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## 04 NEWS

# Salvos seek top dollars

**LAURA NELSON**

[LAURA.NELSON@NEWS.COM.AU](mailto:LAURA.NELSON@NEWS.COM.AU)

LAST year may have been a tough year for The Salvation Army but fortunately donations for its Red Shield Appeal have already reached a record high of \$540,000.

The Salvos launched their appeal last week with the announcement it had already received \$296,000 in donations.

The breakfast launch was attended by 350 people, who pledged a further \$140,000, and business leader Soheil Abedian donated a massive \$100,000.

Delighted Salvos chairman Tony Hickey (pictured) said he was overwhelmed by the support.

Mr Hickey said upfront pledges included \$55,000 from Hong Kong developer Tony Fung of the Aquis Group, \$50,000 from Judy Brinsmead and Bob Hill from ADCO Construction, \$40,000 from Mick Irwin of Pivotal Homes, \$25,000 from the ASF Consor-



tium and \$25,000 from the Reuben Pelerman Foundation.

"Last year, funds for the Red Shield Appeal across Australia were down by 20 per cent, so it's great that the Gold Coast is going to play a significant part in getting funds back on track nationally this year," Mr Hickey said. "All the funds raised on the Gold Coast are spent right here on the Coast.

"This means that the money raised at our breakfast will go towards supporting a raft of drug, alcohol and domestic violence rehabilitation programs, as well as support programs and shelters for the homeless."

Mr Hickey said drug and alcohol abuse was a growing problem on the Coast.

"I hope people take note of the incredible generosity demonstrated by the business community and see that our city has a lot of spirit and is working hard to tackle social issues," he said.

"I urge those who weren't able to be at the breakfast to jump online and donate to the Red Shield Appeal or take part in the upcoming doorknock appeal on May 30-31."

**For more information, visit [salvos.org.au](http://salvos.org.au)**