AT Christmas time locals in need turn to UnitingCare to help put food on the table, buy gifts for their children, for temporary accommodation and to help meet the rising cost of living.

Your small change can make a big difference through the UnitingCare and Target Christmas Appeal.

This year marks the 24th year Target and UnitingCare have partnered for the Christmas Appeal and are calling on Australians to rally together and help those most in need.

Traditionally the appeal has focused on the collection of gifts, which will continue this year, however with the generosity of Target customers it is hoped to raise $1 million this year to provide emergency relief.

The Christmas Appeal launched in all Target stores across the country on November 3 and runs through until Christmas Eve.

Shoppers are encouraged to drop off unwrapped gifts at the layby counter or purchase a $1 bauble gift tag at the checkout.

UnitingCare staff and volunteers collect the gifts, receive donations and ensure they are both distributed to those in need in time for Christmas.

In addition to the UnitingCare and Target Christmas Appeal, the Merredin Churches Fraternal will be collecting and distributing food hampers.

Items of non-perishable food will be collected and donated by the Churches and the public.

To donate any food items, there is a bin set up in IGA.