



Love Thy Neighbour – Kelly’s Story

“I wasn’t going to eat for three or four days if I didn’t find help.”

When Kelly’s grandparents were diagnosed with cancer, she immediately moved to Wauchope and took over as carer for her 74-year-old uncle, Bob, who lives with Down syndrome. But the financial strain was huge. Still locked into her previous lease, Kelly

was now paying rent for two homes. Kelly has a functional urological disorder, and the disability pension couldn’t cover the costs. Soon, the cupboards were empty, the laundry liquid was gone, and the toiletries had run out.

“I’d been using shampoo to wash my clothes and had even run out of that,” says Kelly.

That’s when her neighbour

invited her to attend the ADRA Community Connect Wauchope “SouperVan” weekly service to receive support. SouperVan began as a soup and bun outreach ministry of Wauchope Seventh-day Adventist Church, and since joining with ADRA it has expanded its services.

Kelly experiences anxiety which makes leaving the house a struggle. But she desperately needed help. And so she

CEO Message



In August, I had the pleasure and privilege of attending the Australian Union Conference (AUC) constituency meeting.

At the meeting, delegates of the AUC representing the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia gathered to celebrate the many ways we've reached people with hope and compassion over the past five years. It was a special time of reflection and transition.

As the delegate representing ADRA Australia, I had the privilege of presenting a video report of the impact you have made possible over the past five years.

Here are some of the highlights:

- You have helped to transform over 600,000 lives every year
- Your support has contributed to 202 projects in 38 countries
- In the five year period, our volunteers have served 1,853,520 hours across more than 100 projects – that's the equivalent of 77,000 days
- In 2023, ADRA Australia was granted full accreditation from the Australian Government for another five years
- In 2024, we celebrated 40 years of being known as ADRA in Australia

Having the opportunity to present these figures was humbling. Thank you for your faithful support of ADRA which is making these incredible outcomes possible.

I want to leave you with a thought from the meetings. One evening, we were

reminded of the powerful message in Matthew 4:19: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." When we surrender our lives and talents to our Creator, He works through us to transform lives, near and far.

By working together with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, our volunteers, and our supporters, we can have a greater impact on communities in Australia and overseas. Our faith and values remain central to our work, guiding us to serve those in need freely and without discrimination.

It's a privilege to continue serving as the ADRA Australia CEO. My prayer moving forward is that we will always follow our Lord and faithfully carry out the work He has prepared for each of us.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "DGrellmann." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Denison Grellmann
CEO, ADRA Australia



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attended SouperVan, where she was made to feel at home.

“I was made to feel so extremely welcome,” Kelly says. “I was given a hug to be reassured with my anxiety that it’s okay. I’m welcome, and I’m safe there.”

Every Wednesday night, SouperVan provides up to 120 meals of hot soup and buns to the local community. It also provides essentials to help people through the week.

“SouperVan is like a mobile food pantry,” says Troy Eggleton, the volunteer manager for ADRA Community Connect Wauchope. “We go out into the community park and serve hot soup and buns out of the food trailer. But we also set up tables to provide produce and groceries (as well as) blankets and beanies and all sorts of things to help those who are really struggling in this cost-of-living crisis.”

Troy expressed that, in every moment in SouperVan’s ministry where they identified a need, God provided.

“We are so blessed to serve a God who understands our needs and desires and is willing to provide for us as we serve



Troy Eggleton, volunteer manager, ADRA Community Connect Wauchope

our local community,” he says. “We don’t always have washing liquid or washing powder. But on that particular evening we had washing liquid that someone had donated. Kelly was able to take that home and wash her clothes.”

Kelly says, “We were going to be absolutely starving. So knowing that I could go there for some fresh vegetables and fresh bread to feed us for the next 3 or 4 days got us through. To be able to go to bed that night with a full belly and fresh, clean linen and clean clothes was absolutely amazing.”

The support Kelly received from SouperVan has not only helped to relieve her financial stress,

but it has eased some of the burden of her chronic illness.

“If I’m extremely stressed or unwell, my body will have complete tick-spasms, leaving me even to the point where I can’t walk at times,” Kelly says. “There are times where I can’t even cook for myself due to my illnesses. So even one night of soup where I don’t have to cook a meal for others is a respite.

“So ADRA’s help has just been absolutely amazing, knowing you can call for help at any time and no judgement and with warmth and welcoming.

“Beautiful people from ADRA and ADRA services helped us get back on our feet. Thank you.”

For Aussies already doing it tough, it doesn’t take much to push them over the edge, leaving them hungry and isolated. Your support today can help Aussies in need with food, basic needs, and a supportive community to help them get back on their feet. Love Thy Neighbour, help Aussies in need! Give today at [adra.org.au/donate](https://www.adra.org.au/donate)



Disaster Updates



The SouperVan providing food for volunteers and those affected by the floods

- Provide 591 extra servings of soup and bread (on top of regular Wednesday services) to both the affected community and those responding, thanks to the ADRA Wauchope Community Connect SouperVan
- Train 21 volunteers in Psychological First Aid, who then provided over 24 hours of this service
- Assist with clean-up efforts for 10 homes

“In times of disaster, cash assistance provides instant relief while allowing those affected to buy exactly what they need,” says Eric Leichner, Emergency Management Director for ADRA Australia. “Some families may need access to food, clothing, or other essentials. Cash gives them the flexibility to purchase what they need most.”

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to our response. To Sanitarium Health Food Company for donating eight pallets of food; the ADRA Op Shops in Albury, Coonabarabran, Guyra, and Ulverstone for their generous contributions; our incredible team of volunteers, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church for their support.

Mid North Coast Floods



In May 2025, a slow-moving low-pressure system caused the worst flood disaster on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, killing five people.

At the height of the crisis, 48,000 people were isolated by floodwaters and almost 10,000 homes were at risk.

ADRA Australia activated its National Emergency Management Plan to provide relief to those affected by the floods. ADRA partnered with neighbourhood centres, ADRA projects in the area, and local Seventh-day Adventist Churches to respond. Response activities took place in 32 suburbs including Taree, Wauchope, Kempsey, and Wingham.

“It is a beautiful example of community collaboration, and unity between our churches and our humanitarian support partners,” says Troy Eggleton, volunteer manager for ADRA Wauchope Community Connect SouperVan.

Thanks to your generous support of our flood response, our team on the ground was able to:

- Provide 230 households with cash transfers totalling \$115,000

Cholera, Dengue Fever, and Famine in Yemen



Dengue fever cases in Yemen in 2025 are already more than double the recorded cases in 2024, while there are currently nearly 3,000 suspected cholera cases.

ADRA is responding to Yemen's worsening cholera and dengue outbreaks with both urgent relief and long-term solutions.

In high-risk districts, ADRA is delivering clean water through trucking, chlorination, and

household filters to help stop the spread of waterborne disease. Families are receiving hygiene kits and health education to protect themselves in unsafe living conditions. At the same time, ADRA is working alongside local health facilities to strengthen disease surveillance, support medical staff, and supply essential medicines and equipment.

ADRA is also rehabilitating boreholes, repairing damaged water networks, and restoring chlorination systems so communities have lasting access to safe water.

ADRA is also providing cash transfers to over 700 of the most vulnerable families affected by critical food insecurity and malnutrition. By providing timely and appropriate support, ADRA is aiming to alleviate immediate hunger, improve nutritional outcomes and empower communities on their path to recovery.

Afghanistan Earthquake



A powerful 6.0-magnitude earthquake in eastern Afghanistan struck on 31 August 2025, killing more than 2,200 people and injuring at least 3,600 others.

The disaster has directly affected an estimated 500,000 people across Nangarhar, Kunar, Nuristan, and Laghman provinces, including many women, children, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and recent returnees.

On 4 and 5 September, two strong aftershocks hit the same region, compounding devastation and terror. ADRA's assessment team was present in the area but is safe. Adding to the crisis, rescue teams are being blocked by landslides and heavy rain. Hospitals are overwhelmed.



ADRA staff assessing the damage from the earthquakes



ADRA team members providing comfort and assistance

ADRA's emergency response team is on the ground, assessing the situation and preparing to deliver life-saving aid to the communities who need it most. With thousands of people now homeless and winter on its way, the most urgent needs are shelter, food, and clean water.

Sofya Shumko, ADRA's Euro-Asia Emergency Response Coordinator, says, "It's crisis upon crisis. Families already forced back from neighbouring countries are struggling to survive. Reduced funding has weakened their resilience as they now face hunger, economic collapse, and drought. We cannot change what happened, but we can make sure these families are not forgotten."

To support ADRA's response in times of disaster, donate at adra.org.au/disaster. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

Adventists mobilise to offer support for domestic violence survivors

The Adventist Church in Australia partnered with ADRA to provide emergency 'Go Bags' for people experiencing domestic violence, as part of this year's EndItNow campaign, held from 22 to 23 August.

Run by the Australian Union Conference (AUC) Women's Ministries department in collaboration with ADRA Australia, the initiative encourages church members to assemble practical care packs containing essential items. The Go Bags were distributed during or after EndItNow Emphasis Day, a day which encourages churches across Australia to join the global movement to end violence against women, men and children.

"The collaboration between the Women's Ministries department and ADRA means that we are able to achieve more together, having a greater impact on the community than we could independently," said Charlene Luzuk, ADRA National Programs Director. "We recognise the earnest desire of women (and men) in our churches to demonstrate their faith through action by making a tangible difference in the lives of the most vulnerable."

Go Bags provide important items for safety, comfort, and support. Each bag aims to address immediate needs and offer a sense of security during a challenging transition.

Brigita Djakovich, Assistant Manager of ADRA Community Centre Logan – one of the ADRA projects on the frontline supporting survivors – shared how meaningful the bags can be. "When we hand these bags out to people affected by domestic violence, we often receive heartfelt feedback – tears of joy, smiles, and many positive comments," she said.



Women from Dorcas contributed over 60 Go Bags, pictured with ADRA team members and Victorian Conference President Graeme Christian



L to R: Conference ADRA Director in Victoria Rebecca Auriant, AUC Women's Ministries Director Pastor Sylvia Mendez, and Victorian Conference Women's Ministries Director Tarnya Garner

AUC Women's Ministries Director Pastor Sylvia Mendez said the initiative is a simple way to meet a real need. "This is an incredible opportunity for Women's Ministries to collaborate with ADRA to provide much-needed essentials. For many of us, we take these things for granted. However, for someone having to start again because of domestic violence, these little everyday items can make a world of difference."

Kindness Carnival

On 28 June, Haven Campus Church hosted a 'Kindness Carnival' fundraiser for ADRA Australia. The carnival raised over \$8,500 for ADRA's NSW Mid North Coast flood response.

The Kindness Carnival was inspired by the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). A month earlier, Pastor Jack Ryder offered four envelopes containing \$100 to anyone who wanted to take on the challenge to try and multiply their 'talent'. The intention was that the money be used to make a difference in someone's life.

"The four individuals who took the challenge decided to pool their resources for the Kindness Carnival," says Brenton Luchow, ADRA Australia's Church Engagement Officer. "They decided that any funds raised would go to supporting ADRA's Mid North Coast flood response and disaster relief fund."

Bec Clarke, Suzan Abel, Nick Dunstan, and Logan Lorentz took on Pastor Jack's challenge. Together with the support of family members Tia Abel and Adele Lorentz, the team began to brainstorm ideas.

Suzan says, "As we began bouncing ideas around, we realised we could do so much more together with our \$400 church investment than we could on our own. That little challenge grew into something much bigger – a full-blown community event, with fresh pizzas, a buzzing op shop, face painting, live music, and so much heart."

What began with \$400, a dedicated team, and a whole lot of ambition turned into an uplifting community night with approximately 500 people turning out for the Kindness Carnival.

"The night was full of life," says Suzan. "Over 180 made-from-scratch pizzas sold (and completely gone in under two hours!), more than



200 op shop items found new homes, and 60 little faces were painted with colour and joy."

The Parable of the Talents emphasises that not only will you reap what you sow, but that God will bless your efforts, multiplying the impact and in the process bringing glory and honour to Him. And this was truly the experience of the Kindness Carnival crew.

"We experienced blessing after blessing in the process, not least that the weather held off just long enough for us to keep the event outdoors," says Suzan. "Early on, we realised our budget wouldn't come close to covering food costs, so we put the call out to the church, and they

responded immediately! Donations started flowing in and, within 12 hours, the cost of one of our biggest ingredients, cheese, was completely covered!”

The night would not have been possible without the support of the 64 volunteers who stepped up to help make the night a success.

“We can honestly say our Kindness Carnival fundraiser was more than we imagined, and such a joy to be part of. It was heartwarming to see our church family come together in full force to fill needs, serve our community, raise money, and have a great deal of fun doing it!”

The fundraiser was a wonderful opportunity for Haven Campus Church to engage with their local community, giving them a taste of the sense of community found among Christ’s followers.

“Our musicians all gave of their time freely, but a special shout-out goes to Rare Treats, who aren’t part of our church community and are usually booked out on Saturday nights,” says Bec.

“When they saw our last-minute request, they checked their calendar – miraculously free – and quickly agreed to play for us on a zero-dollar budget. After the event, they shared that while they’re not religious, ‘something felt right’ about the community atmosphere at the carnival.”

If your church would like to run a fundraiser for ADRA, get in touch by emailing info@adra.org.au or calling 1800 242 372.

Seventy Faithful Years Doorknocking for ADRA



Delphine Trace (née McDougall) has been faithfully collecting for ADRA for over 70 years.

While still a student at the Mons Primary School, west of Buderim, she started collecting in 1954 when she was 13 years of age.

While attending Yandina Church with her grandparents, Delphine first heard about the ADRA Appeal. She took some brochures and decided to give it a try. One afternoon after school she approached a lady on horseback who was delivering mail for Australia Post and asked her for a donation. The

lady responded positively and this began Delphine’s long ministry as a collector for ADRA.

Living in the various places where her father’s work took the family, Delphine continued to collect. She remembers piling into the back of a ute with a group of young people from Nambour church and collecting from door to door.

During the three years as a student at Avondale, Delphine, along with friends, Glenda Harker (née Abbott) and Helen Hall, spent a whole week each year collecting in the Muswellbrook/Singleton areas. In the 1960s while working at



the Sanitarium Factory, Cooranbong, Delphine would go into Newcastle and collect from 6pm to 9pm.

In 1963 Delphine married Richard Trace and they set up home in Beaudesert. Here she continued to collect, sometimes with her husband, as well as caring for her three children. In 2005, the family settled in Morayfield where Delphine has become well-known in her local neighbourhood. Many donors remember October as ADRA month and have their donations ready when she calls. A Fijian lady who usually gives \$50 recently moved to a different suburb, but she still wants to donate and has given Delphine her new address.

For many years, Delphine collected for ADRA at the Brisbane Exhibition. Other charities noticed her dependability and successful collecting skills and tried to coax her to collect for them, but Delphine chose to continue supporting ADRA.

“Every year Delphine visits the ADRA stall at Big Camp with the biggest smile on her face and a new story to share from her time collecting,” says Charlene Luzuk, National Program Director for ADRA Australia.

“We are so grateful to Delphine for her decades of doorknocking. The ADRA Appeal is the largest source of funding for our programs in Australia. Doorknockers like Delphine are helping to feed, clothe, empower, and connect Aussies in need.”

Despite being swooped by magpies and bitten by a dog, Delphine faithfully continues her



collecting. Her friendly, caring nature has endeared her to many people.

When asked why she keeps on collecting, Delphine says, “The ADRA Appeal is very important, and it needs to be done every year. Somebody has to do it so that’s why I keep doing it.” In 2024, despite being 84 years old, Delphine collected \$1,020 for the ADRA Appeal.

Thank you Delphine for your faithful ministry. All the money you have collected over the past 70 years has had a positive impact on so many lives.

This October, your church can get involved in raising crucial funds for the ADRA Appeal. Register your church to doorknock or to do a fundraiser of your choice at adra.org.au/appeal

BECOME AN ADRA CHAMPION!

Being an ADRA Champion is a simple, powerful way to change lives – starting right from your local church. Whether you love sharing from the front or prefer working behind the scenes, we’ll support you with everything you need.

**INTERESTED? CONTACT US ON 1800 242 372
OR EMAIL [INFO@ADRA.ORG.AU](mailto:info@adra.org.au)**



Seven Years On: An Update from Bhagwati



Images: Luke Vodell

L to R – Ashley, Bhagwati, Luke. Ashley and Luke had the chance to meet with Bhagwati years after she participated in ADRA's project

Earlier this year, staff members Ashley and Luke were in Nepal. During their visit, they had the opportunity to meet with Bhagwati.

We first shared Bhagwati's story with you in June 2018. Bhagwati's husband became physically disabled, throwing her life into uncertainty.

He was not able to work, casting Bhagwati into the role of single parent, as well as being a primary carer for her husband. This took an extreme toll on her. But with no skills outside the home, life was a struggle.

"I felt like all the responsibility fell on my shoulders," Bhagwati says. "We did not have enough food, and we often ran out of money."

Bhagwati began to see her life slipping away. Her children's futures were threatened through no fault of her own. But she refused to give up.

Thanks to the training Bhagwati received from ADRA's project, which was supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), she learned tailoring and business skills.

"I was determined to gain some skills and improve my life," Bhagwati said. "ADRA's training taught me tailoring skills and how to run a small business."

As a child, Bhagwati only studied up until grade 5. She was desperate to see her children receive the education she never did. In 2018, her daughter, Rebina*, was 11 years old.

"I like going to school because I get to learn new things," Rebina said. "When I grow up, I want to be a doctor so I can help people who are sick."



Bhagwati with her children in 2018



11-year-old Rebina dreamed of being a doctor

When Ashley and Luke visited Bhagwati earlier this year, her tailoring business was flourishing. Both of her children are living in Kathmandu. Her son is working and Rebina is in her first year of medical school, chasing her dream of becoming a doctor.

“To study medicine was Rebina’s dream,” Bhagwati says. “She is so happy and determined. She says, ‘Mum, I will go through any pain to get my degree.’”

Even though Rebina was accepted on a scholarship that covers her tuition, living expenses in Kathmandu and

her medical school supplies are costly. But it is a source of pride for Bhagwati to work hard to put her daughter through medical school, something she never thought she would be able to do.

This is the sort of transformational change your donations can make!

Luke met Bhagwati back in 2018 and reflected on how her life has changed.

“It was a blessing to re-meet Bhagwati and see how she’s continued to benefit from the project,” says Luke. “It illustrates how long-lasting the impact of these projects can be.”

When you give to ADRA, you create lasting change. Your support can help mothers like Bhagwati break the cycle of poverty by giving their children the education they deserve. Your gift can be the reason an 11-year-old girl has the chance to follow their dreams.

**Name changed for child protection purposes.*

**Australian
Aid** 

ADRA’s project in Nepal is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

**You can give a transformational gift at adra.org.au/donate.
Thank you for your support which is changing lives.**

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR



Help Aussies in need

ADRA's SouperVan was the lifeline Kelly needed when she was facing the prospect of going three or four days without food.

DONATE TODAY AND HELP AUSSIES GET BACK ON THEIR FEET

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