



Re-Opening of Lincoln Street Facility

In our last newsletter, we reported on the major upgrade being carried out by property developer Mirvac WA, with the support of its suppliers and contractors, to our Highgate residential facility, which helps men who are homeless with challenges such as drug addiction, alcoholism, relationship and mental health issues.

Since then, we are pleased to report that the upgrade work has been completed, thanks to the Mirvac Foundation, Mirvac staff, its suppliers and contractors donating around \$40,000 to UnitingCare West to make the renovation work possible.

The official re-opening of the facility took place on 11 August, and the good news is that UnitingCare West now has a greatly upgraded facility, with increased capacity to assist more men who are homeless in Perth.

“Partnerships are essential for not-for-profit organisations to be more effective in achieving their goals which are critical to building a society in which each of the members of our community are able to contribute and live with respect and dignity,” said UnitingCare West CEO Chris Hall.

“We are seeing a rising number of families and individuals presenting with increasingly complex needs. For instance last night across WA an estimated 13,390 men, women and children were homeless. This is a conservative estimate.”

Mirvac WA CEO Evan Campbell said the company was “very proud” to be part of the project and thanked a long



Evan Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, Mirvac WA

list of contributing contractors.

As well as funds contributed by the company, staff donated around \$15,000 through salary sacrifice and other suppliers also donated time and supplies.

UnitingCare West would like to sincerely thank Mirvac for its tremendous support with this initiative and for its commitment to caring in the community, in partnership with our organisation.

“Given the current slow down we are experiencing, we are extremely thankful to Mirvac WA for retaining its commitment to us and also to people who are homeless in Perth by donating much-needed funds and support to this project,” Mr Hall added.

Helping parents to better parent

UnitingCare West, in partnership with Serco and Edith Cowan University, has launched a new parenting program for fathers at Perth's Acacia Prison.

The Inside Parents initiative is an innovative support program which is specifically designed for fathers within the prison environment. It offers parenting forums and therapeutic sessions to assist and support fathers to reunify with their children and families upon leaving prison.

Lyn Shirley, Executive Manager of Community and Family Services, explains that the program is also designed to support families and carers, as well as facilitating opportunities for family contact within the prison environment.

"This program is pretty much unique in Australia and already we have gained really positive feedback from the participants involved, and

also our partners Serco and Edith Cowan University," she said.

"It is essentially focused on making men better dads, and also improving the life chances of the next generation, which is extremely important given that there is a high percentage of children whose parents have spent time in jail, who go on to offend themselves."

As part of the Inside Parents program, structured play groups are planned, and fathers are given the opportunity to record audio CDs of them reading story books to their children.

"It is very rewarding to see the progress being made as a result of this program and it really does have the potential to tangibly improve the lives of children and young adults," she added.



Helping out Perth's Homeless

UnitingCare West launched a new Homelessness Support Service at the end of June in a joint venture with the Department of Housing, and with support from Lotterywest.

Opened in June by The Hon. Troy Buswell MLA, Minister for Housing and Works, the new initiative assists homeless people to make lifestyle changes, in addition to offering them holistic support.

"We see a range of clients who are facing issues such as homelessness, mental illness and alcohol and substance abuse and many of those individuals have little or no family

support," explains Executive Manager, Independent Living and Accommodation Services, Adele Stewart.

"This service is extremely flexible and will support members of the community who are most in need."

The new Monger Street premises has four two bedroom units, which means, services can be provided to both men and women who have children in their care. The new premises also provide an additional eight beds to the 21 beds already filled in the UnitingCare West Homelessness Program.

From the CEO's desk

UnitingCare West has been very proud to launch many new initiatives in partnership with some of our key supporters over the last three months.

We have seen the upgrade of our Lincoln Street residential facility for homeless men in Highgate completed through the generosity of our corporate partner Mirvac WA and its various contractors and suppliers. In partnership with the Department of Housing, we opened our new facility in Monger Street, Perth for people who are homeless. We also launched the Inside Parents program at Acacia Prison in partnership with Serco and Edith Cowan University – a program which is a real first for Australia. And we launched our winter appeal which has received tremendous support from the community.

Internally, our focus has been on the development of our new strategic plan which will guide the delivery of our services and programs for the next three years to 2012. It was adopted by the Board at the end of August

and retains a focus on our far-reaching vision of achieving “justice, hope and opportunity for all”, and on continuing to position UnitingCare West to deliver our mission “to support, serve and empower people most in need”.

In preparing our plan, we have consulted with many of our stakeholders, including some of our corporate partners, funding bodies, community sector organisations, industry peak bodies and of course the broader Uniting Church, its leaders, agencies, congregations and schools. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our planning activities. The growing support UnitingCare West is experiencing in the West Australian community is very much appreciated.

Chris Hall, Chief Executive Officer



Wesley College boarders help the homeless

More than 150 boarders at Wesley College, one of Western Australia's seven Uniting Church Schools, braved a wet winter's night when they took to the streets to raise money for the homeless.

The students, together with staff, spent a chilly night sleeping in swags at the WACA ground after hearing a first-hand account of life on the streets from a homeless person – and deciding they would take action to help.

House leader Michael Edwards said the students wanted to do something to assist others.

“By being part of an initiative that gives us an insight into the lives of the homeless, we thought we could do something to awaken both the broader community,” he said.

UnitingCare West's Business Development Manager, Wendy Palmer, said UnitingCare West was incredibly thankful to everyone at Wesley College who participated in the initiative and who helped to raise funds.



**WESLEY
COLLEGE**

Young supporters put the fun into fundraising

UnitingCare West is fortunate to have many supporters in the community – from all walks of life and of all ages.

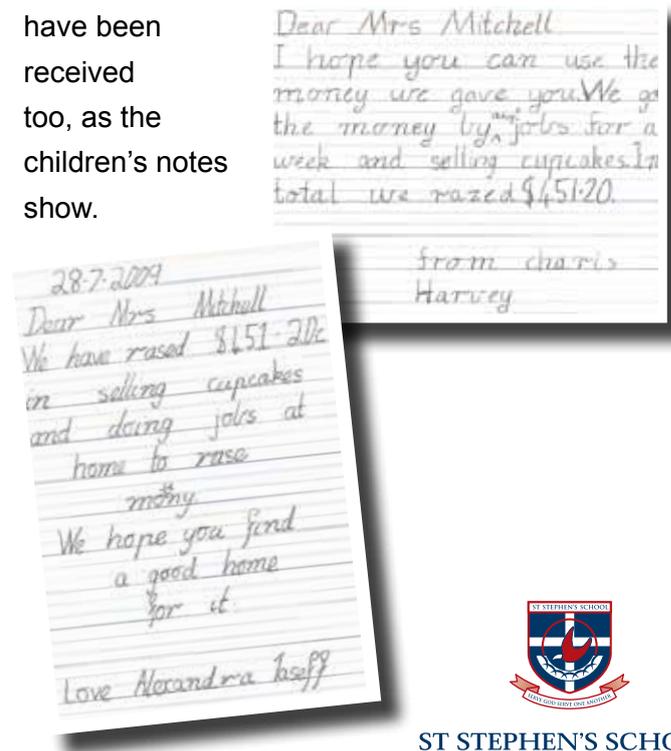
Indeed, some of the most enthusiastic supporters in recent times have also been our youngest, in particular students from St Stephen's School.

In recent weeks, students from the school's Carramar campus donated \$5,450 to assist our teenage mother support services. They presented a cheque to Eugene Arthurs, Manager of Intensive Family Services at UnitingCare West, as well as donating items for our Winter Appeal. At the same time, children from the Early Learning Centre at the Duncraig campus were busy making chocolate crackles and cupcakes to sell in order to boost their own fundraising activity. As a result, almost \$500 was raised.

Wendy Palmer, Business Development Manager at UnitingCare West, said the children's fundraising activity is truly heart-warming.

"We are incredibly grateful to the students, their families, and the teachers who have helped to inspire their social awareness and empathy," she said.

Thank you letters have been sent to the school - and a number have been received too, as the children's notes show.



ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOL
DUNCRAIG & CARRAMAR
UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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



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