



MEDIA RELEASE 31/03/2015

GROWERS SUPPORTING GROWERS

Food Rescue, a service of UnitingCare West (UCW), Larry Brewer of North West Express Mobile Butcher and Vince Gareffa of Mondo Community Warriors, collected several tonnes of fresh food and drove it straight to those affected by Tropical Cyclone Olwyn that swept through Carnarvon on Friday 13 March.

Larry originally came up with the idea to drive his semi-trailer to Carnarvon to help local growers and residents during their time of need. Together with Vince and the UCW Food Rescue team, they encouraged the local growers industry to get on board with the mission and donate fresh fruit, vegetables and meat that could go towards supporting affected growers in Carnarvon.

UCW's Food Rescue truck conducted a trip to Gingin to collect fresh vegetables directly from local growers, along with another large donation coming from Karagullen. These generous contributions stem from an understanding of what it is like to be a local grower, and to lose crops and livelihoods through natural disasters.

Julie Broad, Manager UCW Food Rescue, travelled to Carnarvon to coordinate the distribution of the food alongside the local Shire, the Growers Association and their army of volunteers.

"The Shire of Carnarvon would like to thank North West Express, UCW Food Rescue, Mondo Community Warriors and all the growers in and around Perth who have reached out to our local growers in a time of need," said Carnarvon's Shire President, Karl Brandenburg. "Our growers are a huge part of our community and economy and not only have they had damages to their home to deal with from Cyclone Olwyn, a majority of them have lost their livelihood and business. This initiative is to let them know that other growers are thinking about them and to know that they are not alone, and the Shire and community are here to support."

UnitingCare West's Food Rescue collects in excess of 14,000kgs of fresh and nutritious food every week from cafes, caterers, supermarkets and wholesalers and delivers it to those experiencing hardships within the West Australian community.

End of release

Photo opportunities of the distribution on Friday in Carnarvon will be available.

Contact Details

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About UnitingCare West Food Rescue:

Food Rescue saves 14,000kgs of fresh food, equating to 28,000 meals, every week and delivers it to those most in need in the community. Food Rescue collects excess perishable, fresh and nutritious food from cafes, caterers, supermarkets and wholesalers and delivers it to those experiencing hardships within the Perth community. Over 50 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.

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