



Give a little, it means a lot.

Christmas is meant to be a wonderful time of year, but for those experiencing illness, family violence, homelessness or crisis, it can be the most difficult time of all.

Imagine being a child on Christmas day, full of all the hope that Christmas brings, only to discover that there's nothing under the Christmas tree. And imagine being the parent that's had such a hard year, they can't give their children a proper Christmas.

Last year, thanks to your wonderful support, we distributed around 1200 presents to 500 families/individuals including older persons who are socially isolated and 80 food hampers, spreading the joy of Christmas far and wide.

With your continued support we hope to help even more people experiencing marginalisation and disadvantage. We urgently need donations of gifts suitable for infants, teenagers and adults.

Drop your food and gifts directly to us or at Target Camberwell, Eastland, Knox and Waverley Gardens.

UnitingCare Harrison has joined together with other community service organisations in Victoria and Tasmania to form a single organisation Uniting.

Uniting

Volunteers put green thumbs to good use

Swapping body lotions and pamper packs for rakes, secateurs and gardening gloves, a group of eight corporate volunteers from The Body Shop recently put their green thumbs to use in the garden at the Maroondah Retirement Village, Healesville.

The enthusiastic group arrived in our mini bus and spent the day clearing away leaves, branches and garden debris from the many gum trees ahead of bush fire season.

Uniting Harrison's two-person gardening team—Simone and Justin—were grateful to the crew for the help to prepare for the hot summer ahead.

The Body Shop crew had a great day up in beautiful, leafy Healesville, dining at the delicious Beechworth Bakery for lunch. They certainly deserved to sample the bakery's famous Bienenstich (bee sting) cake after filing up four truckloads.

Thank you to our volunteers from The Body Shop.



Stories behind the art

Art can tell a powerful story, especially for people with disability or mental illness who might find it hard to communicate in conventional ways.

The stories of our very talented group of artists from Uniting Harrison's Gifford Arts program were on display at two notable exhibitions recently.

Ten successful artists displayed 16 artworks in the theme *Shadows and Light* at the annual Black Dog Community Art Exhibition in the City of Monash.

In November, four artists were chosen to display art at the Annual State Trustees Connected Art Exhibition in Federation Square. A painting by one of the artists was sold at the exhibition.

Community Engagement Officer, Jane Davoren, said she was proud to have so many artists represented at both exhibitions.

"Participants describe our art class as the highlight of their week, and we're delighted some of them were selected for this exhibition," she said.

"Our youngest artist is in their 30s while our oldest is in their 80s, which highlights that the art space provided is as much about the conversations taking place and sense of social inclusion as it is about the art."

Planting trees on the Grace Burn

We are very lucky that the much-loved Grace Burn waterway runs through Maroondah Retirement Village, and even luckier that the community is going to play a part in its restoration.

Thanks to the Melbourne Water River Health Incentives program, over the next three years the waterway will be restored by local volunteers.

Already, volunteers from Mount Toolebewong & District Landcare and Healesville High School have visited Maroondah Retirement Village to plant trees along the waterway, with residents getting involved in their own way.

Two residents hosted a morning tea of biscuits and hot chocolate for approximately 13 year nine students in the community hall. While devouring their snacks, the students also enjoyed hearing the history of the village and life stories of some of the residents.



Thank you

A very heart-felt thank you to our supporters this period.

Ararat West Uniting Church
Bakers Delight - Wantirna Mall
Boronia Centrelink
Brumby's - Studfield
Chat 'n' Share Group - Hamilton
Chicks for Charity
Croydon North Uniting Church
Emerald Uniting Church
Ferntree Gully Uniting Church
Koonung Heights Uniting Church
FoodBank
GS1 Australia
Heathmont Uniting Church
IGA - Wantirna Mall
Lifestyle Officer
Lilly Patches - Boronia
Monbulk Country Women's Association
North Balwyn Uniting Church
Rotary Club of Emerald & Districts
Rotary Club of Knox
Scoresby Uniting Church
Second Bite
SHARE Appeal
Share the Dignity
St Johns Uniting Church Australia OpShop
The Body Shop
Three (300) Hundred Blankets
Toorak Churches Ecumenical
Wesley College - Glen Waverley
Wesley Uniting Church Knitters - Box Hill

You have given me a future.

When 18-year-old Nate* first arrived at Uniting Harrison, he had nothing but the clothes on his back.

Confused, anxious and exhausted from sleeping rough, his personal hygiene, self-care, physical and mental health required immediate attention.

Nate's life has not been easy. From an early age he was subjected to family violence and neglect. Lack of parental support and role models in his life meant that Nate turned to drug use at an early age.

The last time he remembered receiving a gift from his parents was when he was 13 years old.

With the right support from Uniting Harrison and Nate's desire to make a positive change and improve his future has put him on the path of getting his life back on track.

By linking Nate with crisis accommodation, mental health services, counselling and providing clean clothes and hygiene items, Nate has now been able to turn his attention to achieving his dream of becoming a paramedic.



For the young people like Nate who walk through the doors at Uniting Harrison, the best possible outcome can be achieved when they have access to support, coaching and guidance. Our youth team are committed and passionate about making lasting, positive change for young people by linking them into education, employment or training, as well as providing everyday essentials to our most vulnerable clients.

*We've taken steps to protect the identity of our client.

Yes, I will support people in the local community access vital programs and services which enhance their wellbeing.

My details

Name: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I will give: \$ _____ I will give by:

Cheque/mail order payable to Uniting Visa Mastercard Amex

Cardholder name: _____

Signature: _____

Card number: _____

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