A fresh approach to assisting those who experience or are at risk of homelessness begins on Tuesday morning with the turning of the first sod at The Salvation Army’s new Affordable Housing Complex at Chermside.

A total of 26 apartment-style homes will be built on the Gympie Road site with work expected to be completed by early-2021 and will provide up to 100 people with stable, long-term housing.

Lieut-Colonel David Godkin, leader of The Salvation Army in Queensland is thrilled that this project is going ahead.

“The Salvation Army’s Affordable & Social Housing Project at Chermside represents an exciting step in The Salvation Army’s response to the ever growing issue of homelessness in Queensland. We know that many families and individuals struggle on low incomes and are experiencing housing stress or living in conditions that are overcrowded or unsuitable,
placing them at risk of homelessness. Through the generosity of the Cory Charitable Foundation and The Lord Mayor’s Charitable Trust, The Salvation Army is able to establish the first of what we hope is many affordable housing complexes - houses that will soon become homes for some of the most vulnerable people in our community,” says Lieut-Colonel Godkin.

The project has been possible thanks to a $5 million donation from The Cory Charitable Foundation. Foundation Founder, Doug Cory, says the decision to give to The Salvation Army was influenced by his own childhood experiences.

"I support the Salvos because as a boy, my mother was only one step away from being homeless with nine children – it was only through the kindness of many, including The Salvation Army, that we stayed in our home. This project will help a lot of folks now, and for many years to come. People need a safe roof over their heads and it is a good starting point for them to then get help from the other services they need."

Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress Adrian and Nina Schrinner are supporting the project through a sizable donation from The Lord Mayor's Charitable Trust.

Media are invited to attend the turning of the first sod on Tuesday morning from 9am where Lieut-Col Godkin, Mr Cory and Lord Mayor Schrinner will be available for questions and photos.

-ENDS-

For more information or media comment please contact:
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