

Fostering Dreams Come True

In June 2008, Jake was placed in his now 'forever home' with UnitingCare West Specialised Foster Carers, Beth and Neil.

Since then, Jake's carers have provided a loving, nurturing and stable home for Jake where he has continued to thrive.

Beth and Neil have consistently demonstrated their capacity to meet Jake's high and complex care needs along with his physical, emotional and social needs; they have also demonstrated their commitment to maintaining Jake's connection with his biological parents.

Beth and Neil's love for Jake

A dream has become a reality for Jake's long term Carers!

and their commitment to his long term care motivated their decision to apply for a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) which was supported by the Department of Communities: Child Protection and Family Support and UCW's Futures Foster Care team.

On 27th April, in the Children's Court of WA, Jake's SGO was approved, granting Beth and Neil overall parental responsibility.

Following the hearing Jake, his

carers and his biological parents marked the day with celebratory lunch to mark a very special day.

Congratulations to a wonderful family. We look forward to sharing more of their stories in the future.



Could you make a difference like Beth & Neil?

At UCW we work with children and young people who for a variety of reasons aren't able to live with their family. That is where Foster Carers come in to our work.

We are looking for people with empathy and compassion, who are passionate, resilient and able to make a long term commitment to nurture children and support their development.

If this is you and you'd like to know more about fostering or respite care, call us on (08) 6279 1800 or email futures@unitingcarewest.org.au.

UCW hosts Annual Public Meeting

Around 60 people joined us at The Platform in Perth on Tuesday 18 September for our Annual Public Meeting, where the focus was on the exciting journey UCW is on as part of our renewal process, including unveiling details of our iconic new central office being developed in East Perth.

Our Board Chairperson Peter Fitzpatrick AO provided an overview of UCW's achievements over the past 12 months, before introducing our guest speaker,

former WA Chief Justice Wayne Martin AC QC. Recently retired, Mr Martin delivered a passionate talk on the impact our justice system and mental health issues are having on the lives of people experiencing homelessness.

Our CEO Amanda Hunt continued the theme, talking about the work UCW is doing in collaboration with other community sector partners to end homelessness in WA. This includes the 'Transform Tranby' project, which will see our

homelessness day centre become a multi-purpose engagement hub, better connecting people to programs and services to help them exit homelessness.

Amanda also talked about the importance of UCW's new central office being co-located with the Tranby Centre, as part of our commitment to be present in the lives of those experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage in our community every day.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TODAY!

We cannot run the services we do without your contribution. **DONATE TODAY**

Your contribution will help build a community where everyone can belong and thrive.

Contact us on 1300 663298 or donate online at www.unitingcarewest.org.au/donate.

Thank you for your invaluable support.



Transform Tranby, Transform Lives!

Almost 9,000 people experience homelessness in WA on any given night, with around 200 visiting our Tranby Centre every day the doors are open.

As part of our 2018 Winter Appeal, we embarked on a long-term project to transform the Tranby Centre into a multi-purpose engagement hub to better connect people experiencing homelessness with the support they need to lead a better life - a life where they can participate as valued, contributing citizens of our community.

Thanks to your support, we have now begun the transformation process, but there's a long way to go.

In consultation with clients, we have created a 'soft room' within Tranby, providing a more relaxed and welcoming space for people to meet.

Work is now underway on a second room and we are also talking to clients about developing a 'Community & Learning Hub'. It's our hope that by engaging clients with learning opportunities, they

will develop the skills to play an active role in the Transform Tranby process.

This is all part of UCW's renewed focus on giving people a hand up, as opposed to simply a hand out; where they will be connected with services that take them beyond the surface level 'cornflakes and hot shower' approach towards real life changing opportunities.

Transforming the environment of Tranby and the way it functions, will encourage more meaningful engagement and provide access to an increased range of services; supporting people out of the cycle of homelessness.

By supporting Transform Tranby you will be walking alongside people experiencing homelessness on the journey towards a place they can call home.

Help us to make a lasting contribution to the community and to ending homelessness.

Donate now. Every single cent you donate will go to the Transform Tranby campaign and help to end homelessness in WA.

As a committed member of the WA Alliance to End Homelessness, UCW is working alongside community sector partners to implement a 10 year strategy to end homelessness by 2028.

Not just to reduce, but to end it.

www.endhomelessnesswa.com





The Gift of Giving!

Dianella mother Alwynn Hynes wanted to give her Son Bobby something special for his first birthday, something he could reflect on in later life as an event that helped shape the person he would become.

That birthday present was the 'gift of giving'. In March 2018, Alwynn created a Facebook page 'Christmas in July - Gift a Basket 2018', in the hope of motivating a small group of friends to collect baskets of food and essential items for Perth people doing it tough.

That small group of friends soon swelled to hundreds and in May, Alwynn and her friends delivered their first load of donated goods to UCW's Victoria Park office – more

than 40 baskets, backpacks and laundry hampers full of food, baby items, cooking utensils, sleeping bags, back to school packs, cleaning products and much more.

That was just the beginning, with Facebook support continuing to grow as people were inspired to pitch-in and lend a hand.

Fast forward to June and the day of Bobby's first birthday. It would be a special day not only for one little boy, but for the supporters of Alwynn's project and UCW staff.

Five cars arrived in convoy, packed with donated goods. One-by-one, staff members touched by the spectacle taking place before them, emerged from the office to roll up their sleeves and help unpack. This

load more than tripled the May donation, with another 140 baskets being delivered.

Alwynn said it was her hope that through projects like this, her generation can spark a flame among people to give back and get involved in their communities.

"If we as parents give more, then our kids are going to learn from that." Alwynn said.

"It's more about creating a new generation where people look outside themselves and care just as much about the act of giving as the act of receiving."

UCW CEO Amanda Hunt said the effort and thought that had gone into planning and making this project come together was truly inspirational.

"When you get people together and achieve what you've done, which is to **absolutely show love for people doing it tough**, that makes a huge difference. Community really is the answer and Bobby will have a wonderful message to take with him in life."



Congratulations to our Board Chairperson



Our Board Chairperson, **Peter Fitzpatrick AO**, has been recognised in the 2018 Queens Birthday Honours List.

Peter received the **Order of Australia** honour for "distinguished service to the community, particularly in Western Australia, through roles with veterans' welfare, business, legal and not-for-profit organisations, and to social justice".

Congratulations Peter! Very well deserved.

Do you have an idea!

Are you like Alwynn and passionate about making a difference in your community?

We'd love to hear from you. We are always looking for new and imaginative ways to raise funds for our work.

If you want to make a difference give our Communications Team a call on **1300 663 298!**



UCW serves up a busy week of events for NAIDOC 2018

It was a whole week of NAIDOC 2018 celebrations at UCW this year, with all of our connection hubs embracing the "Because of Her, We Can" theme!

Inner City

At our Tranby Centre, it was a full week, with something happening every day.

Monday started with serving 200 egg and bacon roles and Noongar Elder, Elizabeth Hayden sharing a wonderful Welcome to Country.

On Wednesday a team from our corporate supporter Site Service Holdings helped serve up a feast of Roo and damper over a few yarns.

They also screened 'Footy Magic', with one of the film makers coming along to talk about making the series and the Aboriginal footy legends that paved the way for the young guys playing today.

Our family support program, Family Foundations, had its NAIDOC event on Thursday and told dreamtime stories around a camp fire. On Friday the Selfless Servers came down to offer shoulder and head massage, Reiki, sound healing, art activities and music to accompany another great feed of Roo Pie.

Outer North

It was a fantastic turnout at our Merriwa connection hub on Friday to celebrate NAIDOC 2018 and to unveil a new aboriginal inspired mural inside the centre designed and painted by students from St Stephen's School Carramar.

Local Elder, Uncle Ron Gidgup presented a Welcome to Country and dancers performed dances of the Whadjuk Noongar people.

South East Metro

Our Freo team celebrated on Tuesday with a community lunch, complete with Roo Tail Stew, damper and Spaghetti Bolognaise.

Social work students from UWA created an art activity, asking 'What does NAIDOC mean to you?'

Everyone also reflected on the important roles Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women play in our community.



Central

Our own Executive Cultural Architect here at UCW, Djidi - Djidi Josey Hansen, a proud Noongar woman, wife, mother, Nan, Great Nan and Great-Great Nan presented at our Victoria Park office with family members sharing their experience of an influential mother.

A truly inspiring way to bring a week long celebration across all our connection hubs to a close.

Thank you to all the inspiring Indigenous women who shared stories this week.

The journey to reconciliation continues!

