

Local mission expression leaders are rightly focussed on their particular mission expression. This is reflected in their Local Mission Plan. They are not required or expected to have a larger vision for what God might be doing through The Salvation Army in the area. If they do, that is great – and we thank God.

On the other hand, Area Officers do have that larger helicopter vision. They are able to pray and see the work of God's Spirit from a larger perspective – and actively look for new opportunities for collaboration to strategically enhance mission.

Collaboration is not an end in itself, but a God-given means to the end of enhancing his mission to see people know the love of Jesus – in both word and action. It is a central feature of Local Mission Delivery and bringing mission expressions together in Area Leadership Teams (ALT). Collaboration in mission provides:



- Opportunities for mission not realised by a single mission expression
- Greater quality and impact of a missional event

The Area Officer can help cast a vision for an ALT to explore new possibilities for missional collaboration that they may have never considered in their Local Mission Plans.

10 IDEAS FOR YOUR ALT

I'd encourage your ALT to consider and discuss these ideas for 2020 (some have already been done by ALTs). These open up new opportunities for mission that may not be realised by a single mission expression – or the quality and impact of the event could be greatly increased by collaboration with others.

They won't all be appropriate for your ALT – but some may resonate with your ALT and perhaps spark other innovative mission ideas and initiatives. This is not an imposition on the ALT, but a way to explore possibilities for mission that had not been considered before.

COLLABORATION IN MISSION - 10 IDEAS

1

Hold a combined/shared **training event** in your area. Bring people from different mission expressions in the area to an Alpha course, Trauma Informed Care course or a Leadership Development workshop. These can help make disciples and see people come to faith, and better equip our people and leaders for service.

2

Hold a **weekend camp** for men, women, youth or families in the area. This may be a weekend to help foster Christian spirituality or an evangelistic camp for Christians to invite their non-Christian friends and make disciples.

3

Hold a **community dinner** to learn and be inspired about God's mission in the area, to worship and pray together. This can help foster Christian spirituality and give people a greater sense of God's mission through the local Salvos.

4

Participate in an existing community event by setting up a **Salvos stall/tent** during Homeless Persons Week, Anti-Poverty Week or another local council community day.

5

Encourage corps members to **share meals or morning teas** with people at a local social mission centre. This can help the corps care for people and create faith pathways as God's people reach out in mission to share the love of Jesus.

6

Co-location of mission expressions to operate as a unified voice in the area. Mission expressions intentionally co-locate and develop a plan for working more collaboratively together in delivering holistic mission and care for community members.

7

Corps and other mission expressions **informally connecting people to one another** – over a BBQ to watch a sports game on a big screen together, to share in learning a skill or craft (for example computer skills, cooking or learning English), to serve alongside one another in mowing lawns for people, cleaning up a yard or cooking together at a sausage sizzle.

8

Hold a **restaurant meal night** with a guest speaker and musician who can speak of the Christian faith and their life – share their testimony. Corps members can invite friends and all mission expression teams invited.

9

Chaplains distribute **gift packs** produced by the local corps to people in the wider community who are experiencing hardship and injustice.

10

For **Doorways and Salvos Connect sites**, create friendly warm spaces where people can come and share a coffee with members of the corps. They can meet together and engage in friendly, caring conversation. People who will welcome them, seek to understand them and listen to them.