



West Australian
15/06/2009
Page: 30
General News
By: Dawn Gibson
Region: Perth
Circulation: 192964
Type: Capital City Daily
Size: 324.83 sq.cms
Frequency: MTWTFS-

More families fighting to keep homes

DAWN GIBSON

The charity arm of the Uniting Church has reported a huge increase in families seeking help to keep their homes as the economic crisis continues.

UnitingCare West chief executive Chris Hall said the organisation was turning away a growing number of people each week because it did not have enough resources to help them, a situation which has become the norm across the community services sector.

"We are currently seeing the numbers coming to our services rise three-fold, with the biggest demand being for assistance with rental payments," he said.

"Seventy per cent of the emergency

relief delivered in the past three months has been for this."

The charity launched its winter appeal last week at Wesley College.

Photographs with a social justice theme taken by the school's students were on display.

Several were auctioned to contribute to the appeal, which aims to raise at least \$200,000.

Mr Hall acknowledged that it was a difficult time for charities to ask for funds, but said it was imperative that the WA community continued to keep sharing to help people in greater need than themselves.

"We are seeing unprecedented numbers of West Australians facing homelessness and disadvantage," he said.

"Many of the victims are children,

many of them are the so-called working poor."

Wesley College teacher Nathan Jesup said the school's curriculum included "real life" programs intended to make students think beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

As part of the social justice lessons, students visited a centre for the homeless and spent time in the CBD taking photographs that told a story about disadvantage, often from an abstract point of view.

He said the program aimed to break down stereotypes students might have about people who were more disadvantaged than themselves.

To donate, telephone 1300 663 298 or log into www.unitingcarewest.org.au.



In frame: Wesley Year 10 student Wesley Moore with a picture of his used in the UnitingCare appeal.

Picture: Kerry Edwards