

October 2010 Newsletter story

Kleenheat Gas and the Salvos: One year of partnership helping regional Australian communities

It's been a rewarding year for Kleenheat Gas and Salvation Army who joined forces last October to develop the Regional Care Services Program. Since then, Kleenheat has donated over \$80,000 in cash and equipment including computers and whitegoods to various regional Salvation Army centres across Australia.

Kleenheat established the program to help regional communities in the wake of the global financial crisis, after becoming aware of the 20 to 25% increase in people seeking out assistance from Salvation Army support centres.

Each month from then on, Kleenheat Gas has presented a cheque, goods or services to a regional Salvation Army centre to support the services they provide to their local community. The centres chosen for the donation are those in need of assistance – those who have depleted stocks or a strain due to environmental causes such as fires, flooding, or struggling economic areas due to drought.

The first and inaugural donation in October 2009, saw volunteers from Kleenheat Gas donating their time to assist with the construction of permaculture gardens in the Kinglake Village in regional Victoria, which housed approximately 50 residents whose homes were destroyed in the devastating bushfires in February 2009.

Then in November, Kleenheat donated \$5000 to the Northam WA Salvation Army Emergency Relief program to assist in providing financial aid, food parcels, bed and other furniture to disadvantaged people in the Northam and surrounding community.

At the launch of the program, Salvation Army spokesman Warren Palmer said, "The relationship with Kleenheat Gas is both exciting and innovative as it enables us to identify particular social needs and make a different response each month."

Most recently, Kleenheat donated \$5000 to Victorian Regional Services to re-stock the now depleted centre with emergency essentials such as bedding, blankets, airbeds and toiletries after recent flooding in the area.

Across regional Western Australia, Kleenheat has donated \$5000 to the Salvos in Albany, Toodyay, Karratha, Kalgoorlie, Narrogin and Busselton. The program has extended to Mt Gambier in South Australia, Shepparton and Bairnsdale in regional Victoria and Deniliquin in regional NSW.

Kleenheat will continue its monthly support of Salvation Army and looks forward to helping more regional communities across Australia in times of need. The next donation marks a year of the Regional Care services program and this important partnership between Kleenheat Gas and the Salvation Army.