

**THE SALVATION ARMY TASMANIA  
VOLUNTEER THANK YOU RECEPTION  
REMARKS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER  
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

**[VICE-REGAL SALUTE IS PLAYED]**

Good evening everyone, and welcome to Government House and this special occasion to thank the volunteers and supporters of Salvation Army Tasmania.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional owners of this land, the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community and recognise their enduring culture and continued connection to land, sea, and culture. I recognise a history of truth, which acknowledges the impacts of colonisation upon our First People. I commit to a future that listens to and respects Aboriginal stories, culture and history.

I would like to acknowledge among us:

- Dean Young MP, representing Premier Jeremy Rockliff and the Minister for Community Services, the Honourable Nic Street
- Kristie Johnston MP
- Alderman Bec Thomas, Mayor of Glenorchy
- Captain Kim Haworth, State Leader of the Salvation Army Tasmania
- Felicity Natoli, Salvation Army National Governance Board
- Alexandra Garrot, Chair of the Salvation Army Tasmania Advisory Council
- May I also acknowledge all the volunteers, supporters, and invited staff in attendance who have each made a significant contribution to the work of the Salvation Army and to our Tasmanian community throughout 2022.

First, may I say how delighted I am to be part of an event that recognises the significant contributions that volunteers make to our community. Secondly, may I acknowledge a vast number of ways in which the Salvation Army connect with and support our community.

In my 18 months as Governor, I have met a large number of volunteers as Don and I travel across this State, visiting councils and communities. As a consequence, I have a keen understanding of the value of our volunteers and their contributions to the wellbeing of our State. We are constantly inspired by the tireless dedication of volunteers in their support of our Tasmanian community.

Salvation Army volunteers are exemplars of this community service. You provide hope where there is hardship; you bring comfort and support to those who need it most. Your volunteers, employees, and generous supporters build positive and meaningful relationships within our community. With over 700 volunteers across the State, the Salvation Army engages with our community in many diverse and important ways.

Just to mention a few<sup>1</sup>, Salvation Army volunteers provide friendly smiles and warm welcomes to many people experiencing hardship and difficulty when they come to you for help and support. You extend care, concern and empathy to help those in need.

Salvation Army volunteers are your boots on the ground. Salvation Army Street Teams provide first aid, ensure that people are safe, contact families and arrange safe transport for those who need it, whilst working with Police and Emergency Services.

Your volunteers also assist community members to learn language and increase their literacy. You increase opportunities in employment and education. Your volunteers provide expertise and support for vulnerable children to ensure they have access to support and resources to engage their education through your Together Mentor STeP123 literacy program.

Importantly, your volunteers run the Salvation Army Emergency Services to ensure that in disasters and emergencies, the frontline is supported. You also facilitate Salvation Army volunteer work with the community in clean up and ongoing recovery efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/get-involved/volunteer-with-us/>

Your iconic Red Shield Appeal and Op Shop – again run by volunteers, providing invaluable fundraising and sales efforts to support your work.

It is important to emphasise that so much of your work would not be possible without generous supporters. In particular, the Select Foundation who have partnered with the Salvation Army Tasmania to develop 21 units in Moonah for women over 55 either homeless or at risk of being so; Blundstone Australia, has also sponsored the Glenorchy Salvation Army International Student Community Outreach program; the Woolworths Group Finance Shared Services who have supported the Street to Home community outreach program. Other long-term supporters have sponsored countless projects. Some of these supporters have been with you for over 30 years!

After another challenging year, this reception is an opportunity to thank you; to recognise and acknowledge the efforts of all your volunteers; and to wish the Salvation Army continued success in building caring and healthier communities.

On behalf of our very grateful community, I thank all of you for your generosity, your dedication, and your care.

Don and I are looking forward to meeting your volunteers, staff and wonderful supporters. Please enjoy the reception.