

GLOBALLINK



Giving
Hope
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

WINTER 2023



LESSONS IN LOVE

By Major Brian Slous

The first day at a new school can be both exciting and frightening for any young person, especially if that child has found themselves, by no fault of their own, in a new country, with new customs and a new language. The desire to fit and not stand out for all the wrong reasons is high on the list of priorities as they prepare to enter the classroom with the added hope of creating positive and lasting friendships.

Through your generous support, the Canada and Bermuda Territory has been able to assist The Salvation Army in Eastern Europe in responding to this need by providing children who have been displaced by the conflict in Ukraine with all they need to get off to a great start in this new school year.

This fall, 700 children in the nation of Georgia received clothes, backpacks and school supplies, while in Romania an additional 4,000 backpacks loaded with school supplies were distributed.

As many are beginning to wonder when, or if, they will be able to return to the place they once called home, The Salvation Army remains committed to support the most vulnerable during this period of extended upheaval and uncertainty. It is our hope that one childhood lesson learned, in the midst of conflict, is that there is a God who not only loves them but hears and answers their prayers.





In a world rife with challenges, it is heartening to witness the transformative power of compassion and commitment. The Salvation Army, fuelled by the generosity of Canadian donors, continues to make a profound difference across the globe.

The ongoing Ukraine crisis reminds us of the importance of humanitarian aid. The Salvation Army, with your support, has been a beacon of hope for countless individuals affected by the conflict, providing essential relief and support.

In Rwanda, a locally led vital water and sanitation project is in the proposal stage and expected to start soon. Clean water, a basic human right, is essential for healthier communities and brighter prospects.

In Brazil, the pursuit of quality education is transforming lives. Thanks to your contributions, The Salvation Army is empowering young minds, nurturing future leaders and breaking the cycle of poverty through education.

Lastly, the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship Program is a testament to the enduring impact of Canadian donors. By sponsoring children around the world, you are offering a lifeline towards a brighter future, filled with opportunities and hope.

The Salvation Army's unwavering dedication to these critical projects under-scores the profound impact of unity and compassion. Together, we are shaping a better world, one generous donation at a time.

Thank you, Canada, for your enduring commitment to making a difference on a global scale.

Sincerely,

Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray

Director of International Development

MAKING FUTURES BRIGHT

By Major Heather Matondo

Brighter Futures has been the officially trademarked name of The Salvation Army Children's Sponsorship Program for nearly a decade. There couldn't have been a more suitable name chosen as year after year we see and hear the stories of young children and youth who now have a bright future because of the support of generous donors from the Canada and Bermuda Territory.

From three-year-old children attending preschool in Rwanda to teens who are learning practical life skills in Indonesia, lives are being changed. Here are two stories of young people who now have a bright future because of this essential program:

Rosanna* has been attending The Salvation Army Vila Dos Pescadores Community Centre in Brazil for five years. Struggling with depression when her mother enrolled her in the program, Rosanna says that on the very first day she was welcomed with open arms, met lots of new friends and felt cared for. She believes that the program has saved her life.

Michael* is 12 years old and lives at the Rajagiriya Child Development Centre in Sri Lanka. He came to live at Rajagiriya because his family had nowhere to call home. He is now thriving in life and receives daily nutritional meals, medical care and a good education. But most importantly, Michael says that he feels loved and protected. He would like to be a software engineer and is studying very hard to achieve his goal.

Rosanna and Michael are just two of the thousands of children who are being impacted through the support of the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship Program.



** Names have been changed.*

Visit salvationist.ca/brighterfutures to learn more and become a sponsor today!



A BEACON OF HOPE

By Robyn Goodyear

The Salvation Army is committed to ensuring children around the world have access to a quality education. The Vila dos Pescadores neighbourhood of urban Cubatão, Brazil, faces many challenges, including access to children's education. The Salvation Army is working to change that. The Vila dos Pescadores Community Programme supports more than 200 children and adolescents, aged six to 17.

The community program began in Vila dos Pescadores 36 years ago, when a local Salvationist, Cristina, saw a need and sprang into action. She began tutoring children in reading and writing skills from her own home in Vila dos Pescadores, until The Salvation Army was able to expand in the area. Since then, the program has become a beacon of hope in the community.

"The Salvation Army is like a mother, because the parents know they can leave their children here and go to work peacefully," says Cristina, who is now retired but continues to volunteer her time with The Salvation Army.

A new project in partnership with The Salvation Army Brazil Territory will continue support to the children of this community with a well-rounded education, including reading and writing, math, dance, computer skills, health, and more. The program also offers children special educational opportunities for learning, such as field trips and celebrations.

Thanks to your generous contributions to the Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship Program, The Salvation Army is able to provide children and families around the world with the tools and skills they need to have a bright and prosperous future.



HOPE THROUGH CLEAN WATER IN RWANDA

By Manjita Biswas



Clean, accessible water is critical to good health, and yet over two billion people live in countries where water supply is inadequate. Like others in the region, the Rwimiyaga community of Rwanda has been facing challenges to access clean water, which affects other aspects of life, such as health, hygiene, agriculture, food security, and more.

People from this community travel two to three hours to search for and fetch water. Even then, the water is not clean, causing waterborne diseases, especially to children.

Through its local partner in Rwanda, the Canada and Bermuda Territory recently commenced a three-year safe water project to provide clean drinking water to the children and communities in desperate need in Rwimiyaga. With a total budget of USD \$345,000, the project will help establish four boreholes and water tanks at schools to provide safe, consistent water sources; teach families about proper hygiene practices; and promote nutrition through farming and vegetable demonstration plots. More than 6,000 people, especially women and children, will directly benefit through this project.

"Our children used to travel long distance to fetch water, sometimes they arrive at school late," says Claudine, a member of the Rwimiyaga community, with a smile. "God has answered our prayers! Now we can see the future is bright through this project."

Claudine and others in her community are grateful to The Salvation Army for helping to provide life-saving water that can be collected in a timely fashion to allow people, particularly mothers, to focus on earning, their children's education and their family's well-being.



A BUS FOR BETTER HEALTH

By Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray

Nestled in the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea is The Salvation Army's Community Health Workers Training School. Engaging in diverse field placements is a crucial aspect of the training, equipping students with essential skills for their future service in the remote corners of Papua New Guinea. Nonetheless, travelling in this region presents significant challenges due to treacherous road conditions and unpredictable weather, putting students' safety at risk.

In 2021, the school principal, along with staff and students, collaborated to pinpoint several school needs. Among these, the most pressing concern for students was safe transportation to and from their placements. They communicated this need to the health director in Papua New Guinea, leading to the development of a project proposal outlining the necessity for a 26-seater bus.

Generous Canadians made it possible to acquire this bus, ensuring the safe transportation of students within the region. Noho Gasty, the school's acting principal, expresses profound gratitude, stating, "We deeply appreciate your kindness and continually pray for God's blessings and peace to be upon you."



Gifts of Hope

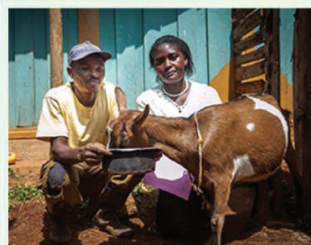
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