

The Advocate

Newsletters for supporters and clients of UnitingCare Harrison



Edition 4 2016



Christmas Appeal 2016

UnitingCare Harrison assists people to take charge of their own lives.

We have been doing this in Melbourne's Eastern region for more than four decades.

In this current economic climate and rental market, more people than ever are coming to us.

Many of these people are already homeless and in crisis when they walk through our doors.

The generous support of individuals, organisations and corporate supporters enables us to offer both crisis and longer-term assistance to those in need.

Please support our mission with a donation.

There is something about this time of year. If you don't have enough food or a place to call home; a bare table or an empty tree at Christmas, it's like lemon juice on a paper cut. But if the table is full, and the kids have gifts, there is a measure of hope. This hope doesn't come from having material things, but from something much deeper.....a sense of being valued and knowing that someone cares.

One in eight Australians are living in poverty, with one in five children affected. So a Christmas morning without presents under the Christmas tree is a sad reality facing many families this year.

With Christmas just around the corner, UnitingCare Harrison has been flooded with requests for assistance with emergency accommodation and food relief.

Whilst others are busy buying Christmas gifts or preparing for their summer holidays, we have seen many parents who simply wish to put a roof over their child's head.

For many the lead up to the festive season is filled with stress, anxiety and angst about their current financial situation, and concern as to how to provide for their loved ones at Christmas.

Here at UnitingCare Harrison we will be assisting over 500 families this Christmas with children's gifts and will distribute more than 100 Crisis Food Hampers in an effort to support families and individuals in our local community.

Throughout the month of December we anticipate an increase in the number of families and individuals in crisis who will be seeking assistance with emergency accommodation, food, toiletries and bedding.

The 2016 UnitingCare and Target Christmas Appeal, now in its 25th year, aims to raise \$1.5 million and collect as many gifts as possible! All money raised will enable UnitingCare to provide assistance with Christmas gifts, food, shelter and crisis support over the Christmas period.

If you would like to make a difference this Christmas:

- ★ Donate to the Christmas Appeal at your local Target Store, at the registers, or by placing a gift under the tree.
- ★ Donate online at <https://www.givenow.com.au/unitingcareharrison> (follow the link on our website).
- ★ Businesses, churches, schools and community groups may support those in their local community by taking part in the Target and UnitingCare Christmas Appeal, or donating online.
- ★ Become a volunteer. Contact Jane Davoren on (03) 9871 8700

1012 Little Burwood Highway
Wantima South 3152
P.O. Box 4503 Knox City 3152

P: (03) 9871 8700
F: (03) 9801 3134
E: enquiries@harrison.org.au
www.unitingcareharrison.org.au
ABN: 61 737 393 012

Hope for Christmas

The Uniting Care Youth and Adolescent Support Team aims to provide a holistic service to our clients, to meet their needs and ultimately assist them to thrive.

The team recognised whilst supporting our young client mix, often two recurring issues kept being raised by clients – social isolation & confidence.

It was highlighted, that most young people who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness have highly fractured personal relationships. Often, relationships with partners may be difficult or obsolete, family support may often be problematic or limited, peers drop away as interests and availability and social opportunities diminish.

This Christmas the Youth and Adolescent Team are determined to add some festive cheer to the lives of the young people and families we support.

Some of our ideas are:

- ★ We will be holding our Young Mums' Christmas lunch for the second year, after the success of last year. It was a great day complete with presents, Santa, bonbons and all the trimmings!
- ★ We are finalizing numbers for the "high ropes course" in Belgrave for our adolescent clients to assist with confidence, resilience and building relationships with others
- ★ We are looking at "Bubble Soccer" and Christmas Lunch options for our homeless young singles who would otherwise be without.
- ★ We are seeking funding to add Christmas decorations and "Christmas Cheer" to our youth share properties, thus enabling the spirit of Christmas within our properties.

The Uniting Care Youth Homelessness and Adolescent Support programs consistently strive for positive outcomes for young people, aim to build skills, link them to appropriate services and facilitate people into appropriate education, employment and training outcomes.



This Christmas, like every Christmas, is a celebration of the achievements of the young people in our programs.

The combined experiences of young people allows for meaningful conversation, linking of important social networks, recommendations of services and practitioners, as well as lasting bonds which we hope is fostered for the foreseeable future.

If you would like to support any of our Youth and Adolescent Christmas Programs please contact Stephen Milliken, Team Leader - Youth and Adolescent Support on (03) 9871 8700 or Stephen.Milliken@harrison.org.au

The logo for 'Hope for Christmas' is displayed on a white background. The word 'hope' is written in a large, green, cursive font. Below it, the words 'for Christmas' are written in a smaller, red, cursive font.

The Body Shop - Corporate Volunteers

On a beautiful sunny day in September a group of keen gardening volunteers arrived from The Body Shop to undertake a "front yard blitz" at Gifford Village in Croydon North.

As part of their commitment to assist local communities, the Body Shop support and encourage their employees to participate in their Corporate Volunteer program.

Armed with secateurs, gardening gloves, hats, sunblock and sturdy footwear they ventured out to Gifford Village to trim, prune, rake and beautify the communal and resident's front gardens.

With expert advice and guidance from Harrison's Gardening team, the crew from The Body Shop made a big impact and delighted many of the residents at Gifford Village. The day ended with a spruced up garden space and a team of tired but happy volunteers.

Many thanks to Julie Tang at Eastern Volunteers and The Body Shop team - fabulous job!



Thank you!

We would like to thank the following organisations and companies that have supported us so generously in the last few months:

Bakers Delight - Wantirna Mall
Brumbys - Studfield
Bushy Park Produce
Chat 'n' Share Group - Hamilton
Croydon North Uniting Church
Ferntree Gully Uniting Church
FoodBank
IGA - Wantirna Mall
Lilly Patches - Boronia
Second Bite
SHARE Appeal
The Body Shop
The Bridge Chicken Shop
Wesley Uniting Church
Knitters - Box Hill

Help make Christmas happen for families in your community



You can make a difference in a number of ways:

- ★ Businesses can invite a member of our team to speak to your staff about how they can make a difference.
- ★ Hold an information and fundraising event at your local school, church or sporting club to raise awareness of those battling the cold in your local community.
- ★ Have your friends and families get together to donate food, toiletries, bedding or any items from the list below.
- ★ Make a Tax Deductible monetary donation and help us purchase the much needed items below.

How your support can make a difference:

\$25 Hygiene Packs

Provide both male and female hygiene packs to homeless clients. Included in these packs are items such as soap, shampoo, sanitary items, toothpaste and deodorant. These goods are essential for people who live on the streets.

\$30 Singles & \$45 Family Food Parcels

Singles who live in rooming houses, on the street or in parks are provided with "ready to eat" food items which require minimal cooking, such as the addition of hot water, or a short blast in the microwave.
Family packs contain food for a two day period (3 meals per day), consisting of staples such as milk, Weetbix, pasta & sauce and healthy snacks.

\$75 Youth Starter Packs

Provides vital resources required to sustain a tenancy and achieve personal growth. Packs include cleaning products, toilet paper, tea towels, laundry powder, coat hangers, pegs, soap, towels, toiletries, food hampers, sanitary items, bedding, clothing, food vouchers and much more.

\$100 Emergency Accommodation

Provides a motel room for one night for a homeless family.

\$500 Rescuing families from rooming houses

Provides support and advocacy to get families out of overcrowded rooming houses into safe and affordable long term accommodation.

\$120 per week Fruit Program

Provides fresh fruit and vegetables to our youth share properties.

I would like to make a difference:

Making a Donation

Please fill out the details below or call Jo Woodward on (03) 9871 8700 to make a donation.

Visit www.givenow.com.au/unitingcareharrison to make a donation online. All Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible and a receipt will be issued.

Name

Address

State P/Code Ph

Email

Please Indicate Amount

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 or \$

All Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. A receipt will be issued.

Payment Method

Cheque or Money Order
Please make payable to UnitingCare Harrison

 

Card number

Card expiry date

Signature

Please return to UnitingCare Harrison PO Box 4503 Knox City 3152

Your generous support can help us to assist people to take charge of their own lives