



Foster Care

UnitingCare West has a long history of providing out of home care for children and young people.

Our foster care services focus on providing long term placements for children and young people with often significant trauma and abuse histories, developmental, physical and/or medical care needs.

It is based on the belief that the needs of all children, including those with a disability are generally best met in a family environment.

Recruitment, assessment and training of new carers are key tasks of the service and are undertaken in line with the Department of Child Protection and Family Support (DCPFS) General Foster Care Assessment manual.

If you would like more information about please e-mail:

futures@unitingcarewest.org.au or call 08 6279 1800

Join The Dollar Club

UnitingCare West is proud to invite you to become a member of The UCW Dollar Club. It's very easy to become a member.

By donating just a dollar a day, you can provide a consistent level of support to vulnerable individuals and families in Western Australia.

A dollar a day, \$365 a year, can make a significant difference. This donation can buy:

8 family sized food hampers

10 hygiene packs

7 swags for rough sleepers

6 month supply of nappies

15 nights crisis accommodation

7 household starter kits

18 gifts for children at Christmas

1 day outing for children in care

Run for a Reason

HBF Run for a Reason registrations are now open! The event will be held on Sunday 28 May 2017.

This is a wonderful opportunity for UCW supporters and staff to get together to walk or run 4km, 12km or 21km and fundraise to assist UnitingCare West activities.

We've created a UnitingCare West Team on the 2017 HBF Run for a Reason website and when you register, you will receive a free T-shirt to wear on the day with our refreshed brand.

Please join us for a picnic after the race to congratulate the participants.

All money raised will go toward supporting those most in need in the community



Therapeutic Garden

UnitingCare West provides shared, supported accommodation for individuals with disabilities living in the community, independent from their families.

The program's aim is to provide tailored care in the area of accommodation and lifestyle for people with a disability so that they can live as independently as possible in a dignified and fulfilling manner in a community setting.

The focus is on a lifespan approach, individualised services and maximising consumer choice. The services provided to the residents are coordinated with staff members acting as support between families, friends and other agencies involved in the resident's life.

UnitingCare West has supported houses around the metropolitan area. While most of the homes have adult residents, one of the homes is providing support to young people who have experienced childhood trauma and have complex needs.

The service aims to support the resident's skill development and independence in taking on daily activities themselves. A scientifically proven way of enhancing overall well-being are THERAPEUTIC GARDENS.

A Therapeutic Garden is an outdoor garden space that has been specifically designed to meet the physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of the people using the garden as well as their caregivers, family members and friends. The primary focus of the garden is to incorporate plants, friendly wildlife and other accessories into the space.

The setting is designed to include activity based things such as horticultural therapy or programs for passive uses such as quiet private sitting areas next to a small pond with a trickling waterfall.

UnitingCare West's therapeutic garden has been developed in consultation with master gardener, Sabrina Hahn, who has donated her time pro bono. A wonderful outcome for UnitingCare West.

UnitingCare West plans to develop four Therapeutic Gardens, which will include plants, hammocks, bird feeders, umbrellas, benches and BBQ pits. This will help the residents to relax and develop a sense of belonging by performing gardening tasks.

Yes! Please accept my donation

Dear Sue,
Please accept my gift below towards the vital services UnitingCare West provides to those most in need.

From

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

We respect privacy. If you would prefer to not receive further material from UnitingCare West please call us on 1300 663 298

Please accept my gift of...

☐ \$50 | ☐ \$100 | ☐ \$200 | OR my choice \$ _____

☐ My cheque/money order is enclosed and made payable to UnitingCare West

☐ Please debit my credit card ☐  ☐ 

Card No. _____

Cardholder's Name _____

Expiry Date ____/____ CCV ____ Signature _____

Gifts over \$2 are tax deductible - A receipt will be sent to you shortly.

You can also donate online via www.unitingcarewest.org.au/donate/



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This document is available in alternative formats upon request.

UnitingCare West (UCW) is a community services agency of the Uniting Church that touches the lives of thousands of families and individuals each year.

Our vision is justice, hope and opportunity for all and our mission is to work with people and communities so those most in need can belong and thrive.



From our CEO

December 2016... the last month of our calendar year. We have had some important conversations at UnitingCare West recently. I thought I would share three of them with you.

We were talking about how our services have been making a difference in the lives of people we work with. There was the story of a young person who had struggled to stay engaged with her schooling, but her end of year school report had many of us in tears... she had done so well; and a person who had so many troubles that they had been homeless for more than two years, but this year they will spend Christmas in their own little home; and the Christmas Party where all the residents in the adult accommodation service took up the invitation to organise a celebration for their families.

The staff supported all the

preparations but the excitement about the party was palpable. And these are only three stories...

You will read more about what has been going on a UnitingCare West in other parts of this newsletter.

A second conversation relates to resourcing an increasing demand for services. The changing economic circumstance is leading to an increased need in our community.

Emerging groups of people are vulnerable to homeless and the need for food and financial support to stay housed is increasing. And all of this is happening as Governments are changing their spending priorities and in a number of cases, have less funds available to spend.

Do more for less is the mantra... but this only works for a time, and then there will need to big changes in the community service system.

The year for those changes looks like it will be 2017. If you are in a position to support our services financially or with voluntary work, there are details on our website www.unitingcarewest.org.au.

And finally, a conversation that is more personal. This will be my last Christmas at UnitingCare West. After nearly six years with the organisation, my season is coming to an end. The next CEO is

expected to be in place by Easter. The message of Christmas is one of hope and new beginnings.

At UnitingCare West our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to live that message and to ensure even those in the darkest places experience something of the hope of the Christmas story.

Thank you for your interest and support in UnitingCare West. May you also know the joy and hope of Christmas and the coming year.

Best wishes,

Sue Ash AO
Chief Executive Officer



Level Up's Big Bike Swap at Tranby

"Bike Swap" provides repaired pre-loved bikes to people experiencing homelessness at UCW's Tranby Centre.

The initiative was launched in January by UCW's Level Up program where jobseekers, who are undertaking a training program to develop their employment and professional skills, are repairing old bikes so that they look like new again.

The jobseekers who are participating in the Level Up bike rescue program are supported by Atwork Australia. Together they refurbish old and worn down bicycles. The jobseekers collect bikes from donors or source them from verge collections. The state of each bike gets assessed and the jobseekers make a plan for each bike to clean them up and make them roadworthy.

Level Up participants put together a manual to go with each bike that includes practical tips for bike maintenance and safety. People experiencing homelessness can then register for a refurbished bike at UCW's Tranby Centre. Alternatively, they can bring their old bike and swap it for a bike that was refurbished by Level Up. We encourage people to cycle safely and therefore each client receives a driver's safety kit which includes a helmet, lock and drink bottle.

All the bikes are inspected and taken to a professional bike repairer for a safety inspection and a test before being handed out to clients.

Volunteer Thank You Party

On 4 February, UnitingCare West celebrated the contribution of nearly 600 volunteers with an afternoon tea.

Guests of honour were the people who volunteer with UnitingCare West services, helping to assist people in need.

The volunteers and their special contribution of time, dedication and commitment were acknowledged by CEO Sue Ash AO.



Plastic recycling program at Food Rescue

Recycling plastics so that they can be turned into plastic bins and chairs has become part of the daily business at UCW's Food Rescue.


The service is separating an estimated 4 cubic metres of plastic at the moment, including supermarket packaging for fruit and vegetables that we rescue. Instead of depositing plastics at landfill, this new system helps the environment by recycling plastics.

Each week, Food Rescue recycles 4 different types of plastics that are picked up by a company called CLAW Environmental. CLAW melts the plastic down into a form that can be used in the remanufacturing process to make various products.

CLAW also collects the foam boxes that some foods are transported in. They are compressed and once in China they are turned into coat hangers and floor boards.



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Upcoming Events 2017

- | | |
|---------|---------------------|
| 28 May | Run for a Reason |
| 1 June | Start Winter Appeal |
| 21 July | Christmas in July |