

Bushfire Emergency Relief Appeal

Bushfire was burning out of control across the country and in particular in the states of New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. On 12 December 2019, ACCF launched a Disaster Appeal to help communities affected by the devastating bushfires across the nation. All donations received up to 8 February 2020 were forwarded onto The Salvation Army to support fellow Australians badly affected by this unprecedented disastrous phenomenon.

This appeal was called "ACCF Bushfire Emergency Relief Appeal".

The Appeal was to focus on direct assistance to families and communities affected by bushfire. The Salvation Army was chosen as the sole beneficiary of this campaign as their objectives were in alignment with ours – that is, funds will be used to assist in emergency evacuation and later to assist in the recovery and rebuilding phases.



Despite the cancellation of our Chinese New Year event on 8 February 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19, we were very thankful and pleased that the total donations received from the appeal were \$171,874 (FY2019 - \$42,068 and FY2020 - \$129,806). The same amount was remitted to The Salvation Army. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all donors and in particular our major donors including corporations, community organisations and individuals who had donated \$5,000 and beyond:

National Australia Bank
Indochinese Aged Care Services
Sydney Jiangmen Wuyi Business Association
National Auto Glass Supplies Pty Ltd
Australian Taiwan Women's Association
Forecast
Dr Dominic & Mrs Cecilia Pak

Last but not the least, we also commend other community groups/organisations that have rallied together to raise funds for various support groups such as NSW Rural Fire Service, Koala Hospital and other deserving organisations.

Interview with The Salvation Army



Captain Brad McIver,
Public Relations
Secretary NSW of the
Salvation Army

In what ways did ACCF's bushfire relief appeal help the communities in need?

Through our telephone lines, counsellors and caseworkers on the ground, we ask people impacted by the bushfires, what form of support they need and respond accordingly. The most common initial response is for financial support.

We've also provided food, water and personal packs, along with emotional and practical support, to emergency services personnel and people as they arrive at evacuation centres.

Through this bushfire season, we have been supported by a network of 3,000 personnel, including trained volunteers, working four to eight-hour shifts on a 24-hour rotation.

The Salvation Army Emergency Services team provided services and support at over 260 locations, including evacuation, relief and recovery centres.

More than 250,000 meals prepared and served, and over 240,000 light refreshments provided to first responders and evacuees.



Xuyen T. Pho
(Lieut. Colonel)
傅三川上校,
Executive Manager
of Indigenous and
Multicultural Media
and Community

In what ways did ACCF's bushfire relief appeal help the communities in need?

We want to acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of the Australian public, our partners and supporters. ACCF has been recognised a powerful force to amass community support in aid of this disaster. Money that has been raised for the Bushfire Disaster Appeal will be spent or committed on providing money for essentials and securing temporary accommodation, to supporting the rebuilding of homes levelled by the fires.

How can the wider Australian community continue to support The Salvation Army's ongoing disaster recovery work?

For the people and communities caught up in this crisis, the road to recovery will undoubtedly be a long one. You can continue to support our SAES teams with an ongoing regular donation. This will allow us to be ready to act immediately when disaster strikes, and to provide long term support to those impacted.

