



Samaritans

Compassion Integrity Justice

CONNECTIONS

Your Christmas 2019 Supporter Newsletter

The Samaritans Foundation is the social welfare arm of the Anglican Church in the Hunter, Manning and Central Coast.

LIVING THE DREAM

Homeless in the 1990s and helped by Samaritans Emergency Relief centres, Kylie shares with us what life is like now – in her words, she's *“living the dream”*.



KYLIE'S COVER STORY

Continued

KYLIE'S* story highlights how organisations like Samaritans help people in their times of crisis; people who go on to achieve wonderful things in their lives.

I was 16 when I moved out. I'd had enough.

Mum was an alcoholic and self-destructive, and while I didn't suffer any physical abuse, I'd call it general neglect.

This was the 1990s and I didn't have anywhere to live. I went from one temporary housing situation to another, renting rooms and garages, with a brief time sleeping rough on the beach. I didn't have a phone, nor a permanent address. I knew if I didn't ask for help, I wouldn't finish high school and my situation would've got much, much worse.

I visited Samaritans Emergency Relief centres several times, mostly to get tins of food.

Having to repeat year 12 due to unstable living arrangements, in my final year of high school I found out I was pregnant. This was a significant turning point in my life, I realised then I had to sink or swim. When you have this little baby in your arms, you've got to go above and beyond to make sure they're ok.

By the grace of God I got into university, I got a rental for myself and started studying at the University

of Newcastle. But I couldn't afford to stay on at university while working a minimum wage job and paying child care fees, so I left.

Fast forward to today and I'm in my 40s, I have a husband and three kids and I'm back at uni.

I look back and I don't have any shame for a situation that's not of my choosing.

I don't have a close relationship with my mum but I don't have any animosity either. I was in my mid-30s when I asked my mum for the first time about her own childhood. Her early life had significant periods of abuse and neglect, which had impacted her ability to look after my siblings and I. I don't want to spend the rest of my life being angry toward her so instead I embrace the person she is now. She's a lovely grandmother to my children. If you can live your life not being bitter it brings a lot of peace.

I'm currently doing a *Bachelor of Social Work (Honours)*; my passion has always been for human rights and social justice.

I'm going to help a system that is broken and needs all the help it can get. I'm living the dream.

*A stock image and alias name has been used to protect the author's privacy.



HILTON, SAMARITANS VOLUNTEER

FOR volunteer Hilton Jones, it's all about sharing the stories and seeing the smiles.

This is Hilton's third year volunteering to support Samaritans Christmas Lunch in the Park and he says it's the opportunity to connect with his local community that keeps him coming back every year.

"It's such a joy to see the excitement and smiles on the people attending the lunch. I always go out of my way to chat to anyone sitting on their own. Everyone has a story to tell and I just love hearing those stories."

Samaritans Christmas Lunches are being held in Newcastle, Singleton and Central Coast this year. For more information visit our website www.samaritans.org.au or phone 4960 7100.

WHY WE ADVOCATE

Samaritans has always believed in speaking up against injustice.

It's important to me, as the current CEO of Samaritans, to carry on the legacy of the Samaritans leaders before me; to speak up, to act and to advocate for what is right.

Samaritans advocacy is informed and driven by the work we do, the people we support, and the experiences of our employees on the ground.

What would the world that Samaritans is advocating for look like?

It would look like justice for First Nations peoples.

Two years ago, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reached out to the people of Australia with the Uluru Statement from the Heart, providing Australia with a clear way forward to deliver reconciliation. The Morrison Government must bring the Uluru Statement to life.

It would look like a safe and stable home for everyone. A home is a foundation to build a meaningful and fulfilling life. Too often people find themselves fleeing domestic violence, or exiting institutions or prison, and they have nowhere to go.



It would look like an accessible and inclusive society, where people with disabilities no longer feel disabled by the world around them. This means services are made readily available through the National Disability Insurance Scheme and advocates are funded when a voice is needed to stand up against a situation if it's not right.

It would look like support for children to reach their full potential. All children deserve to participate in early learning, such as day care and preschool, to have the best chance to thrive as they grow.

It would look like a society based on equity, where no person is left to live in poverty. The causes of poverty are varied, but fundamentally it requires an adequate welfare payment to support people through tough times.

Read the full version of this blog at www.samaritans.org.au/blog.

Brad Webb



MOLLY & MAGGIE

YOUNG sisters, Molly and Maggie, surprised staff at Samaritans Toronto Emergency Relief Centre recently.

The two girls arrived with \$100 worth of groceries that they had bought with pocket money they had been saving for the entire year.

The sisters haven't made a donation of this kind before, and said they chose Samaritans "because they help people".

"We wanted to donate food because it wouldn't be nice to go without food, and food is one of the most important things we need," the sisters said.

"We hope it is given to people so that they have enough food to eat," they said.

SAMARITANS AT CHRISTMAS



Choosing gifts and wrapping them up, making plans and enjoying Christmas lunch in good company – it's what we should all have the privilege to enjoy at this time of year.

Unfortunately not everyone has the means to celebrate Christmas, but Samaritans gets to work each year to make sure as many people as possible have food, gifts and Christmas cheer.

Through the dedication of volunteers, sponsors and donors, Samaritans can spread joy and hope to thousands of people in need at Christmas.

***Thank you for your support throughout 2019.
We wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas.***

Already donated? Thank you!

If you haven't yet donated to the Samaritans Christmas Appeal, it's not too late.

Simply fill out the form below and mail back, or donate via phone or at www.samaritans.org.au.

YES!
I want to help this Christmas.



I would like to donate: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ My choice of: \$ _____

☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Other | Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my: ☐ Cheque ☐ Money Order ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Card No. Expiry Date: ____ / ____

I would like more information on: ☐ Leaving a gift in my will ☐ Volunteering
☐ Becoming a monthly donor ☐ Donating food and goods

Signature: _____

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. A receipt for your generous donation will be mailed to you. Cheques should be made payable to: **Samaritans Foundation**. Thank you.

ABN 38 574 464 524



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**CHRISTMAS
APPEAL 2019**

**THREE EASY WAYS
TO DONATE TODAY**

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Send this form back to us
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Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310

Online

www.samaritans.org.au/donate

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