



## EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HOME

### Foster Care

In Western Australia there are a number of children and young people living with disability or other complex needs. Many are waiting to be placed in loving, family environments and until a suitable home can be found, they remain in emergency accommodation or a residential facility.

UnitingCare West Futures Foster Care service recruits, assesses, trains and supports Foster Carers. Have you ever considered opening your heart and your home to become a foster carer?

Carers are women and men of all ages and walks of life. They come from different cultures and backgrounds, financial and domestic circumstances, some are single, some are married, some have their own children while others don't.

What's important is they are warm, loving and confident people, fully prepared to make a long-term commitment to nurture and support a child's growth and development with empathy and compassion.

Troy was 11 when he entered the Futures Foster Care program. Due to a mild intellectual disability, he was moved into a new school where he met educational assistant Tina. The bond was immediate and after assessment and training, Troy became part of the family and has been living with Tina and her family for 9 years. It has been a very rewarding experience, as Tina explains:

"When I fostered Troy I took it on forever, I was committed, I was committed to anything that came our way because I knew with the love and support I had for him, we would beat all the challenges and get the rewards.

My hope for his future is getting a car, so he has his independence, getting his own little place, close to here because I don't want him too far from me, but total independence. I want him to know how to budget, how to take care of himself and his home, but he'll always come over for Sunday dinners with the rest of us. His career is taking off and that's his forever, maybe a girlfriend and a marriage down the track... grandchildren would be nice.... And I see all that for him, he's a very clever man."

There are children and young people in our community desperately missing out on the love and support that will make a world of difference to their lives. By becoming a foster-carer you will be creating a brighter future, like Tina and her family, for a child in need and setting out on a journey that will be challenging but endlessly rewarding.



### Therapeutic Garden Project

What is a therapeutic garden? It is a garden that has beneficial outcomes for children and young people who have experienced trauma, abuse and neglect. The young people who are living in supported accommodation through UnitingCare West have experienced a history of trauma and are living with a disability and/or complex medical care needs for which a therapeutic garden has many benefits.

We are thrilled to announce a partnership between master gardener and celebrity Sabrina Hahn and UnitingCare West.

Sabrina has provided her assistance pro bono, helping to

plan and implement the first of four therapeutic gardens, which will contribute to even better outcomes for the children, young people and adults supported through UnitingCare West's disability support services.

Betta Turf, Creation Landscape Supplies and Benara Nurseries donated materials and supplies for the project and volunteers Nathan King, Tracey Bahen and Angela Cattermole provided much needed assistance with the planting of the garden. A wonderful outcome for UnitingCare West and the individuals and groups who will benefit from the therapeutic gardens.



### Yes! Please accept my donation

- \$25 pays for a person to participate in a community lunch
- \$50 pays for a sleeping bag provided at Tranby Centre
- \$150 pays to feed a family for a week
- \$365 pays for crisis accommodation for 15 nights
- OR your choice of \$  one off donation
- OR \$  each month to provide ongoing assistance

From \_\_\_\_\_  
Title Name

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Payment Details

A cheque/money order is enclosed and made payable to UnitingCare West.

Please debit my credit card  VISA

Card No. / / / / /

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date /

Card CCV (Credit Card Validation - last 3 digits on rear of card)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I would like further information on leaving a bequest to UnitingCare West.

Charitable Collections Licence No 20767 ABN 75 467 729 203  
Send donation slip to UnitingCare West 16 Sunbury Road VICTORIA PARK WA 6100



## From our CEO

I'm so thrilled to have joined the UnitingCare West team and want to share what has brought me to you.

I started in the community sector 20 years ago, as a support worker at the Cerebral Palsy Association. After getting my degree in Social Science (Human Services), I was appointed in the role of CEO of Recreation and Sport Network WA, now Inclusion WA, where I strategically facilitated the inclusion of people with a disability into community sport and recreation. I was there for several

years before becoming CEO of the Gowrie WA, an Early Childhood community organisation. After completing my Masters in Leadership and Management and supporting my daughter through her final year of high school, I joined Anglicare WA as Executive General Manager Self Directed Services, where I had the opportunity to research how service users can be placed firmly in the centre to have more choice and control in their services and how we can adapt to enable this to occur.

As the State Director of Mission Australia, I've been fortunate to lead both Western and South Australia in a transformational change in order to reach new clients; to create innovative, flexible and evidence-based services; and to build meaningful engagement and a supportive community.

What also drives me is a great passion for quality of life for all people and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live as a

contributing citizen, with a valued place in their community.

I aim to continue to build a strong workplace at UnitingCare West and will be bringing a great deal of energy towards the next season of growth and change in this time of reform in the disability and out of home care sector.

I am truly inspired by a future of working alongside the staff and volunteers at UnitingCare West who share the values of empathy, respect, inclusion, integrity and commitment; and who aim towards justice, hope and opportunity for all.

**Amanda Hunt**  
Chief Executive Officer



## Level Up's big bike swap at Tranby

**Bike Swap provides repaired pre-loved bikes to people experiencing homelessness at UnitingCare West's Tranby Centre.**

The initiative was launched in January by UnitingCare West's Level Up program where jobseekers, who are undertaking a training program to develop their employment and professional skills, are repairing old bikes so that they look like new again.

The jobseekers who are participating in the Level Up bike rescue program are supported by atWork Australia jobseeker program. Together they refurbish old and worn down bicycles. The participants collect bikes from donors or source them from verge collections. The state of each bike gets assessed and the



jobseekers make a plan for each bike to clean them up and make them roadworthy.

Level Up jobseekers put together a manual to go with each bike that includes practical tips for bike maintenance and safety. People experiencing homelessness can then register for a refurbished bike at UnitingCare West's Tranby Centre. Alternatively, they can bring their old bike and swap it for a bike that was refurbished by Level Up. We encourage people to cycle safely and therefore each client receives a driver's safety kit which includes a helmet, lock and drink bottle.

All the bikes are inspected and taken to a professional bike repairer for a safety inspection and a test before being handed out to clients.



## Plastic recycling program at Food Rescue

**Recycling plastics so that they can be turned into plastic bins and chairs has become part of the daily business at UnitingCare West's Food Rescue.**

The service is separating an estimated four cubic metres of plastic at the moment, including supermarket packaging for fruit and vegetables that we rescue. Instead of depositing plastics at landfill, this new system helps the environment by recycling plastics.

Each week, Food Rescue recycles four different types of plastics that are picked up by a company called CLAW Environmental. CLAW melts the plastic down into a form that can be used in the remanufacturing process to make various products.

CLAW also collects the foam boxes that some foods are transported in. They are compressed and sent to China, where they are turned into coat hangers and floor boards.



## Stay Connected

Follow us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/unitingcarewest](http://www.facebook.com/unitingcarewest)

Connect on LinkedIn  
[www.linkedin.com/company/unitingcarewest](http://www.linkedin.com/company/unitingcarewest)

## Upcoming Events 2017

- 25 May Uniting Church Schools Student Forum
- 28 May HBF Run for a Reason
- 13 June Winter Appeal launch and Wilf Sargent House official opening



## WA Disability Support Awards

UnitingCare West staff Joyce Merritt and Gavin Denz were recently nominated for a WA Disability Support award. They were recognised along with 750 delegates for their contribution to the disability sector.

Congratulations Joyce and Gavin!

## Volunteer thank you party

On 4 February, UnitingCare West celebrated the contribution of nearly 600 volunteers with an afternoon tea.

Guests of honour were the people who volunteer with UnitingCare West services who help to assist people in need.

The volunteers and their special contribution of time, dedication and commitment were acknowledged by previous CEO Sue Ash AO.

