



UnitingCare

W I N T E R 2 0 0 9

Global Financial Crisis



Concerns for UnitingCare Wesley are based on the impacts on lower income households and communities as the effects of the 'financial market' crisis move through to the 'real economy', which is where most jobs are located.

Contraction of the real economy means loss of jobs and less hours worked for many people, creating financial stress and often relationship stress. Self-funded retirees and people approaching retirement have also been adversely affected as plummeting returns to investments create hardship.

UnitingCare Wesley agencies are all responding to the emerging problems catalysed by the global financial crisis.

UnitingCareWesleyBowden is expanding financial counselling services to new outreach locations in the northern and western suburbs of Adelaide with new funding from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

The outreach services will be delivered from libraries at Elizabeth, Munno Para and The Parks, and the Western Link Uniting Church on Crittenden Road,

Findon. Further outreach localities are being negotiated. The goal is to ensure that better access to qualified financial counsellors will be available to people in the northern and western suburbs.

Rosalyn Williams, Team Leader Low Income Support Services said, "We are seeing a new set of people who are accessing financial counselling. They are people who have recently lost jobs, reduced hours or have debts from a failed small business."

Financial counsellors also see many people who are under enormous stress who pay high rentals in the private sector because of lack of public and community housing.

Carolyn Deane, Senior Financial Counsellor with UCW Adelaide says "A couple of years ago we started to see an increasing number of people who were on higher incomes, in white collar

Crisis background

The global financial crisis first became apparent in September 2008, with the visible signs being the collapse of one of the world's largest investment banks, Lehman Brothers, and contraction of the US housing market in general. This was in part due to 'low doc' loans that lacked fiducial care in approval and inadequate regulation. The result was a rapid loss of trust in financial markets, leading to an international credit squeeze, slump in stock markets and the trillion dollar support of financial institutions by governments around the world.



professions, with mortgages and high credit level. We expect that problem to worsen with decreasing employment".

"Our traditional client base has been casual workers, whose hours are being reduced. These clients are not employed for 52 weeks of the year but they often manage their finances as if they are" said Carolyn.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

CARING MATTERS

UCW PORT

Pancakes with a hint of Gaelic

In Rundle Mall, the Uniting Church had organised a small army of volunteers to produce pancakes for the passing parade from early in the morning of Shrove Tuesday.

Celebrity chef, Gabriel Gate, with Rev. Peter McDonald (pictured below) demonstrated how to make the swanky version of the pancake – crepes.



The Uniting Church raised over \$53,000. Money is still coming in and it's hoped the target of \$60,000 will be reached.

Other Pancake Day activities included:

UCW Port Adelaide enlisted the help of Billy Baxter's Cafe at West Lakes (pictured above right) who offered



customers a \$5.00 pancake and coffee deal with \$3.00 of each order going to UCWPA. Special thanks go to Christalla and the team at West Lakes.

The UCWPA staff at Bordertown, together with the Uniting Church, also hosted a successful event for their local community.

Outside Maughan Church there was the usual morning 'traffic' of people hurrying to work and the Adelaide Fundraising team soon had a steady stream of people lining up for breakfast or their "gee I really shouldn't, I've already had breakfast" pancake.

By 1:30 p.m. it was time to give the BBQ the rest of the day off and the last of the pancakes were sold by 2:00pm. ■

Personal Helpers and Mentors Program Comes to UnitingCare Wesley Port Pirie

UCWPP are pleased to announce that they are now able to offer the Personal Helpers and Mentors Program. This will provide support for those over 16 experiencing a mental illness across the areas of Baroota, Port Pirie, Port Broughton and Alford. Funded through the Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs the program will enable UCWPP to support eligible clients to gain skills to manage everyday living, strengthen and maintain healthy relationships with family and friends, access appropriate services and build confidence in connecting to and participating in activities. This new program for UCWPP will certainly add value to the existing service provided to clients of the agency. Many of the staff employed in the other programs in the UCWPP portfolio are excited about the increased opportunity that this will offer to clients and the communities they serve. ■

READY, SET, GO!

Ready Set Go is an employment preparation program funded jointly through SA Works, DEEWR and ICAN. The program aims to achieve a variety of outcomes including employment, further education, volunteering and improved social and community participation. The program run in Port Augusta was developed specifically for Aboriginal participants aged over 16 years of age and supported by a number of community elders. An arts project was the final activity of the program resulting in the development of a spectacular art exhibition. With the support of UnitingCare Wesley Port Pirie staff the participants have produced high quality work which is testament to both their talent and passion for the project. Two of the participants involved in this project have gone on to achieve traineeships with the Port Augusta Council. ■



Stronger Families, Safer Children

UnitingCare Wesley Port Pirie is currently forming a new program area Stronger Families, Safer Children (SFSC) following the recent announcement by the Department for Families and Communities of the new statewide service Targeted Early Intervention and increased resources for Reunification Services.

Vulnerable families will be referred from Families SA to SFSC and they will be supported with practical and therapeutic in-house interventions to address issues impacting on their ability to provide their children with a safe, nurturing home environment. The state government has made a large commitment to strengthening families and ultimately reducing the number of children entering the Alternative Care system. ■

PIRIE Drought Assistance Helping the Country

For the second consecutive year the Commonwealth Government have acknowledged the plight of people living in rural and remote communities and provided Emergency Relief funding. This funding has been distributed by UnitingCare Wesley through their outreach workers and other network partners.

Since June 2008 almost \$6500.00 has been allocated to families who, for many and varied reasons, have been impacted by downturn in the rural economy. The area we have covered extends from Peterborough to Maitland.

Lack of employment opportunities presented as an issue in many of the clients' financial assessments. Many reported lack of work within their areas, or, because of drought impacting in the community, families being offered only

casual hours which made it difficult to pay the family bills. The lack of work opportunity has meant that families have had to relocate to regional centres to look for employment. This has had a large impact on budgets with costs for moving and higher rentals.

Travelling vast distances to try to find employment has also impacted on rural families with an increased demand for car repairs and replacement tyres. Added to this, there is a higher cost of fuel and registration for country residents.

With the drought assistance funding, we have been able to make a small difference for some of our clients. We have been grateful for the support of our workers out in the regions and for our network partners who have embraced this project and provided information out in the community. ■

From Homelessness to Home Ownership supporting clients to obtain Home Start loans

Deb buys a house...

A very excited Deb holds in her hand the bright blue keys to her own home and has a more confident outlook on the future. Several months ago Deb sought help from the Port Augusta Women's and Children's Support Service after leaving a violent marriage interstate with little more than her clothes and a dog. She needed intensive support and encouragement to make simple changes to keep herself safe and to address her mental and physical health issues. During her time with the program the option of home ownership became her focus. Staff supported her during the HomeStart assessment and shared in the good news when she qualified. A more confident Deb made an offer on a house which was accepted and now is looking forward to painting and decorating it. ■

The Reconnections Projects

The Reconnections Project is an "on the job" training project in the areas of Hospitality, Administration and Retail.

Run through UnitingCare Wesley Port Pirie and funded by SA Works and the Southern Flinders Development Board it gives participants the chance to do hands on work place training at Good @ Gertrude Second Hand Store, the Port Pirie Community Centre and through the Low Income Support Program. Currently they are cooking up two course meals twice a week at the Community Centre, for others using the Community Centre and the Men's Shed. Menus include creamy pumpkin soup, tasty homemade lasagne and garlic and herb bread.

Preparing the meal has given the group the opportunity to develop their skills in customer service and safe food handling practises.

The group works side by side with their lecturers, volunteers and supervisors to experience real life work situations and are involved in the everyday processes of a work site, such as Occupational Health and Safety and complaints resolutions.

Being motivated to attend the projects courses has been easy for participant Christine, "I look forward to coming on Tuesday and Thursday, learning different things and its taught me a lot about how to approach new people, usually I wouldn't talk to someone but I am feeling more confident."

Cathy believes the project has not only helped to prepare her to get back into the work force and add to her resume but also "build my self confidence, I joined to do something positive for me and have met a wonderful bunch of people."



Christine, Rachael, Kathy, Simone, Francine, Isabelle cooking at the Port Pirie Community Centre



Deb holds the bright blue keys to her home

"Packed to the rafters" and loving it...

Leah and her family of six daughters, aged between three and fifteen, have moved into their spacious three bedroom house near Port Augusta and couldn't be happier. Unable to obtain suitable rental for her large family Leah was able to get a HomeStart Nunga Loan. With the support of UnitingCare Wesley staff the family was able to purchase a house with a view of the Flinders Ranges. So far Leah has found that having a home loan has been affordable and her family has more freedom to decorate and paint to make the place their own. "Having this place is a really big step for us, we're doing really well...it's good to know we don't have to leave again" said Leah. ■

CARING MATTERS

UCW ADELAIDE

Making a Difference THREE VOLUNTEERS

KEN LANGSHAW, OAM

Ken Langshaw, who works in the baggage room at Byron Place, was awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours list for services to the community. Ken volunteered at Byron Place Community Centre for some years before starting part time work there. He has also been a supporter of the Anglican Bush Brotherhood.

Ken says he really enjoys working and volunteering. "It can be challenging here at times but I love the interaction with all the different people I meet at Byron Place" he said.

"I had left full-time work and had time that I felt could be spent more usefully than just sitting about watching TV, so I looked for opportunities where I could volunteer. I wanted to use my time productively and also in a way that I could help people, and I found this through Byron Place", said Ken.

"Voluntary work is something I'd highly recommend and I encourage others to



Ken receiving his medal from the Governor, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce at a ceremony at Government House in April.

volunteer. Many of the people here are lonely and need a friend, and I talk with them. They've got multiple problems, but I encourage clients to go and talk to social workers. I was recently speaking to a fellow who has been helped greatly by the people here, and he's now a lot happier in himself, which is a terrific outcome. I also do voluntary work at Holy Trinity on North Terrace, I've been a member there for 30 years", said Ken.

MARGARET BRERETON is a volunteer from the Friends Group at Byron Place Community Centre (for homeless people). She has organised the annual Christmas picnic for more than ten years, and although she is retiring from this role, Margaret's other contribution is coming in on weekends to cook toast, which she has been doing even longer, and will continue to do.

She was presented with a bouquet of flowers and thanked for her contributions by CEO, Sue Park at an informal afternoon tea (pictured below)



UCW'S YOUNG ACHIEVER

At 24 years of age, and with a Bachelor of Behavioural Science (majoring in Psychology and Biology), Karena Clarke is a volunteer Telephone Counsellor, Group Facilitator and Volunteer Supervisor at UCW Adelaide.

In recognition of her outstanding work with Lifeline and the Domestic Violence Helpline, Karena was nominated by her Manager and Supervisor for the Channel 9 Young Achiever Award.

From 211 nominations, Karena was a semi-finalist in the Community Service Award category.

Besides her work with Lifeline and the Domestic Violence Helpline, Karena works as a Project Officer with the Save the Children Fund, working with disadvantaged young people.

She is pictured (below) with her supervisor, Heather Maynard.



Senator talks credit regulation

Senator the Hon Nick Sherry, Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law, recently visited UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide. Senator Sherry wanted to talk about the situation of people seeking

assistance through financial counselling services. CEO, Sue Park and staff also discussed national credit regulation and consumer protection, particularly associated with 'fringe lenders.' ■



Senator Sherry is pictured with l to r, Pam Lehman, Team Manager Community Services, CEO Sue Park, Carolyn Deane, Snr. Resource Worker, Financial Counselling and Trish Burden, Group Manager Community Services.

The Paper Tracker aims to make it easier for Anangu to work with governments as equal partners. It helps Anangu make sure governments are talking straight and following through on commitments.

In mid March 2009, the Paper Tracker's Jonathan Nicholls and UCW Adelaide's CEO Sue Park spent five days visiting communities in the eastern-half of the APY Lands and Umoona community in Coober Pedy.

The visit was a chance to strengthen relationships between UCW and APY communities and talk face-to-face with community leaders and Lands-based staff to see for themselves the results of particular programs, services and infrastructure projects.

At Pukatja, the work of restoring the old Uniting church has begun at last and construction of the new clinic is nearing completion. A comprehensive

tour included the new child parent centre (up and running!) and the new child care centre (nearly finished). The school has established a program to assist young men in their final years of schooling to gain skills and experience in building and construction. Of course, no visit to Pukatja would be complete without time well-spent at Ernabella Arts (still going strong after 60 years).

Sue and Jonathan also visited Amata, and the Tjala Arts Centre, which was bursting at the seams with artists and wonderful paintings.

At the Amata Family Centre, from a very modest building and with limited resources, the staff are doing a fantastic job delivering homemaker programs and other crucial services.

"Where ever we went, people expressed their appreciation for Paper Tracker, and asked Jonathan to follow up on issues which concerned them" said Sue.

A number of people spoke of fears about the future of CDEP (Community Development Employment Projects), for example, and one asked Jonathan to look into the postponement of a planned Restorative Justice program. Continuing to monitor developments and share information is clearly important.

Jonathan and Sue were disappointed to find that significant falls in the price of fuel across Australia are not always being passed on to Anangu. At the time of the visit, diesel fuel was selling for \$2.20 a litre in Amata, compared with around \$1.16 in Adelaide and \$1.53 at Marla.

They also caught up with a number of teachers, police officers and Lands-based staff. Given heavy workloads and life's other demands, it was great that people working there could be so generous with their time. ■

www.papertracker.com.au



L-R Annie, Audrey, Barbara, Betty, Norma, Mary, Maureen, Eileen

The Cosy Club has had another happy and productive year. The members (pictured) have been busy knitting colourful, warm rugs which each Cosy Club member presented to a patient at a nursing home of their choice. The Club received many letters of thanks, saying how much the rugs meant to them.

Knitted bed-socks, scarves and beanies have been presented to Catherine House women's shelter. Items were also knitted for World Vision.

Last year the Club continued to contribute goods to the premature babies in Papua New Guinea and Moore St (Adelaide Day Centre for homeless people).

"We all feel happiest when we are doing something for the Community" said Betty.

Maureen agreed and said "after all these years we still love each other's company" and Audrey said "we love to have a goal for our projects".

Rev. Peter McDonald was a guest speaker at the '09 planning session. He inspired the ladies with his knowledge of and interest in the Aboriginal Community in Central Australia. Cosy is looking forward to collaborating with the Aboriginal Community this year and knitting garments for their community projects. ■

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

UCW Port Pirie is concerned about the impacts on small rural communities, already coping with drought years. Port Pirie's labour market is also heavily dependent on the lead smelter which owner, Nyrstar, says is the largest and lowest cost lead smelter in the world. It is vulnerable to reducing global demand

Similar concerns are also shared by UCW Port Adelaide who are acutely aware of the vulnerability of their clients to reduced work hours.

Financial counselling is a free and confidential service that provides a range of assistance to people in financial difficulties.

One of the Australian Government's responses to the financial crisis has been to make cash payments to households to stimulate demand and keep jobs. This has contributed to significant sales increase for Goodwill stores, as lower income people maximise the benefit of their payments, which has also benefited Goodwill. ■

CARING MATTERS

UCW BOWDEN

New Financial Counselling Services in the Northern and Western Suburbs

UnitingCare Wesley Bowden is expanding financial counselling services to new outreach locations in the northern and western suburbs of Adelaide with new funding from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

Financial counselling is a vital service, especially during these difficult economic times, with increasing numbers of people experiencing financial hardship as a result of loss of income.

Rosalyn Williams, Team Leader Low Income Support Services said, "We fear that this is only the beginning and that

we will be seeing more people under threat of loss of housing, cars and the lifestyle that they have known."

"Financial counsellors also see many people who are under enormous stress to pay high rentals in the private sector because of lack of public and community housing. Thousands of South Australians are struggling to make ends meet."

Financial counselling is a free and confidential service that provides a range of assistance to people in financial difficulties. This can include negotiations with creditors for affordable repayment plans or payment moratoriums,

negotiating for loans to be rewritten or accessing special hardship provisions. Options, including bankruptcy, can be discussed with a financial counsellor. Financial counsellors can also prepare people for court appearances in some circumstances. ■

Homelessness A Family's Experience

“ Twelve months ago, my wife and I were celebrating the birth of our first child and preparing for our first family Christmas. My employment was stable and provided the necessary income required to support our family. But life throws many twists and turns. I lost my job in January, and finding a new one proved virtually impossible, forcing my wife into the workforce when our daughter was only two months old. Our private rental became hard to afford and we struggled to stay afloat. With only government payments and a casual working wage for my wife, life was tight and at times felt like torture.

Seven months later my wife could not continue with her job, and I was still having no luck finding a job of my own. To make matters worse, our landlord informed us that our home was to be sold, giving us little time to find new accommodation. We were left with no other option but to live in a tent in a relative's back yard.

When the days got hotter and the nights grew windier, I contacted my support worker at UCW Bowden and she was unbelievably supportive and eager to help. She put us in contact with the Westside Housing Association, and not too long after, a house came up in the northern suburbs. After long talks with our WHA Tenancy Officer, Bianca, we opted to accept the house as no others were available, but we would have preferred to be closer to our family network.

Westside Housing blessed us the very next day with another house; this time close to our family. It was exactly what we needed! It is amazing what a little prayer and the kindness of people can achieve! Christmas and our daughter's first birthday were saved! ” ■

Child's Play

UnitingCare Wesley Bowden is proud to announce the opening of a new Montessori program, based at their existing Torrensville Child and Family Centre.

The program can now provide an additional service for families that follows the philosophy and methodology of Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian doctor who founded the method in 1906.

A Montessori curriculum provides children with a carefully designed environment that encourages them to become active and independent learners.

The program will offer half and full day pre-school sessions for children 3-5 years of age from Monday to Thursday, and a toddler playgroup on Friday mornings.



The staff are trained and qualified Montessori teachers and provide a nurturing educational environment based on a culture of caring with small class sizes.

Children use the specially designed Montessori materials to develop their skills in the five Montessori curriculum areas:

- Sensory
- Language
- Mathematics
- Independant skills
- Cultural Studies ■

Fun and Games at Ashman Grove

Table games are a favourite activity at UnitingCare Wesley Bowden's Ashman Grove Aged Care Facility. There are many games to chose from including Yahtzee, Dominoes, The Cover-All Game, Scrabble, Trivial Pursuit and Memory.

Playing these games involves the use of cognitive function and motor skills which are very important skills to maintain, as they help to enhance the residents' lifestyle as they age.

Jigsaw puzzles are also available in the Ashman Grove Activity Room for residents to solve at their leisure. ■



CARING MATTERS

It's just a window....

UCW BOWDEN



As Generation 'Y' increasingly share their lives with the world through the medium of status updates, blogs, video logs, and profiles, Stephanie Bettens has taken a different approach.

Fifteen year old Stephanie has spent years writing an account of her life and her family, but in particular, her younger brother Todd who has been diagnosed with Autism.

“One day after school I walked into the kitchen to get a drink and I looked up at mum who was sitting down and looked like she'd been crying so I asked her 'what happened' and she said 'Todd broke another window at school' so I looked her in the eye and said "it's just a window".

Capturing the impact of Autism on the Bettens family, the book titled 'It's Just a Window', is an exceptional story of, not only the difficulties and challenges Stephanie and her family have overcome, but of the humour and antics of fourteen year old Todd.

Like thousands of young people in Australia, Stephanie is a Young Carer, a young person who maintains a caring



Stephanie and Todd

responsibility for a family member who may have a disability, mental illness or is frail aged. Under the auspices of the North & West Metro Respite & Carelink, UnitingCare Wesley Bowden has been working with Stephanie and her family for the last 10 months, enthusiastically turning her dream of having her book published into a reality. The book will go into schools, organisations, and into the public eye to

increase awareness of Young Carers.

Staff who work closely with Young Carers at UCW Bowden are certain that there are many young people in South Australia who have large caring responsibilities. According to Project Officer Shaun Harris, "the book will also be an opportunity for unidentified Young Carers realise 'This is me, I care too' and will use the details provided to seek appropriate assistance".

A member of the 'Plan B' Young Carers Program, Stephanie and UCW Bowden will be hosting the official "It's Just a Window" book launch on Thursday 28 May 2009 from 4.00 to 7.00pm at the SA Writers' Centre, 2nd floor 187 Rundle Street, Adelaide.

For any more information on the Young Carers Program or "It's Just a Window" please contact Shaun on (08)8245 7170 or shaun.harris@ucwb.org.au or visit www.ucwb.org.au/youngcarers ■

Christmas Hampers and Government House Function

UnitingCare Wesley Bowden has for many decades conducted a large Christmas Hamper distribution program. In December 2008 this event was once again held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. Supported by the staff of the Entertainment Centre, UCW Bowden organised over 100 volunteers for the day, a rock band (The Hooks) comprising students from Immanuel College who provided a different perspective on Christmas carols, and even Santa Clause (aka Barry Tobin) who arrived on a Metropolitan Fire Service truck.

Again, the Governor of South Australia, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce and Mrs Scarce, assisted with the hamper distribution, supported by volunteers and joined by the Hon Michael Atkinson and the Moderator of the Uniting Church, Rev Rod Dyson. Hampers of food, frozen chickens and toys were distributed in an atmosphere of fun and community. Members of the UnitingCare Wesley Bowden Board were

also present and assisted in the distribution activities.

The Chief Executive of Bowden (Julian Sawicki) paid tribute to the staff and volunteers who had spent weeks preparing for the day. Corporate sponsorship was again important in terms of funding and real physical labour with representatives of the Morialta Trust, Commonwealth Bank, the Office of Community Housing, Clipsal and Adelaide Executor Trustees in attendance.

To thank the volunteers for their loyal and outstanding work during the year, as well as the Hamper distribution, the Governor graciously invited the Bowden volunteers to a Thank You cocktail afternoon at Government House on 4 March 2009.

For many of the volunteers, this was their first visit to Government House and the generosity of the Governor, Mrs Scarce and the staff in showing groups of volunteers through the public areas of Government House, was a highlight.



If you can help UnitingCare Wesley Bowden continue a proud tradition of 100 years of service, please donate online at www.ucwb.org.au or telephone 8245 7100 to donate money, goods or time.

Donations can be dropped off during business hours, Monday to Friday at 77 Gibson Street Bowden. ■



CARING MATTERS

UCW PORT ADELAIDE

90 years of service

UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide celebrated 90 years of working in partnership with the community on the 20th April.

From our beginnings in 1919 as the Port Adelaide Methodist Mission, we have been changing and adapting to ensure that we are working with local community on the issues that matter.

The problems facing the community after World War I, for example, were far different from the difficulties faced today. Little or no assistance was given to either those returning from war, or to families whose loved ones did not return. It was charitable groups like Port Adelaide Central Mission which bore the responsibility of helping to get things back to a sense of normality.

Unemployment, strikes and the flu epidemic resulted in heavy demands on the voluntary helpers and the minister in those early years. In the 40s and 50s, health, welfare and pre-school care were brought together in a program which was well ahead of its time.

The challenges facing our communities have changed and may seem more

complex, but UCW Port Adelaide is still adapting and changing to ensure that a combination of crisis care, community building and empowering programs are features of its approach to community service.

New services have been developed throughout Adelaide and in country areas.

Today UnitingCare Wesley's 900 staff and volunteers respond to the needs of over 18,000 people a year through a variety of programs across South Australia, which include:

- Family Support;
- Emergency Assistance;
- Aged Care;
- Youth Services;
- Community Mental Health;
- Employment Programs;
- Aboriginal Partnerships;
- Cultural Diversity; and
- Housing.

Special Invitation

UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide
formerly Port Adelaide Central Mission

Invites you to a Service of Thanksgiving
in
Celebrating 90 years of ministry
and service to the community

6pm Thursday 25th June 2009

The Uniting Church

Commercial Road Port Adelaide



Preacher Rev George Martin
Former superintendent 1967-1996

All Welcome

Further information

Rev Dr Les Underwood 8440 2210

Community Spirit at Christmas

Every year UCWPA distributes over 200 food hampers to our clients in need, as well as giving more than 1,000 Christmas gifts. For many of these children it is the only gift they receive.

This year toy donations decreased considerably, (this is likely to be a direct result of the economic crisis) and UCWPA was advised just a few weeks before Christmas that there would not be enough toys to be distributed as in previous years. The thought of a child going without their very own special gift was just heartbreaking so we took matters into our own hands and put the call out for toys!!



The response was nothing short of amazing! We received financial support from Adelaide Bank branches Port Adelaide, Salisbury and Fulham. Their support kick started our efforts and together we were able to purchase over

100 gifts for the children. A big thank you to Branch Managers Leonie, Sharon and Rachel for their wonderful efforts. They even helped us do the shopping!

Our corporate supporter, the ETSA Staff Foundation, also helped our appeal by having a Christmas 'Giving Tree' at their Keswick and Marlestone offices. Once they heard about our lack of toys, they too put the call out to their staff for urgent assistance. Again, the response was amazing and we ended up with four car boots full of toys. A special thank you to Louisa Woods, Sarah Soteriou and the Foundation Board for their dedication in supporting UCWPA programs.

Lynch Meyer Lawyers pledged \$1,000 which was matched by Cheap as Chips. Staff and the general public also contributed, which was an unbelievable effort in such a short amount of time.

It was wonderful to see not only the UCWPA community come together, but local businesses and our supporters as well.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you want your name added to or removed from the 'UnitingCare Wesley News' mailing list, contact Debbie Jefferies, telephone 8202 5112, or email debbie.jefferies@ucwesleyadelaide.org.au

For more information about stories or to provide feedback, contact Mark Henley, telephone 8202 5135, email mark.henley@ucwesleyadelaide.org.au or mail to 10 Pitt St, Adelaide.