

# GLOBALLINK



Giving  
Hope  
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

SUMMER 2022



The Salvation Army across Europe has opened its church doors to offer families a place to sleep, eat and receive counselling.

## UNITED FOR UKRAINE

By Kathy Nguyen

On February 24, the world watched a crisis unfold across Europe with deep concern. Within weeks, more than four million refugees from Ukraine crossed borders into neighbouring countries.

Salvation Army ministries across eastern Europe were prepared to meet displaced children and families at their borders with practical support and humanitarian aid. But they couldn't do it alone.

As the crisis escalated, Canadians countrywide rallied together to raise more than \$1.7 million to help people deeply impacted in Ukraine and surrounding countries.

With your support, The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda financially supported the purchase of much-needed relief items.

In Poland, food parcels were stocked, hygiene kits were prepared, vouchers for emergency aid were distributed, and warm clothing and transportation services were ready to go.

"In the midst of crisis, Salvation Army first responders are working tirelessly to provide aid to those fleeing the conflict," says Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray, director of The Salvation Army's international development department in Canada and Bermuda. "Resiliency is rooted in community and we will continue to support the international Salvation Army as it reaches out in love to all affected individuals."

It's been said that "the sun never sets on The Salvation Army flag." During the First World War, Second World War and Cold War, The Salvation Army provided warm meals, drinks and leave centres for rest. Today, we remain united with countries in crisis, and the Army flag will continue to serve as a beacon of light and hope for those affected by war.

As the conflict in Ukraine unfolds, we're committed to providing both immediate and long-term relief. To support the Ukraine crisis, visit: [SalvationArmy.ca/HelpEurope](https://www.salvationarmy.ca/HelpEurope)



# FLOCK OF BLESSINGS

By Kathy Nguyen



Optimism manifests itself in a positive outlook that causes us to take a glass-half-full approach to life. As a child, my father always reminded me that attitude is everything. When I think of optimism, I think of hope, as I believe the two are interconnected.

What would life be like if we had no hope for a better future? I am sure all of us have had times when we felt hopeless in a situation. In times like this, what brought you hope? Was it a kind word or a thoughtful gesture? Was it knowing that people cared for you and came alongside when you needed it most? Hope comes in many forms and meets human need in the moment.

It is our desire as you read each article in this issue of *Global Link* that you will see how your giving provided hope for others. The situation for our friends in Ukraine is dire, but we pray that the support received for them will serve as a reminder that someone cares. We see evidence of new dreams in the account of Vernon's new business, all because someone cared.

It has been said that optimism can drive us towards action. What action will you take today to remind others you care?

Sincerely,

**Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray**

*Director of International Development*

In the development context, livestock are the gifts that keep giving. A herd of goats can feed a family for a lifetime by supplying milk, meat, cheese and yogurt, and the selling of these food items can also help individuals and families earn a sustainable income.

At the Chaanga Secondary School in rural Zambia, students receive the tools and resources they need to succeed thanks to the generosity of Canadians who support the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship Program. Orphaned and vulnerable young people at Chaanga are provided with school fees, textbooks, uniforms and examination fees.

On top of that, 25 families received three goats per household as a result of the funding given through the sponsorship program.

For a student like Vernon, this support was life-changing. When he received two goats, he was able to turn it into a flock of six. With the income he received from selling two goats, Vernon was able to fix his wheelchair and complete his high school education at Chaanga.

Following his graduation, Vernon opened a branch of Airtel Money, Zambia's leading provider of pre-paid and post-paid mobile services, in his community.

"It's important that we provide assistance that can bring long-term sustainability," says Major Heather Matondo, children's sponsorship co-ordinator for The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda. "While our sponsorship program provides funding for the immediate needs of students, such as tuition and school supplies, implementing goats into some of our projects can provide a daily source of nutrition and income. Evidenced through this project, it can have a lasting impact on students and their families for years to come."

The impact of sponsorship goes far beyond providing school fees, shelter, livestock and living costs. When you sponsor children and youth beyond our borders, you're giving them hope for a better tomorrow and a life well lived.



To become a sponsor, visit  
[SalvationArmy.ca/brighterfutures](https://www.salvationarmy.ca/brighterfutures)

# MEETING HUMAN NEED AT MERLIOT

By Robyn Goodyear

The community of Merliot in Santa Tecla, El Salvador, is known as a “red zone” due to high rates of drug abuse and alcoholism, violence and gang activity.

The Salvation Army flag flies wherever the need is great, which is why we support the Merliot Corps. This Army location has earned a respected reputation within the community and is seen as a safe space for children to learn and play.

The Merliot Corps operates the Child Development Centre, known locally as Club de Tareas. For four days per week, this centre provides afternoon programming for children ages 5-12 years old.

As schools in El Salvador only operate in the morning, this space provides extra educational activities for children to develop math and literacy skills. They also lead recreational activities and sports to promote healthy and active lifestyles, as well as providing nutritious meals and snacks for children.

By having a safe and productive place to go after school, this centre is helping to decrease the risk of human trafficking and gang recruitment, while also allowing parents to work longer during the day to provide for their families.

In addition to the essential support provided to children, Club de Tareas provides support groups and life skills workshops for parents, helping to strengthen families emotionally, spiritually and socially.

Thanks to your generous support to the Brighter Futures Children’s Sponsorship Program, The Salvation Army continues to make a lasting impact across communities in Central America and beyond.



To learn more about our sponsorship program, visit [Salvationist.ca/brighterfutures](https://salvationist.ca/brighterfutures)

# DARE TO DREAM

By Kathy Nguyen



According to the United Nations, studies show that “women and men participating equally in the economy could add a further US\$28 trillion to global annual gross domestic product by 2025.”

Recognizing that gender equality is central to global development, The Salvation Army has worked with thousands of women around the world, helping to empower and equip them with the tools and knowledge to gain independence.

“Many women in Pakistan want to be independent and support their families, but due to limited resources, they are unable to fulfil their dreams,” says Sarah Cecil, boards and projects system secretary at The Salvation Army in Pakistan.

That’s why The Salvation Army in Canada and Bermuda is financially supporting the Dream Project in Pakistan, an initiative working to provide women with education, job training and grants to start small businesses.

Through this project, vulnerable women across Lahore and Sheikhpura can attend training programs to learn valuable income-generating skills, such as tailoring and beauty care, computer literacy, cooking and baking, and financial management.

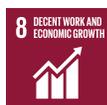
Women will be matched with a technical training centre in their cities and The Salvation Army will sponsor their training and travel expenses.

“In Pakistan, women face gender inequalities and disparities in education, jobs and decision-making,” says Sarah. “With this assistance, many of their dreams can come true.”

When determination meets opportunity, self-sufficiency for all is possible.

Around the world, The Salvation Army’s vocational training, livelihood development, and savings and loans groups give women a voice at home and in their communities.

With your support, women in Pakistan and beyond are breaking generational gender barriers and realizing dreams. Thank you!



# TOGETHER WE CAN

By Kathy Nguyen

In more than 130 countries, The Salvation Army is meeting people at their point of need, investing in quality health care, ongoing health advocacy and life-changing services for vulnerable children and families.

In Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Mirpur Clinic has been working to reduce and treat the spread of tuberculosis (TB) and leprosy.

Every year, approximately 120,000 patients with tuberculosis are missed and left unnoticed in Bangladesh. Alongside, 4,000 people get infected by leprosy each year. If both diseases are left untreated, the consequences can be fatal.

Specializing in TB and leprosy, the Mirpur Clinic has been a lifeline for individuals and families in the surrounding community for nearly 50 years.

In partnership with The Salvation Army in Switzerland and The Salvation Army in the Netherlands, we have commenced a three-year project to support and strengthen the capacity of this important clinic.

This project will help control TB and leprosy by investing in the treatment of more than 900 patients, training community health workers and volunteers to recognize the signs and symptoms of TB and leprosy, and strengthening the expertise of staff in a variety of areas, including language and computer skills.

“We have found that the project beneficiaries become agents of change in their own communities by sharing what they have learned with others,” says Victor Mondal, community development project director at The Salvation Army in Bangladesh.

Partnership is a pillar for growth, capacity-building and for widening our reach. We are privileged to work alongside Salvation Army ministries in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Bangladesh to advance the work of the Mirpur Clinic.

Together, we can!



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**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**GLOBAL LINK – SUMMER 2022**

Published by The Salvation Army International Development Department  
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2 Overlea Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario M4H 1P4

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