

Rainbow at the Zoo

The idea was to bring all the different Rainbow Project groups together in one place so that clients and volunteers could meet, mingle and spend a beautiful day together at Perth Zoo. In April around 21 Rainbow friends, 18 volunteers and 4 staff members explored the zoo's flora and fauna together.

UCW's Rainbow Project offers a fortnightly lunch get-together for people who live with mental illness. Most of the lunch groups are close knit and many of the Rainbow friends have been coming for years. Being spread out over the Perth Metropolitan area however, the groups don't usually get the chance to get together.

Team Leader Claire Lawrie explains "We got positive feedback from the clients, they were given an opportunity to explore the zoo and meet peers, for some of them an activity like this is well beyond their budget and the day was a real treat for them."



Uniting for Change

The National Director of UnitingCare Australia Lin Hatfield Dodds has a vision to transform our communities. The Uniting for Change website is a wonderful new resource that will act as a platform for communities to have their voices heard on issues that matter to them.



On the digital platform you will find topical issues such as Disability Advocacy and Income Support Justice. You can join the discussion, share your opinion and start participating in national and local politics.

Each issue tells you the facts, invites comment and provides avenues to communicate with your local member of parliament. Lin says "real people are affected by bad policy", so register yourself on www.unitingforchange.org.au and start participating.

UnitingCare West takes things a step further

On Wednesday 5 June, UnitingCare West's 2013 Winter Appeal was officially launched by the Minister for Mental Health, Disability and Child Protection, the Honourable Helen Morton MLC at a reception held at the Warehouse Cafe in Shenton Park. Funds raised will go towards our work for the homeless in Perth.



the launch and are available to see on our website.

UnitingCare West's Winter Appeal runs for the three months of winter and we hope to raise a significant amount of money. Please help make the Winter Appeal a success by raising awareness amongst your family, friends and networks. For more information please visit www.unitingcarewest.org.au.

Appeal letters have been sent to all our regular supporters and will be distributed through community newspapers. You can use the donation slip on the back of this newsletter to make a donation, or pass on to friends and family.



UnitingCare West would like to thank all of our loyal supporters of the Winter Appeal throughout the years. We could not do what we do without you!

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 _____

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 VISA MasterCard

Card No.

Cardholder's Name _____

Expiry Date / CCV Signature _____

Regular donation Winter Appeal donation

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

I would like to make a regular donation by direct debit - please contact me.



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Thank You!

Golfing for Homeless Families

On Friday 10 May over 16 organisations from across Perth came together at Royal Perth Golf Club to raise money for UCW. A full course of golfers gathered for an early tee off, lunch and charity auction.

With the annual Fundraising Golf Day, we aim to engage the broader Perth community. The day is an opportunity for the corporate world to learn more about our work and to offer financial assistance to one of our major projects. This year's objective was to raise funds needed for our pilot program to help homeless families; to create a space where families can cook and bathe, a place where mum and dad receive assistance with finding housing and employment while their children are kept safe.

In total the day raised over \$50,000, which goes towards the new service for homeless families due to be piloted this September. To view photos of the day, take a look at our website gallery. You can still donate towards our golf day cause by visiting the donations page of our website and selecting "Golf Day". We will keep you updated about the status of the new centre throughout the coming year.

Ruth Reid awarded for Lifetime Achievement

UnitingCare West has over 140 volunteers operating all over the organisation, from supporting clients living with mental illness at Rainbow Project, to educating students at Trinity Learning Centre and supporting our corporate teams in Finance and People Services.

Ruth Reid, one of our longest standing volunteers with the Rainbow Project won a Lifetime Achievement Award during National Volunteer Week. Ruth was acknowledged at the Volunteer of the Year Awards on Wednesday 15 May. Congratulations Ruth, we are proud to have you as part of our team and want to say "Thanks a Million" to you and all our dedicated volunteers.

Food Rescue joins UCW

Food Rescue is a philanthropic organisation servicing disadvantaged people in WA. It aims to alleviate hunger by rescuing perishable, fresh and nutritious food from cafes, caterers, supermarkets and wholesalers and delivering it to disadvantaged people.



As of 1 May, Food Rescue has merged with UnitingCare West and has become one of our emergency relief programs. Food Rescue will continue to support the 34 organisations already benefitting from the service, including UnitingCare West programs Tranby and Wyn Carr House.

UnitingCare West is committed to retaining the Food Rescue brand, mission and values; and to continue the significant progress and relationships that Food Rescue has built up in its first two years of operation.

Samantha Soley joins us from Food Rescue and will continue to oversee the day to day operation of the program, along with her colleague Mick Nurmi, Team Leader for the program.



Ruth Reid with joint award winner Bill Gaynor.

From the CEO's desk

As part of the launch of our 2013 Winter Appeal, one of our clients, Chris, shared his personal journey with the audience.

When the Homelessness and Support Services Team first met Chris, he was experiencing alcohol issues and homelessness. With his own determination and the support of the team, he pulled himself out of these circumstances. He gave up drinking and found a job, secured a home and was reunited with his children.

To listen to Chris recounting his story was a humbling experience - sharing the hardship he had endured, how he picked himself up, acknowledged his problem and asked for help. To see someone, once living on the streets, back on his feet, fully participating in society and living life to the full, reminds me why we do the work we do.

Life's challenges don't exclude anyone and if we found ourselves in that situation, we would want our community to be there for us too. This winter, UnitingCare West is spreading the message.

We are asking people to think about how they can contribute and help someone take their life a step further. For some it's easy to make a financial contribution, others feel compelled to organise a fundraiser, some roll up their sleeves and volunteer - the possibilities are endless.



As an organisation we are so fortunate to have the dedication and support of so many individuals, congregations and organisations who are passionate about supporting those in need, and for this we are constantly grateful. It is my invitation to everyone else out there to think about what you can contribute this winter to help those who need our support.

Warm regards

Sue Ash, Chief Executive Officer

Recruiting Foster Carers

UnitingCare West runs a range of foster care and out-of-home care programs that help children with a range of physical and emotional needs to find long-term, stable, loving homes when they are no longer able to live with their own family.

We are looking for unique individuals to fill foster and respite carer roles in these programs. Carers can be male or female, single or in a couple, with or without children, working full time or part time, or could be retired. Carers come from all walks of life, but the one



thing they have in common is they like to help others, especially children.

Our foster care programs are looking for people who are warm, confident and who are able to help children feel safe and bring some stability to their lives. If you are interested in supporting children, or know anyone who has the qualities needed, contact the fostering team via fostering@unitingcarewest.org.au, or visit our website for more information.

