



Join The Dollar Club

UnitingCare West is proud to invite you to become a member of The UCW Dollar Club. It's very easy to become a member of this exclusive club.

By donating just a dollar a day, you can provide a consistent level of support to vulnerable individuals and families in Western Australia.

You will make a valuable contribution in supporting vulnerable people in the community. In addition, as a member, you will receive invitations to supporter thank you events during the course of the year.

A dollar a day, \$365 a year, can make a big difference. This donation can buy 7 family sized food hampers, 10 hygiene packs, 7 swags for rough sleepers or 6 months nappy for a baby.



A wonderful outcome before Christmas

UnitingCare West Fremantle Service Centre was supporting a man experiencing homelessness to find a place to live. After nearly two years in the street, this man was starting to get to the breaking point until he got the wonderful news that his application to rent a room was accepted.

Following this news, the man got in contact with his old employer who offered to give him a second chance to work for him.

UnitingCare West staff members are pleased to share this successful story that warms up our heart before Christmas.

This positive outcome shows how useful our work is and gives us strength to continue to provide care and support for our clients.



Refreshed brand

You might have noticed that UnitingCare West has unveiled a refreshed look incorporating an updated logo and revised colour palette. The change has been an integral part of our 2016-2020 strategy to be seen and heard in the Western Australian community.

Celebrating our 10th anniversary this year, we want our logo to reflect the evolution and growth of the organisation over the past 10 years. Our original logo is well known in the community services sector we work in, but we are seeking to extend this reach to the general community more broadly.

The development of the refreshed brand has established a new way of talking about UnitingCare West, to support our position as a key community services organisation in Western Australia.



Helping people back into the workforce

UnitingCare West's Level Up program started a year ago with the intention to help people who are experiencing long term unemployment to find a job.

The program involves the jobseekers in community projects and supports them in overcoming life's difficulties. Participants of this program will gain work experience in the area of administration, project planning and program management.

The jobseekers participate for six months in the Level Up program, which includes one community project, some skill development workshops such as resume writing and interview preparation.

Level Up participants manage a community project during their time in the program; they will have to finish the project, on time and within budget.

It is a key focus of the Level Up program that the jobseekers have ownership and commitment to the community project they are undertaking and complete as much of the project work

themselves as possible with assistance from the facilitator.

One example of a community project run by Level Up participants is called Aspiring Art.

The jobseekers have participated in workshops with local artist Andy Quilty and produced portraits that will be displayed at the 10th Anniversary Black Swan Prize for Portraiture Community Program.

The Little Library community project promotes literacy and a love for reading within communities and makes children's books more accessible for families.

Since its founding a year ago, the Level Up program realised more than 10 community projects and created some durable partnership with city councils and other organisations.

The Level Up program is currently successfully run from four locations and UnitingCare West will soon open five more centres.

The program has achieved some amazing results so far.

12 participants have secured ongoing employment, one participant secured a volunteer position and we have enrolled 14 jobseekers on an education pathway.

The Level Up program would like to involve more skilled volunteers to share their knowledge with the participants. If you would like to share your skills or if you have a position that needs to be filled, please contact UnitingCare West and ask for the Level Up program at 1300 663 298 or email youth@unitingcarewest.org.au.



Yes! Please accept my donation

Dear Sue,
Please accept my gift below towards the vital services UnitingCare West provides to those most in need.

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  

Card No.

Cardholder's Name _____

Expiry Date / CCV Signature _____

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

You can also donate online via www.unitingcarewest.org.au/donate/



UnitingCare West: 16 Sunbury Road, Victoria Park WA 6100
Postal Address: GPO Box 874, Perth WA 6838
Ph: 1300 663 298 Fax: 1300 663 528
E: admin@unitingcarewest.org.au www.unitingcarewest.org.au

We respect privacy. If you would prefer to not receive further material from UnitingCare West please call us on 1300 663 298



This document is available in alternative formats upon request.

UnitingCare West (UCW) is a community services agency of the Uniting Church that touches the lives of thousands of families and individuals each year.

Our vision is justice, hope and opportunity for all and our mission is to work with people and communities so those most in need can belong and thrive.



From our CEO

December 2016... the last month of our calendar year. We have had some important conversations at UnitingCare West recently. I thought I would share three of them with you.

We were talking about how our services have been making a difference in the lives of people we work with. There was the story of a young person who had struggled to stay engaged with her schooling, but her end of year school report had many of us in tears... she had done so well; and a person who had so many troubles that they had been homeless for more than two years, but this year they will spend Christmas in their own little home; and the Christmas Party where all the residents in the adult accommodation service took up the invitation to organise a celebration for their families.

The staff supported all the

preparations but the excitement about the party was palpable. And these are only three stories...

You will read more about what has been going on a UnitingCare West in other parts of this newsletter.

A second conversation relates to resourcing an increasing demand for services. The changing economic circumstance is leading to an increased need in our community.

Emerging groups of people are vulnerable to homeless and the need for food and financial support to stay housed is increasing. And all of this is happening as Governments are changing their spending priorities and in a number of cases, have less funds available to spend.

Do more for less is the mantra... but this only works for a time, and then there will need to be big changes in the community service system.

The year for those changes looks like it will be 2017. If you are in a position to support our services financially or with voluntary work, there are details on our website www.unitingcarewest.org.au.

And finally, a conversation that is more personal. This will be my last Christmas at UnitingCare West. After nearly six years with the organisation, my season is coming to an end. The next CEO is

expected to be in place by Easter. The message of Christmas is one of hope and new beginnings.

At UnitingCare West our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to live that message and to ensure even those in the darkest places experience something of the hope of the Christmas story.

Thank you for your interest and support in UnitingCare West. May you also know the joy and hope of Christmas and the coming year.

Best wishes,

Sue Ash AO
Chief Executive Officer



Christmas Appeal success

Christmas time is a wonderful time of the year for many with Christmas lights and cheerful carols. However, for people in need this can be a difficult time of the year.

With our Christmas Appeal we make an incredible impact on the community. For the 25th year we have worked with Target stores nationwide to collect presents for children in need. The Uniting Church schools and congregations as well as local businesses have helped us to collect food for Christmas hampers.

We have distributed the hampers and gifts to support people who are experiencing homelessness, disabilities, domestic violence and addictions. People supported the appeal by going to their nearest Target store to purchase a present or by collecting food and delivering it at our UnitingCare West offices. You can read more about the Christmas Appeal on www.unitingcarewest.org.au.

With your help, we have spread the spirit of Christmas to everyone this summer.



Schools support Christmas Appeal

The Uniting Church Schools in WA have once again showed their spirit of giving for this year's Christmas Appeal. Methodist Ladies' College, Presbyterian Ladies College, Penrhos College, Scotch College St Stephen's School, Tranby College and Wesley College have all contributed to providing food and toys for people in need.

As well as huge donations, UnitingCare West have visited the schools to talk about how the appeal works and the clients we support. Thank you to both students and staff.



Students explore food insecurity

St Stephen's School primary students have been exploring the issue of food insecurity both world-wide and in our community. This becomes especially pertinent at Christmas time for some members of our community.

UnitingCare West's School Liaison Officer visited the students to launch their Christmas Appeal. With an interactive activity around "Who's In Need at Christmas?" the students were given the opportunity to discover how it feels when everyone has plenty, and someone has nothing, or very little.

Students were very astute when asked how they could make Christmas better for those that don't have much..." We could share what we have so everyone has the same and everyone can have a nice Christmas". A perfect message for Christmas from a 10 year old.



Stay Connected

 Follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/unitingcarewest

 Connect on LinkedIn
www.linkedin.com/company/unitingcarewest

Upcoming Events 2017

- 4 February** UCW Volunteer Thank You Event
- 1 June** Start Winter Appeal
- 21 July** Christmas in July