

# Together

Making a Difference



# Heroes for Hope

Christmas 2017

**Merry Christmas to YOU and YOURS!** As I write this, I am shocked that we are already entering the beloved Christmas Season. Where did the precious time go ... but as a wise person wrote (and I paraphrase) 'the past is the past, and the future is unknown, but the present is a gift - may we each embrace it and live our lives to the fullest'.

The Salvation Army is blessed to share 'hope' with people every day. This comes through providing food, clothing, a listening ear, an encouraging word, a warm bed, a safe place, healing, stability and support to find a place to call home! We could not do this without the generosity of people like you who donate and support the work of The Salvation Army and the most vulnerable in Abbotsford and Mission.

Even with Christmas approaching, I have not easily moved away from the past months. The fires this summer were devastating for many who found themselves, being evacuated and limited in what they could bring with them if anything at all. I had the opportunity to support evacuee victims in Prince George, and witness the generosity of people that gave hope to others who found themselves feeling hopeless. It was an incredible experience to share many conversations that concluded with thanksgiving as they celebrated their physical safety, the fact that basic needs were met and that despite the circumstances family members and/or friends were safe, and that they were being supported by The Salvation Army! I came away blessed and grateful for the generosity of the evacuees that shared life with me and reminded me of where real hope is found - not in the world and things, but in relationships and in sharing community together.

As you take time to reflect on your life and the real meaning of this Christmas Season, may you embrace the gift of the present, and may your heart beat with thankfulness and generosity. With your donation and partnership, The Salvation Army will continue to offer hope to the most vulnerable as we "share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs, and be a transforming influence in our community".

All of us here at The Salvation Army wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May God bless you as you give hope to others in Abbotsford and Mission!

**Captain Mark Dunstan** | Corps Officer/Pastor  
*The Salvation Army Cascade Community Church and Ministries*

Merry Christmas

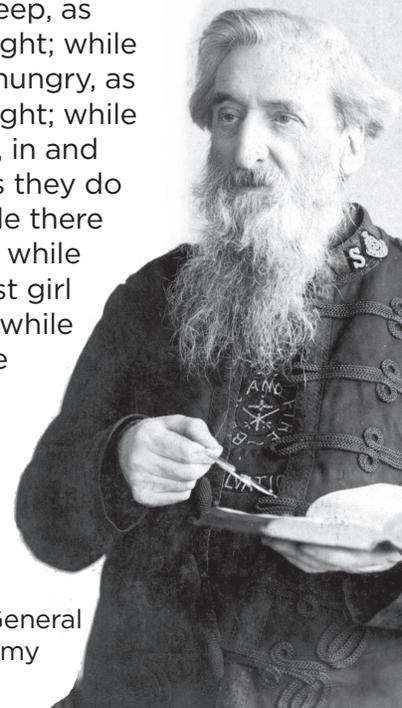
**YOUR DONATIONS WILL BLESS MANY THIS SEASON**  
please give generously

## 2017 STATS

- Nutritious Meals Served: **139,168**
- People assisted through drop in: **31,025**
- Shelter bed nights provided: **9,490**
- Emergency food hampers: **504**
- People found housing: **178**
- Referrals to detox, treatment, recovery & transition programs: **169**
- Kids attend Camp Sunrise: **46**
- School supported through the Pantry34 Program: **20**
- Supported Independent Residents (SIL): **23**
- # of Volunteers: **146**
- # of Volunteer Hours: **18,900** x \$11.35/hour (minimum wage) = **\$214,515.**

"While women weep, as they do now, I'll fight; while little children go hungry, as they do now, I'll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I'll fight; while there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight - I'll fight to the very end!"

**WILLIAM BOOTH**  
Founder and first General of The Salvation Army



**THE SALVATION ARMY CENTRE OF HOPE**

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# Thank You!

The Salvation Army in Abbotsford would like to say a big "thank you" to our amazing volunteers for all of their hard work throughout the year. This year, our volunteers have served almost 19,000 hours. Their tireless dedication supports our Meal Centre, Thrift Store, Drop-In Program, Shelter, Christmas Campaign and Emergency Services.

This summer saw one of the worst wildfire seasons in B.C. history. The Provincial government declared a "State of Emergency" as a record number of people were evacuated from their homes. In response, The Salvation Army opened its provincial disaster incident command centre in Abbotsford. Our volunteers travelled throughout B.C. and assisted the evacuees by welcoming them to the evacuation processing centres, preparing

and serving meals, and providing emotional support and spiritual care. More than 50,000 meals, 117,000 drinks and 89,000 snacks were given out, and over 10,000 evacuees received comfort from the Emotional and Spiritual Care teams.

It is the many hours of dedicated service by our volunteers that help The Salvation Army give hope to those in need. This would not be possible without the tremendous commitment and compassion of our volunteers, and the kind generosity of our donors. We would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation. Thank you for all you do to support others, and to make Abbotsford a vibrant and caring community. May God bless you for being a blessing!

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

**Ian Pollard** | Executive Director

*Inspiration for this spoken word came from attending Men's Camp at The Salvation Army Camp Sunrise in September - being surrounded by many men - seeing & hearing their stories.*

## CAN YOU HEAR MY HEART?

Reg K.

(Boom - Boom - Boom)

I came to Camp Sunrise  
With Uncertainty in my heart.  
Feeling Lost and Forgotten.

(Boom - Boom - Boom)

All The Years, All the Tears  
All the Blood, All the Empty Eyes  
It was Beginning to Run Out.  
Then The Sally Ann said yes to me!  
To my heart!

(Boom - Boom - Boom)

You see it is the low road that drained me  
That took my Years, Tears my Blood  
Cut me off from all That Loves  
Then Something Happened!

(Boom - Boom - Boom)

I started to listen  
I started to Hope  
I saw light break through

(Boom - Boom - Boom)

Along the way one of you said  
you are not alone!

Opened a door for me start  
O bend, reluctant knees

(Boom - Boom - Boom)

Wait I said, what about the past?  
Evolution, Revolution, Devolution,  
Redemption!  
Yes - Yes!!

(Boom - Boom - Boom)

You are - You are Forgiven!  
You said take the High Road,  
The Way!

(Boom - Boom - Boom)

If you practice the Way, Do what is  
Right, be brave and carry on bravely  
into the Light.

Its hills and valleys, stops and starts will  
be all right.

You are not alone - not alone -  
not alone

Another Year, another Camp  
I begin to see, hear, taste and smell  
I feel God!

All you ask is to have a good life  
I gave it to you - believe!  
That Heart that goes -

Boom - Boom - Boom!

So now when even I sleep  
My heart sings!

So a shout out to all of you  
Hoping that your heart starts to sing

Boom - Boom Boom!!!!



## Christmas Kettle Campaign - we need YOU!

If you are available for a 2 hour shift on a kettle with a friend or family, please call our Kettle Coordinator Julianne today @ 604-309-0660

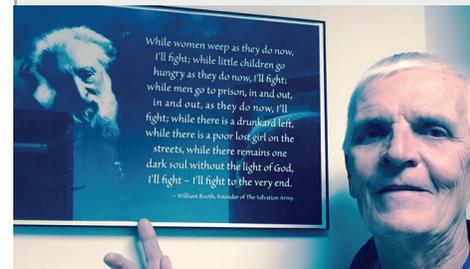
The Salvation Army simply could not do all that we do in our community without our faithful volunteers. They helped us to prepare and serve meals almost 139,000 meals in Abbotsford in 2017! Our volunteers have also helped us in our thrift store, shelter, café and with the emergency response serve team. We are very thankful to our dedicated volunteers.

If you would like to help others in our community and have fun working with a group of caring people, please contact the volunteer coordinator at 604-852-9305 or apply on-line: [www.careandshare.ca](http://www.careandshare.ca).

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:35-40

**Sylvia Antonescu** | Employee Relations Advisor/Volunteer Coordinator



[www.careandshare.ca](http://www.careandshare.ca)

Others ... Our Calling, our Motivation, our Commitment