

St Stephen's School Students Dig Deep for Winter Appeal

On 2 July, St Stephen's School students delivered over 65 care hampers to UnitingCare West's homelessness services.

As part of the commitment to community service at St Stephen's School Carramar the year 10 students rallied together to compile care packs for people in need.

The hampers included essential items for women and men living on the streets such as non-perishable food and toiletry items, as well as donations to keep people warm over winter with fleece throws, scarves and comfy socks.

In addition to hampers for men and women experiencing homelessness, the students also made up care packages for young parents and families who are homeless.

"With such a large number of people seeking assistance from homeless shelters, it was a great opportunity for our students to get involved and help those much less than fortunate than ourselves," said St Stephen's School Principal Tony George.

"We appreciate UnitingCare West creating this initiative, and thank all our students for their hard work and donations."

UnitingCare West's homeless centre Tranby assists nearly 160 people experiencing homelessness each morning and has seen a dramatic increase in the number of families seeking support.

"On average, we see 200 people seeking assistance each month from UnitingCare West's family homelessness service. We are able to provide a meal, a place to do their laundry and for the children to do their homework; however, in some circumstances we are only able to provide emergency accommodation – the family will have a place to stay for two nights, but then they'll be back on the street again" says Sue Ash AO, CEO, UnitingCare West.

UnitingCare West aims to empower people with the tools they need to get back on their feet. For this reason, UnitingCare West's services supporting people experiencing homelessness not only provide material assistance with meals, showers, clothing and transport options, but also access to financial counselling, a mental health nurse and a GP which are all available on site.

UnitingCare West needs your help - please support the Winter Appeal to assist people in need, donations can be made online at www.unitingcarewest.org.au/donate or by calling 1300 663 298.

Thank you to the St Stephen's School community for their generosity and giving spirit towards those who are experiencing disadvantage.



Year 10 student Shania Lindau compiled the hampers as part of her childcare class which had a focus on community giving.

For more information and photo opportunities please contact:

Allison Plenk
Marketing and Advancement Officer
Phone: 9355 9013
Email: allison.plenk@unitingcarewest.org.au

For quotes and comments please contact:

Sue Ash AO
UnitingCare West Chief Executive Officer
Phone: 9355 9002
Email: sue.ash@unitingcarewest.org.au