



MEDIA RELEASE
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500,000 kilograms of food rescued equal to 1 million meals!

Food Rescue, UnitingCare West's Perth based food distribution service, is celebrating the rescue of over 500,000 kilograms of food which would have otherwise ended up in landfill.

The service rescues as much food as possible within Perth and currently aids over 16,000 individuals in the community through a distribution network to over 46 charities.

Food Rescue collects and distributes fresh nutritious fruits and vegetables as well as ready-made meals such as sandwiches and other prepared food to needy people within the Perth community.

"In January 2012 Food Rescue was distributing food to 5 charitable agencies. Now in 2014 the distribution has increased to 46 agencies receiving donated food; quite a remarkable increase. In the first year of operation in 2012 we rescued over 194,600 kilograms of food and as of March 2014 we have reached an incredible 500,000 kilograms of rescued food!" said Sue Ash, Chief Executive Officer at UnitingCare West.

"Food Rescue is the only service in Perth that focuses on redistributing highly perishable items such as sandwiches from restaurants and cafes and delivers them to vulnerable people in direct need. If it was not for Food Rescue these meals would have ended up in landfill."

"The 500,000kg milestone is due to the hard working and dedicated staff and volunteers of Food Rescue. Without an amazing team this achievement would have not been possible."

"I would also like to farewell Manager Michael Nurmi who has been with Food Rescue since January 2012 and who has done a fantastic job. Michael will be handing over the management reins to Julie Broad in March and Julie will be leading Food Rescue forward in 2014," said Sue.

Food Rescue is entirely philanthropically funded by a number of corporates including Alinta Energy, Argonaut, GR Engineering, Atlas Iron, Ausdrill and Downder EDI. A team of over 60 volunteers sort, pack and deliver food to those who need it most. The service is vital to the community with statistics estimating that 1,320,000 tonnes of fresh food is thrown out by Australians each year, with a high percentage of this still consumable.

On 2 May, UnitingCare West will be holding a Fundraising Golf Day to benefit Food Rescue. The target is to raise \$55,000 to buy a new refrigerated van which will distribute perishable nutritious food and baked goods to targeted geographic areas.

If you would like to support Food Rescue through the Golf Day please call UnitingCare West on 1300 663 298 or visit www.unitingcarewest.org.au/donate.

For quotes please contact:

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About UnitingCare West Food Rescue: Food Rescue aims to alleviate hunger by rescuing perishable, fresh and nutritious food from cafes, caterers, supermarkets and wholesalers and delivering it to disadvantaged, vulnerable people.

Over 46 charitable agencies receive the donations and run programs to assist a variety of people in need including people experiencing homelessness, women and children in crisis, vulnerable young people, indigenous communities, elderly people, refugees and new arrivals and families on low incomes.



Food Rescue recognised for best practice: In August 2013 Food Rescue was awarded the Waste Authority's Infinity Award in the Community category. A total of 17 award winners were recognised, with the six category winners receiving \$5,000 each. The Infinity Awards recognise the success of organisations in reducing wastage and increasing re-use and recycling in WA.

Connect with Food Rescue on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FoodRescue>