

## Celebrating 25 years

Dr Harry Cohen and Rev Wes Hartley established the Trinity Learning Centre (TLC) in 1987 in the hopes that the church could create a brighter future for pregnant or parenting mothers by offering to support them in the continuing of their education.

Since it began, over 400 students have attended the program – so where are these women and families now?

An online survey is currently being undertaken by Edith Cowan University and UnitingCare West to determine the extent to which the TLC program has enhanced the wellbeing of the students, and impacted how they live, work and parent.

To celebrate 25 years of operation, all past and present TLC students are invited to register for a student reunion planned for this year. Contact TLC for more information or to register your interest.

To our knowledge, this research will be a world first as it is the only program of its kind that has been operating for so long. Following the results, the findings of this study will be presented at a public forum in October 2012.

*Anyone that has been a part of TLC should be a part of this study, and contact the centre by phone on 1300 663 298 or email [tlc@unitingcarewest.org.au](mailto:tlc@unitingcarewest.org.au).*

## Having a ball

Current students from TLC and Talking Realities recently had a well-earned opportunity to don their ball gowns, glam up and dance the night away with their partners at the Parmelia Hilton in December 2011.

The annual graduation ball recognised students that showed a high commitment to their studies, those that completed their course work to receive a Certificate III in Community Services, and those that graduated from TLC.

The event was attended by the students, trainees and respective partners, as well as staff and Board from UnitingCare West and the Schools of Isolated Distance and Education, program volunteers and Uniting Church congregation members.



**Belles of the ball:** 2011 student's achievements are celebrated at the annual Trinity Learning Centre ball.

## Tranby joins the fight against food waste

**In January 2012 Tranby Day Centre created a partnership with new Perth-based organisation Food Rescue.**

Food Rescue does just what its name suggests - they rescue unused food from businesses, cafes and restaurants around Perth and distribute it to the disadvantaged.

Jacqui Jordan, Executive Director & Founder of Food Rescue said the not-for-profit charity is leading the way in Western Australia.

"There is so much wastage in the food industry and there is a real need to connect this beautiful, fresh food with those in need."

"Each week, we deliver rescued food directly to a network of charities including UnitingCare West. Although Food Rescue has been running for only 18 months, we are now delivering approximately

20,000 wholesome meals per month to the people of Perth."

"We are so pleased to be able to support our donor recipients with healthy, fresh food with the added benefit of reducing food wastage," Jacqui said.

Food Rescue delivers a wide variety of food to the Tranby Day Centre homeless shelter on Aberdeen Street. The centre is receiving selections of gourmet sandwiches and rolls, muffins, cakes, fresh fruit and vegetables and even baby food.



**Saving food (L to R):** Jodie Smyth, Accommodation Manager at UnitingCare West, Wayne McOnie, Food Rescue Volunteer and Naomi O'Donnell, Homelessness Manager at UnitingCare West accept food donations at Tranby.

Feedback from people has been extremely positive. "Now we can have a meal at the beginning of the day and something to eat later too," said an appreciative recipient.

Tranby Day Centre has also been able to distribute some items to people in other services such as Homeless Accommodation.

UnitingCare West, and especially Tranby Day Centre, would like to extend a huge thank you to Jacqui Jordan and the staff of Food Rescue for all their support.

For more information on how you can support this worthwhile organisation, visit their website at [www.foodrescue.com.au](http://www.foodrescue.com.au).

### Upcoming events

- 27<sup>th</sup> April** True Colours Dining for Diversity
- 11<sup>th</sup> May** UnitingCare West Golf Day
- 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May** National Volunteer Week
- 20<sup>th</sup> June** Volcom Give Jeans a Chance giveaway with Tranby



**Check this out...**  
More news and events about UnitingCare West are online at [www.unitingcarewest.org.au](http://www.unitingcarewest.org.au)

## Yes! Please accept my donation

Dear Sue,  
Please accept my gift below towards the vital services UnitingCare West provides to the Western Australian community every day.

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.**

*thank you*



Central Office: 16 Sunbury Road, Victoria Park WA 6100  
Postal Address: GPO Box B74, Perth WA 6838  
Ph: 1300 663 298 Fax: 1300 663 528  
E: [admin@unitingcarewest.org.au](mailto:admin@unitingcarewest.org.au) [www.unitingcarewest.org.au](http://www.unitingcarewest.org.au)



## From the CEO's desk

Welcome to the first UnitingCare West newsletter for 2012. A lot has happened during the transition into the new year.

We have already seen numerous accomplishments; we have many things to celebrate and much more to look forward to in the months to come.

I would like to start by acknowledging the departure of our Board's Chairperson Wendie Wilkie. Wendie started with UnitingCare West as Mission Development Leader working in the position until Robert Watson took up his permanent role. Since then Wendie has been a member of the Board and Chairperson for more than three years.

The Terrace Café at Rowethorpe, a Uniting Church Homes site, was kind enough to donate their venue to host an afternoon tea to say thank you. Past and present UnitingCare West Board members and Uniting Church representatives attended to say goodbye.

Glenda Campbell-Evans, who will be acting chair until the position is filled, and Kay Dowling, General Secretary of the WA Synod, joined me in sharing some wonderful stories about Wendie's 30 years of work with the church and UnitingCare West. The time was well spent catching up on old friendships and wishing Wendie the very best.



**Farewell Wendie:** Thanking Wendie for her outstanding contribution to the staff and volunteers as Mission Development Leader and Chairperson of UnitingCare West from June 2007 to February 2012.

Within UnitingCare West, our programs are performing excellently despite already feeling an increase in demand this year.



To manage this, we are currently working on a new Strategic Plan that will see us through until 2016.

We have looked closely at this growing need and are making some changes in order to help us direct our resources to those who require our help the most.

One thing we are placing a high importance on is our relationship with the Uniting Church and its congregations. We truly value their engagement and support to help us stay working with those most in need, and hope to build stronger bonds to continue this partnership.

*Sue Ash* Sue Ash  
Chief Executive Officer

## Coming up!

UnitingCare West's annual Winter Appeal is set to launch in late May. Once again, the appeal will raise awareness of people experiencing homelessness and those sleeping rough this winter. For more information about the Winter Appeal, or to make a donation, contact 1300 663 298.

## Private Tenancy Support



Homeless Accommodation Support Services is running a new program at Aberdeen Street. 'Private Tenancy Support' provides social and financial support to those at risk of homelessness due to issues surrounding their private rental. For more information, contact us on 9220 1288.

## Volunteer Thank You

There are over 140 regular volunteers at UnitingCare West who enable many of our programs to function as successfully as they do.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, volunteers from UnitingCare West programs such as Rainbow, Trinity Learning Centre and Take Time, gathered at Wesley College for a well deserved morning tea event.

A small token of UnitingCare West's gratitude, the first UnitingCare West calendar ever produced, was gifted to each volunteer.

The gathering enjoyed a morning of nibbles, music and the opportunity to meet other like-minded individuals and tell their stories. The morning was considered a great success at a lovely venue – a sincere thank you to Wesley College for their hospitality.

*"It was a spectacular venue...very pleasant meeting friends...a chance to learn more about UnitingCare West activities...a sincere appreciation to the many volunteers associated with the organisation."*

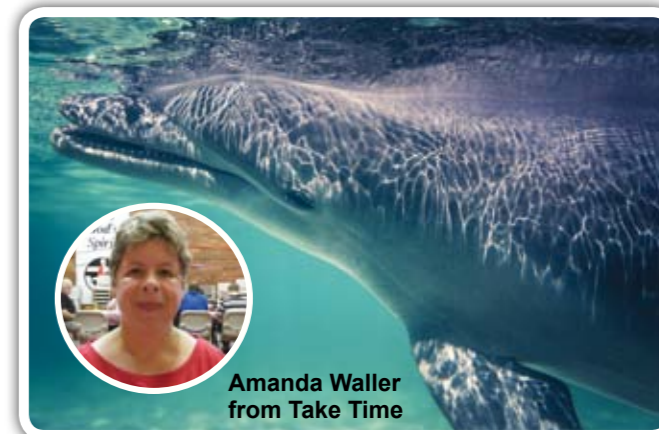
UnitingCare West Volunteer

All of the volunteers' contributions help us to achieve our mission of supporting, serving and empowering people most in need.

A number of UnitingCare West programs are currently seeking assistance – Futures program, the New Parent Infant Network, and the Rainbow Project in particular. To register your interest as a volunteer go to [www.unitingcarewest.org.au](http://www.unitingcarewest.org.au).



**Giving back:** Robert Watson, Mission Development Leader at UnitingCare West and Anita Fraschetti, Rainbow Project volunteer enjoying the morning tea.



Amanda Waller  
from Take Time

## Dolphin Adoptee of the Year – Amanda Waller

Since being with UnitingCare West's Take Time, Amanda's confidence in herself and sense of belonging to her local community has encouraged her to extend her interests beyond the Take Time program.

This has led to her involvement in the Koombana Bay Adopt a Dolphin program, and earning her the title of "Dolphin Adoptee of the Year 2011".

Amanda first heard about Nicky the dolphin and the adoption program when she visited the Koombana Bay's Dolphin Discovery Centre in 2006.

Amanda reports that adopting Nicky gives her a "good special feeling" and she "knows that [Nicky] is getting looked after by the research group".

Amanda receives regular updates on Nicky's progress and finds this to be the most rewarding aspect of the program.

"Take Time is a program that provides opportunities for individuals such as Amanda to actively participate in social and recreational activities" says Take Time Team Leader Sharon Ford.

"In the eight years Amanda has been with Take Time she has developed and maintained friendships with her peers, as well as built her social and interpersonal communication skills. Now Amanda has increased self confidence and sees herself as being someone who is valued, respected, and able to contribute to society in a positive manner," Sharon said.

Amanda loves reading about Nicky's life and feels "very privileged to adopt Nicky" and plans to do so for many more years.