

# The Advocate



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UnitingCare Harrison assists people to take charge of their own lives.

We have been doing this in the eastern region for over four decades.

In this current economic climate and rental market, more people than ever are coming to us.

Many of these people are already homeless and in crisis when they walk through our doors.

The generous support of individuals, organisations and corporate supporters enables us to offer toiletry kits, emergency food and accommodation to people in crisis.

Please support our mission with a donation.

## Assisting People with a Disability. Can you Help?

UnitingCare Harrison provides a number of program placement accommodation options for people with a disability to develop skills on how to live as independently as possible.

Support Staff assist clients individually to create achievable goals to empower and motivate them in taking responsibility towards independent living.

The lead tenant property at Chirside Park is one of six UnitingCare Harrison Disability Service properties within the eastern region that assist clients on their road to independence.

To continue facilitating this property model of support, UnitingCare Harrison is currently seeking a Lead Tenant to support the aim and purpose of this property.

A Lead Tenant is a live-in volunteer who can be called on to offer assistance in an overnight emergency. They are a positive role model in the house which is an integral part of the clients journey.

The Lead Tenant's rent is covered by UnitingCare Harrison. They will have their own bedroom, with walk in robes and an en-suite. The kitchen and lounge room are shared areas for all tenants.

If you are willing to encourage and support adults with disabilities in developing independent living skills on a day to day basis, please do not hesitate to contact the Team Leader of Disability Services, Glen New to obtain further information regarding this exciting opportunity.



 **UnitingCare**  
**Harrison**



## You Can Help!

Are you and your colleagues, students, church or club members interested in providing practical support to those doing it tough in your community?

Please consider:

- Donating non-perishable food
- Donating personal hygiene items
- Providing pro bono services
- Fundraising to support our youth houses
- Sponsoring the Gifford Arts Project
- Sponsoring a UnitingCare Harrison event
- Donating Christmas gifts for children, teenagers and adults

For more information on practical ways you can support us, please contact 9871 8700.

## The Gift of Giving



UnitingCare Harrison and Target in Knox and Glen Waverley would like to thank those who gave generously to the annual Christmas appeal, Operation Santa, which provided gifts for more than 400 disadvantaged families at Christmas in the Eastern Region alone.

Your efforts truly make a

difference in these peoples lives. However there are always people in need no matter the time of the year. These are people who struggle every day with financial difficulties, mental illness, homelessness and family turmoil.

You can help by providing an online donation, or fill out the accompanying slip and return to

us. Your donation could be used to supply a swag to those sleeping rough, toiletry kits so families and young people in crisis can keep clean or provide a roof over their heads for the night.

With your help we can continue to assist people to take charge of their own lives.

## Nothing Artificial!



In mid 2010, the Creating Connections Team sent in a submission for funding from Go For Your Life, a Victorian Government Initiative. The purpose of this funding is to deliver a series of workshops focusing on promoting healthy eating, nutrition and healthy body image for young people.

The submission was successful and 'Nothing Artificial' was born! Surveys were handed out to clients and the feedback received suggested that young people were interested in learning about nutrition, smart food shopping and cooking cheap meals.

From this feedback the Creating

Connections Team developed the first session plan which was delivered at Vermont Uniting Church earlier this year.

Young People first met with David from MarketFresh who delivered a presentation about fruit and vegetables. David explained how fruit and vegetables are seasonal, why they are seasonal and the benefits of eating them. Participants were also invited to eat actual fruit purchased fresh from the market that morning! DELICIOUS!

As a group, participants then selected a recipe they would like to prepare and took a tour of the local supermarket to select the

ingredients required. Time was then spent in the kitchen cooking their lunch - Chicken Meatballs and Salad - YUM!

In the afternoon, Danni from the Butterfly Foundation come out to deliver a session around healthy body image. Danni discussed how healthy eating is important not only for a healthy body but for a healthy mind as well.

Although our numbers were low, the Young People that participated engaged in discussion and had a fantastic day. Participants enjoyed it so much that they asked to attend the next session!

## Social Housing Developments



The redevelopment of Wesley Court in Ivanhoe has taken a great leap forward with a planning permit being granted by VCAT (Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal).

The permit is for the construction of a 7 storey development of 87 independent living units for over 55s including 30% social and

affordable housing. In the longer term this development will provide funds to redevelop and build more social and affordable housing elsewhere.

Executive Director, Roger Gough and the Regeneration Team have been working with the Ivanhoe congregation and architects on this project for over three years.

It is fantastic to get past this significant hurdle.

VCAT approval will greatly assist in ensuring continuing support with Synod Property Board and the prospective lender for the project.

If you would like further information please contact us on 9871 8700.

## Creating Education Employment Pathways (CEEP)



CEEP Funding provides financial support for young people aged 15 -25 years to continue or re-engage in education or employment. This can include funding for course fees, text books, school uniforms/work wear and transport costs.

This funding means they are able to create educational and employment pathways which reduce their risk of long term homelessness. Many of the young people we work with have limited supports to help them along this path so we encourage

them in working towards their goals.

For the young people we work with, whom strive to maintain their education in spite of their state of homelessness, CEEP funding provides the financial support they need. Many young people in these types of circumstances do not qualify for traditional Job Network support.

The purpose of CEEP funding is to provide funding for young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to their level of disadvantage.

The funding has been available for young people in such circumstances for the past three years.

During this time there are many examples of how CEEP funding has provided the means for young people to work towards creating employment pathways, independence and social inclusion.

CEEP funding continuance is crucial in providing this type of support to their goals and aspirations.

## Thank You!



UnitingCare Harrison thanks the following supporters for their generous contributions.

- Australia for Christ Fellowship
- Basket Brigade - Magic Moments
- Bayswater Rotary Club
- The Butterfly Foundation
- Chicks for Charity
- Emerald Rotary Club
- Epworth Hospital Employees
- Ferntree Gully Nissan
- Ferntree Gully Uniting Church
- IGA - Wantirna Mall
- Kmart - Burwood
- Market Fresh
- National Credit Management Limited
- Scoresby UnitingChurch

## Volunteering

Our amazing team of volunteers are an integral part of UnitingCare Harrison.

They are involved in a diverse range of activities:

- Board of Governance
- Op Shops
- Gifford Arts Project
- Material Aid
- Pat 'n' Chat
- Bread Service
- Christmas Appeal

**Nobody can do everything but everybody can do something to aid us in our mission.**

**Please consider offering your time or skills to help us to assist people to take charge of their own lives.**



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## Give a Family a Home Project



This January UnitingCare Harrison has launched its "Give a Family a Home Project" in a bid to give more homeless people in the Eastern Region a roof over their heads.

We are seeking the help of local Churches, real estate agents and home owners who might be able to help a family by leasing them a property.

Any properties on offer would be leased by UnitingCare Harrison and then sub-let to families supported by our agency staff. The benefits for any person wanting to lease their property to UnitingCare Harrison are:

- Owners are guaranteed rent for the 12 months of the lease, regardless if a tenant is living there or not
- Owners can receive the rent 6-12 months in advance if required
- UnitingCare Harrison has a maintenance team who would address minor maintenance problems
- The tenants could take over the lease on a longer term basis

By participating in this Project you can help give a family a home. A family like Stacey, Ben and their baby, Sam. Both Ben and Stacey were in fulltime

employment until Ben suffered a heart attack leaving him unable to work. Stacey then gave up her job to look after Ben. Very quickly they started to struggle financially and found themselves constantly moving between hostels and boarding houses unable to find security.

This family became involved with UnitingCare Harrison after another tenants friend broke into the couples room and threatened them for money.

With the assistance of UnitingCare Harrison, the family was moved into a short term "Give a Family a Home" property and our support staff assisted them to secure long term housing. The family has just made a fresh start in an affordable and safe, two-bedroom community managed flat that they can finally call home.

When asked how they were feeling now they stated "We're flabbergasted and excited. We've gone through some hard times, but now we're settling in."

If you would like to assist in addressing the lack of affordable housing in the Eastern Region and you have a property that would be appropriate please contact the General Manager of Homelessness Services, Mark Dixon on (03) 9871 8700 or [Mark.Dixon@harrison.org.au](mailto:Mark.Dixon@harrison.org.au).