of aquatic animals and growing plants in water. With the generosity of Gifts of Hope donations, this adds food security to the home.

"Nutrition, education and life skills are vital to create a brighter future for children," says Major Komang, officer in charge of Anugerah Girl's Home. She knows first-hand the importance of these programs as she was raised in the home.



Girls of Anugerah Girl's home show their aquaponic skills.



“Through Gifts of Hope, we are able to have clean water.”
-Nguri, India

Gifts of Hope

To give, please visit www.salvationarmy.ca/giftsofhope

Paving the Way to a Financially Stable Future

Learning new skills is vital for families who struggle financially. For those living in developing countries, this is especially important because they don't have access to the resources, tools, technology and schools like the western culture.

In Haiti and Sri Lanka, The Salvation Army provides vocational and livelihood training to individuals living in poverty. Education is the first step to help them find meaningful employment and by strengthening their skills, the economy within their community will grow.

Haiti

Following the earthquake in 2010, The Salvation Army implemented training programs for individuals interested in agriculture, construction, plumbing and electrical work. The vocational training institute provides theory as well as practical field sessions that are specific to each trade.

“I wasn't working before this training. I had no skills,” says Deuslismene, plumbing



Deuslismere, Eve and Sabatina, graduates of the plumbing program.

graduate. “With this certificate, I can write the government exam to become certified and get a job.”

Another female graduate, Eve, is also looking forward to the opportunities ahead. When asked about her next steps, Eve said, “I will write my government exam. I am ready and I will pass it no matter what.”

Sri Lanka

The livelihood program provides business planning and training to women affected by the 2007 earthquake. Many of them care for sick family members that are unable to work. The woman is the sole provider. This is the first real change they have been able to make in their lives to provide a strong future for their families.

The Salvation Army helps participants purchase any necessary equipment or machines they need in order to have a fully functioning business. This includes seeds and tools for farmers, vaccinations for animals, and slight extensions on homes (roofs, sheds, etc.) that provide a safe and sheltered area to sell and store their product.

With your generous support, livelihood and vocational training programs enable people to become role models for their community. Trained and equipped with business skills, they will be able to secure employment, start a business and gain stability.



Global Link – Winter 2015/16 – Volume 3, Number 2

Published by The Salvation Army World Missions Department
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