

## Embracing diversity

The Dining for Diversity lunch, held on 27<sup>th</sup> April was planned and hosted by young people aged 15-25 in association with the UnitingCare West True Colours program in Bunbury.

The event is a forum where young people can share their perspectives of identifying with stigmatised groups (same sex attracted and gender questioning, culturally diverse backgrounds, disabilities, indigenous, mental illness and young parents).

Members of the general public, special guests and representatives from allied community groups enjoyed a three course meal prepared and served by the hospitality students at The South West Institute of Technology.

Guests listened to a range of experiences and perspectives from those who had experienced difficulty and marginalisation in the community.

The aim of the lunch was to involve and invite as many members of the local community as possible. It was about giving a variety of community members from varied backgrounds the opportunity to engage with young people involved with the True Colours program.

The response to Dining for Diversity was very positive from both the general public and the young people involved in the event. It was a fantastic platform to raise awareness within the community of the struggles, challenges and triumphs faced by those from diverse backgrounds.



**Speaking out:** The invited speakers included young people from a range of backgrounds, who came to share their stories.

## 2012 Golf Day a huge success

UnitingCare West's annual Golf Day was held Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May at the prestigious Royal Perth Golf Club. 28 teams took to the green to support Disability Accommodation Services (DAS).

The 18-hole Ambrose competition tested skill, stamina and patience and the results were extremely close. Only one stroke separated first and second place. Congratulations to the winning team from Fleet West, as well as Kone Australia and Serco for their second and third placings.

John Barnes, Disability Accommodation Services Manager, stopped by with DAS resident PJ to give their thanks. "It's very inspiring to see so many people support UnitingCare West in so many ways, whether it's by playing golf, sponsoring the event, or taking part in the auction - thank you for your contributions to the day."

UnitingCare West is proud to announce that over \$51,500 was raised in total, the largest golf fundraising effort to date. All funds raised on the day are being donated to the Disability Accommodation Services program.

UnitingCare West's disability services are designed to enable us to walk alongside people living with



**A day on the green (L to R):** Acting Chair of UnitingCare West Board Glenda Campbell-Evans, Disability Accommodation Services resident PJ and Disability Services Manager John Barnes enjoying the sun. Photo courtesy of the Community Newspaper Group.

disabilities to assist them in achieving the lives that they want.

Two new residential homes in the program are currently in development. One is being renovated with a grant from the Disability Services Commission and the other is being constructed by the Department of Housing. UnitingCare West will use the funds raised to fit out the houses and turn them into homes.

This will included purchasing a range of specialised equipment for adults with disabilities, fixtures and fittings for their home, and household items such as white goods and furniture.

UnitingCare West would like to extend their sincere thanks to Royal Perth Golf Club for their hospitality, all of the players, and especially the sponsors Macquarie Private Wealth, AON, Westpac, Budget Car & Truck Rental, Downings Legal, Benz Industries, Serco, Commonwealth Bank and Sellstone Maintenance. We would also like to thank our auctioneer for the day, Troy Holloway, for kindly donating his time.



**Winners from Fleet West (L to R):** Steve Meloncelli, Mark Patriarca, Philip Oliver and Eric Brunkwinski with their trophies.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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*



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## From the CEO's desk

The past three months have been extremely busy for UnitingCare West. I am pleased to announce that significant progress has been made with the new 2012–2016 Strategic Plan.

Staff have been involved in three separate consultations in order to brainstorm the new key outcome areas for UnitingCare West, and to discuss any changes that should be made to our mission. External consultations have also been completed and feedback is being compiled. The plan itself is set to be launched Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

The plan will also help UnitingCare West adapt to the implications brought by the latest decisions made in the Federal Budget. Clients will see benefits from investment in social and community housing, mental health and disability.

In other news from the sector, the Community Service Excellence Awards were presented on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The awards recognise not only organisations, but individuals who have made a significant contribution to their communities.

I wish to acknowledge the True Colours team for an honourable mention and the CHOGM Homeless Response and Talking Realities for being nominated for these awards.



I had the pleasure last month of attending and presenting at the 2012 WACOSS conference. This year's theme was "The Big Picture", and representatives from services focusing on social justice and community engagement reflected on pressing issues and what the community sector needs to prioritise in the future.

This will help make the community sector more sustainable, thereby protecting services and support for disadvantaged and vulnerable people in WA. There are also implications to the relationship between the Government and community sector organisations, which UnitingCare West will examine in the coming months - making sure those most in need are still advocated for and that we remain true to our vision, mission and values.

I am proud to be part of such a dynamic organisation, and am thankful for the opportunity to build on the strong foundations laid down by our board.

Warm regards

Sue Ash, Chief Executive Officer

## Easter donation joy



**Easter Treats (L to R):** Alexea Mullan, Nicolette Mullan and Nicole Mullan.  
Photo courtesy of the Community Newspaper Group.

**Mindarie mum of two Nicolette Mullan rallied the community together this Easter to treat children supported by UnitingCare West's services.**

For the second year, Nicolette and 29 of her friends collected over 1,000 chocolate eggs and bunnies to donate to children in need.

UnitingCare West CEO Sue Ash said that contributions from the community are essential to providing something extra special for those who may otherwise miss out.

"I would like to say thank you on behalf of all the children, parents, and program staff for this donation. I know a lot of parents were extremely appreciative of the opportunity to treat their children," Sue said.

## Inspirational achievement

**17 year old Stephanie has been with UnitingCare West's Family Group Homes for over a year. She has graduated Year 12 and is currently completing a bridging course at TAFE in order to study nursing.**

On 17<sup>th</sup> April, Stephanie and other nominees gathered for the WA Youth Awards during National Youth Week at Curtin University. The awards recognise outstanding young people, youth workers and youth groups by highlighting achievements and positive contributions to the community.

Hon. Robyn McSweeney MLC presented Stephanie with not only the Youth Achievement Award, but also an Inspiration Award for her passion and commitment to her studies and her family.

"I want my little sisters to have someone to look up to" says Stephanie, "The awards are more motivation for me to become a good nurse."



**Bright future:** Stephanie pictured with her Ida Curtois Inspiration award.

I want to have a life for myself and one day, a family. I want them to be proud of me."

Staff at UnitingCare West congratulate Stephanie, and wish her the best with her continuing studies.

## What will YOU value this Winter? UnitingCare West launches Winter Appeal

**On Thursday May 31<sup>st</sup>, the launch held at Penrhos College was attended by over 80 people, with the event focusing on continuing work in the local community for those experiencing hardship over winter.**

The launch included UnitingCare West's "What We Value" photography exhibition. The exhibition showcased images and stories from people experiencing homelessness, politicians, key figures in the Uniting Church, Penrhos students and others, all of whom were given the opportunity to submit photographic representations of what they truly value.

The exhibition highlighted both the similarities and differences in what society places value on. Sunday Times Picture Editor Jackson Flindell did a great job as guest speaker relating the images to the issues we were addressing at the launch.

Thank you to everyone who was involved with the success of the event, staff and students of



**Capturing value (L to R):** Penrhos College Principal Meg Melville, Sunday Times Picture Editor Jackson Flindell and UnitingCare West CEO Sue Ash.

Penrhos College, the Hon. Robyn McSweeney MLC and in particular Colin Hannan who spoke of his journey with UnitingCare West and reuniting with his family.

The photo exhibition will also be on display during winter at the Wesley Uniting Church on the corner of William and Hay Streets, Perth.

For further information on the Winter Appeal, or to make a donation, please call 1300 663 298 or visit [www.unitingcarewest.org.au](http://www.unitingcarewest.org.au).