

## 2012 Winter Appeal a great success!

This year's Winter Appeal has been hugely successful and UnitingCare West would like to thank everyone who has contributed.

Launched in May at a reception held with support from Penrhos College, the Appeal has so far raised over \$73,000 in donations as well as support in terms of food, clothing and blankets; providing tangible assistance to those in need this winter.

Along with the money raised, much praise has been given to the What We Value Photography Exhibition; a photography exercise carried out to present images of what people from different walks of life value. First presented at the Appeal Launch, the images later featured at Wesley Church, Perth.

We would like to thank everyone that has supported this year's Appeal, Penrhos College for their help with the launch and Wesley Church for their support of the exhibition.

If you would like to contribute, the Winter Appeal is still open and donations can be made online at [www.unitingcare.org.au](http://www.unitingcare.org.au) or call 1300 663 298.

## Calling all Companies!

UnitingCare West is currently developing a new support package for companies across WA.

If you are involved with, or know of any companies that might be interested in working with UnitingCare West to develop their staff community engagement, please contact [marketing@unitingcarewest.org.au](mailto:marketing@unitingcarewest.org.au).

## Homeless Persons Week

UnitingCare West supported Homeless Persons Week 2012 with a series of events between August 6 and 12.

Homeless Persons Week, which is held each year to spread awareness of people experiencing homelessness and surrounding issues, began with an art competition held at Perth City Farm.

The competition featured works from people all over Perth and seven UnitingCare West clients, two of which took joint third prize. The same day, a sausage sizzle was held for people experiencing homelessness and supporters of the week alike, where they chatted and shared a meal.

Closing out the week was Walk to Support the Homeless. Starting from Wesley Church, the walk saw participants venture around the CBD in a fun and appropriate end to an important week.

UnitingCare West would like to thank St. Bartholomew's House and all who participated in the activities for their support.



## Celebrating 25 years of Trinity Learning Centre

**Who would have thought that two men having a chat would result in a program supporting over 400 teenage mothers to complete their secondary education?**

This is just how it happened when Dr Harry Cohen from King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEMH) and Rev Wes Hartley from Trinity Uniting Church got talking in 1987.

Dr Cohen told Rev Hartley about the young women coming through the adolescent clinic at KEMH and how worried he was for their future and not being able to finish their education now that they were pregnant. They began a pilot program and it was so successful that in 1989 it was endorsed as a program by the Church Council. And so began the story of the Trinity Learning Centre (TLC).

*TLC has stood the test of time and in 2012 we celebrate 25 years of learning together. Festivities started with a student reunion held on 29 July. Staff at TLC had spent months working on reconnecting with the 400 past students, staff and volunteers.*

On the day of the reunion we were blessed with beautiful weather. Past and current TLC students and their children, volunteers and staff came together to reconnect and celebrate.



*The children had a wonderful day running around in the sunshine and having fun with a whole range of games and activities including a bouncy castle, face painting, ball games and races.*

A celebratory cake was shared and the stories continued to be recalled. All in all it was a joyous start to what will be a great series of events celebrating the achievements of TLC.



If you know anyone who has attended or been involved with the Trinity Learning Centre please encourage them to get in touch with us. Email [tlc@unitingcarewest.org.au](mailto:tlc@unitingcarewest.org.au) or call 08 9355 9116.

*TLC students and staff would like to express their gratitude to Scotch College, who generously donated the use of their Oval for the reunion, and all the members of the Uniting Church congregations in Perth City, without whose ongoing support TLC would not exist today.*



**Celebratory cake:** UnitingCare West CEO, Sue Ash, cuts the cake with Rev Chris Crause, past staff member Audrey Francis and past student Lauren Best.

## 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*

## From the CEO's desk

Welcome to the Spring Edition of UnitingCare West News. Filled with a range of articles from across our programs, we hope you find this both a valuable and uplifting edition.

As part of our commitment to supporting and empowering those most in need, UnitingCare West offers a range of services for children and families in the WA community who are experiencing adversity in their lives. Central to these services is the belief that all children have a right to be safe.

With Child Protection Week running 2-8 September, UnitingCare West has been highlighting issues surrounding child safety and protection across our sites and networks. We have been working with our dedicated team of staff, that work across a multitude of family and child related programs, to look at ways that we can be more aware of child protection, not just in the workplace, but in our personal lives as well.

Our Community and Family Services Directorate runs a suite of services around intensive family services, out of home care for children, therapeutic and disability foster care services and youth services. Across these services we work with many vulnerable children who are not in a position

## NAIDOC Week

During the first week of July, UnitingCare West celebrated NAIDOC Week 2012, a themed week created by the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee to celebrate and spread awareness of indigenous cultures and issues.

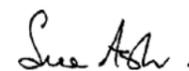
*UnitingCare West's Tranby Day Centre for people experiencing homelessness, held a series of four events throughout the week including a welcome to country, drum workshop, traditional kangaroo cook up and interactive arts and crafts session; as well as a guest appearance from popular indigenous comedian Sean Choolburra.*

The events were a great way for clients, staff, volunteers and guests to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

to protect and support themselves. By working with these children, alongside families and carers, our ultimate goal is to provide these young individuals with the same opportunities as other children and youngsters.

UnitingCare West recently held its Annual Public Meeting, kindly hosted by Nedlands Uniting Church. The event was an opportunity for us to launch our new Annual Report, and to welcome the newly appointed Chair of our Board, Mr David Holden. David has been part of the UnitingCare West Board for 4 years and has a good understanding of the mission of the Uniting Church and relationships with local congregations. He is a member of Nedlands Uniting Church and is involved in a number of varying aspects in the life of the congregation. We welcome David in his new role and look forward to working with him as we move forward.

Warm regards



**Sue Ash, Chief Executive Officer**



It was great to have clients involved in different activities and see them having fun and laughing with each other and with staff.

UnitingCare West would like to thank Richard Wilkes, Sean Choolburra, Lenard Thorne and Holyoake for their generous support of the events.

## Wesley College's gift to Wyn Carr House

**This winter, a group of year 10 boys from Wesley College made a huge effort to support women who have escaped domestic violence.**

Gill Ling, Team Leader at Wyn Carr House (UnitingCare West's crisis accommodation centre for women escaping domestic or family violence) presented at Wesley College and discussed with over eighty boys the cycle of domestic violence and how this cycle can be broken. The students watched a movie about Angela Baker, an Australian schoolgirl who was left severely brain injured and crippled after her boyfriend violently assaulted her at the age of 16.

The Wesley boys were touched by the subject, and were encouraged by their teacher Ms Emel Cobantar to do more. Collectively the boys decided they would each buy a gift for a women living at Wyn Carr - something that would make her feel special, a luxury that she might not be able to buy for herself. The boys brought back beautifully wrapped presents including chocolates, magazines, toiletries, jewellery and scarfs.



During their English class each boy wrote an empowering message to accompany their gift. Josh wrote "Find the strength to move on, whether it is for someone you love or just for yourself". And Tim wrote "Stay strong and always look at the bright side of life. Think of the future not of the past. I wish you a happy and fulfilling life". The boys also selected two poems to pass on to the women.

The women currently living at Wyn Carr House were delighted when they received their gifts.

"They could not believe that young boys of school age would actually care about them like that" explained Gill Ling. "For some of the women it was the first new thing they had received in years, and for others it was their first newly bought gift ever."



*This is just one of the many projects that UnitingCare West is involved in with the Uniting Church School network in Perth.*

## UCW Social Justice Conference for Schools

To strengthen ties between Uniting Church Schools and UnitingCare West, our School Liaison Officer Leone Cottam-Williams, organised our annual Social Justice Conference, this year held in June. The day was a wonderful learning opportunity for both the schools and UnitingCare West, and we welcomed representatives of all Uniting Church Schools in Perth - Methodist Ladies College, Penrhos College, Presbyterian Ladies College, Scotch College, St. Stephens School, Tranby College and Wesley College. Attendees were made up of teachers, chaplains and principals who all got the opportunity to engage with UCW staff and network with other schools.

The topic of the conference was Social Justice, and schools discussed how, through partnership with UCW, they were able to develop compassion and resilience in young people, as well as how to create an understanding of the challenges life presents.

The schools responded positively to the conference which has resulted in several of the Uniting Church primary schools newly involving their students in service learning with UnitingCare West. Many of the teachers said they had not realised the breadth of UnitingCare West, the number of people it helped and just how many different services UCW operated.