



A new beginning for the Friendship Club

Uniting Community House (UCH) was established in 1999 and provided a range of social and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and those who are isolated or stigmatised within the community.

Seventeen years on, this much loved community program has begun a new chapter, with a new name – Friendship Club. Along with the name, coordination has also changed, with UCW handing over the reins to Wesley Chapel at Guildford Uniting Church, the Friendship Club's base since 2017.

Friendship Club volunteer coordinator Pixie Byers said the

group was thankful for the support of UCW over the years, but the time was right to focus on a more local initiative.

“Wesley Chapel had been considering the feasibility of offering a new outreach service to the community, or providing assistance to an existing service, so this was the perfect opportunity.

“Being able to offer the church's premises and be more closely involved with the Friendship Club really is a ‘God given opportunity’ to meet this need,” Pixie said.

UCW wishes the Friendship Club the best for their new beginning.



A first for WA

The CAFTS team from UCW organised and hosted the first ever CSATS (Child Sexual Abuse Therapy Services) roundtable event in WA on 11 and 12 January.

Professionals from across the sector in Western Australia gathered at UCW's Central Office for a roundtable conference with guest speakers, world café groups and inspiring professional development sessions.

Feedback from the conference will help shape direction of services into the future.

#Apology10

UnitingCare West acknowledges Apology Day 2018

A series of incredibly powerful and moving events were held across UCW service centres on Tuesday 13 February to mark the 10th Anniversary of Kevin Rudd's Apology to the Stolen Generation.

The events, designed in collaboration with staff and communities were held to provide an opportunity for reflection and to talk about the work that still needs to be done.

It provided an opportunity for staff to share thoughts and reflections about this monumental day and the ramifications of the policies and legislation that brought about the Stolen Generation Regime

Thank you to all who joined us, especially Kinship Connections Aboriginal Corporation for sharing their personal stories and the impact one word has had on their lives.

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of Prime Minister

Kevin Rudd's apology in Parliament to Australia's Aboriginal Peoples, particularly the Stolen Generation. The Apology is now considered a defining moment in Australian history.

UCW is committed to reconciliation, and is currently in the process of developing our second stage Reconciliation Action Plan. UCW plays an active role in reconciliation by demonstrating empathy, respect, inclusiveness, integrity and commitment. We are committed to proactively engaging with Aboriginal Peoples and communities to improve the delivery of culturally respectful and appropriate services. It is our intent to be a sought after place of opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

To find out more about reconciliation at UCW, contact rap@unitingcarewest.org.au.



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

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From our CEO

Thousands of Western Australians are seeking help every day to deal with spiralling debt, bills that can't be paid and the very real threat of having their power cut off, or not being able to afford a roof over their head.

Our Creditcare service is part of the Financial Counselling Network, supporting people across Perth to manage their debts and find some stability in their lives. But our resources are stretched.

Together with Anglicare WA and our partner agencies, we have been negotiating with the State Government to expand services to more suburbs with high needs.

I am pleased to say that last month, the Department of Communities announced almost \$1million in new funding, creating 11 new services in Morley, Mirrabooka, Alkimos/Yanchep, Innaloo, Cannington, Canning Vale, Forrestfield, Byford, Kwinana and Hamilton Hill. Services in Ellenbrook have also been expanded.

In total, there will be 15 member organisations delivering financial counselling services in 25 locations across the metropolitan area.

To say it's much needed is an understatement.

People are coming to us in record numbers with multiple debts and complex issues, with unemployment and under-employment at the forefront.

This service expansion is critical in helping to meet this ever-growing demand.

So many individuals are struggling on low and fixed incomes that haven't kept pace with the cost of living. One large power bill or an unexpected medical issue can tip the balance for those living on the brink of a financial crisis.

The Financial Counselling Network helps people through tough times, and more importantly, gives them the skills and confidence to become self-reliant and manage their own finances.

Together as a network we will continue to explore opportunities to better support vulnerable people in our community.

Visit :

financialcounsellingnetwork.org.au



Amanda Hunt
Chief Executive Officer



UCW Welcomes new Chaplain, Sophia Lizares

In February, UCW welcomed our new Chaplain to the team, Sophia Lizares. Sophia will soon be ordained as a Deacon in the Uniting Church. Here, she shares a little about what this new role will bring to the UCW community...

What's my role at UCW?

I will be walking alongside staff, volunteers, clients and their families. Already UCW offers many opportunities for wellness and other forms of individual support. I hope to enhance these services focusing on whole-being through presence and accompaniment, and the sharing of sacred spaces, rituals and resources from the world's great spiritual traditions. My work will include collaborating with religious, business and partner agencies within the UCW network.

What am I looking to achieve?

I look forward to co-creating a thriving, soulful and purposeful community where people feel valued and challenged. In our busy lives, I seek to broaden space for reflective practice. As part of the Second Peoples in Australia, I wish to be part of reconciliation by leaning toward a deeper understanding of the culture and spirituality of the First Peoples, particularly the Aboriginal Noongar people, the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which UCW serves.

Who or what inspires you?

Kind hearts, fierce minds, brave spirits; vast empty spaces, rugged coasts and mountains, karri forests; storms, sunsets and moonrises; God's bias for the poor and the vulnerable and God's love and hope for all persons and all of creation.



New Initiative for Combined Schools Project

At the end of last year a committee was formalised to decide on a project for the Combined School Project. The group is made up of two representatives from each of the Uniting Church schools in WA.

The committee will collaborate on a variety of activities to raise awareness of social justice issues in communities. Its aim is to develop a platform for students to ensure that there is a sense of justice, hope and opportunity for all starting at school and filtering out into their local, wider communities.

The committee is in the planning stages of a fundraising event due to take place at the end of 2018. We look forward to keeping you posted as the initiative develops.

Dates for the Diary 2018

- 15 March Close the Gap Day
- 21 March Harmony Day
- 25 April ANZAC Day
- 15-21 May National Families Week
- 26 May Sorry Day
- 27 May Start of Reconciliation Week
- 1 June Start of UCW Winter Appeal

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Can you lend a hand?

Can you spare 3-4 hours a week to help us provide a hand up for families with children doing it tough? We're looking for volunteers to join our Family Foundations program, working with families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to enjoy better lives. To find out more, call Elaine on 9355 9022 or email volunteers@unitingcarewest.org.au

Leaving a gift for those in need

One of the most effective ways of helping UnitingCare West is by remembering us in your Will. A gift in your Will is a lasting, caring gesture and will make a long term difference in the lives of the people most in need in our community.

We appreciate every gift – large or small and are grateful for all contributions, as they help us carry out vital work in our community.

Family and loved ones should always come first though, so when contemplating a gift in your Will it is very important to us that you have considered the needs of your family.

If you have decided to leave us a gift in your Will, or would like to discuss the process, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Gillian Booth-Yudelman on 9355 9139 to set up an appointment.

