

West Coast Eagle Makes the Difference

Centacare Employment, Perth has recently "kicked off" a new initiative designed to increase the employment opportunities for unemployed jobseekers attached to their Centre...they like to call it their TOP 20!

Basically, each fortnight, 20 unemployed jobseekers will be selected ...and all the organisations effort and energy will be focused directly on them to assist them into employment. MAXIMUM EFFORT - MAXIMUM REWARD

Two of the driving forces behind this initiative are Valli Parsons and Philip Matera (Yes, West Coast Phil). Together, this "dynamic duo" begin by contacting employers to try and match their TOP 20 jobseekers to available vacancies.

Philip said "I am delighted to be able to support and work on this Top 20 initiative. It allows me to 'put something back into our community' and to show employers here in WA there are eager, skilled and available unemployed jobseekers - all they need is the opportunity".

"Valli and I, and all the team at Centacare Employment, will be working hard to help make a difference" he said.

The TOP 20 range in ages from 18 years to 60 years of age, and cover every imaginable type of profession - engineering, graphic design, kitchenhand, retail, labouring, hairdressing, stores - any and every position available from employers ...Centacare Employment can fill.

Centacare Employment offers a fabulous service to West Australian employers - undertaking staff recruitment at **absolutely no cost to the employer.** All clients referred are interviewed and references checked prior to sending.

If you can assist Centacare help Perth's unemployed get back to work through a vacancy at your company or workplace, then please call today... **PERTH 9322 2443 MIDLAND 9274 2725**

Centacare is another professional agency supported by LifeLink **agency: Centacare Employment, Perth**



Philip Matera from the West Coast Eagles gets ready for work on Centacare's TOP 20 initiative.

LIFELINKS

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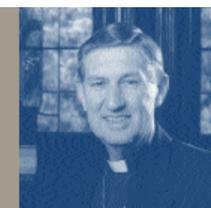
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WELCOME TO LIFELINKS



My Dear Friends,

Some years ago, I had a vision of bringing together the many welfare agencies of our Archdiocese under one banner - to encourage support for their work, and to seek support for their ongoing financial security.

And so, the LifeLink organisation came to be - the name which now represents 13 welfare agencies delivering care and support to over 45,000 West Australian families and individuals each year.

Together, we raised over \$500,000 last year in support of the unemployed, the physically and intellectually disabled, families and individuals in crisis, migrants and refugees, those suffering AIDS or HIV, abused women and children, the homeless and the isolated.

Without these funds, part of over \$15 million dollars of care LifeLink agencies deliver here at home each year, whom would these people turn to for help?

"Through this

newsletter -

LIFELINKS

...I hope to be able

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LifeLink."

Thanks to your generosity - and the thousands of other generous supporters from our Parishes, our Schools and from the corporate and general community, LifeLink **can and is** making a difference to the lives of those in need right here in WA!

Through this newsletter - LIFELINKS... I hope to be able to provide you with real examples of how **you are** making a difference through LifeLink. I hope you will get to know the people who work tirelessly in our welfare agencies, and appreciate their professionalism and commitment. And finally, I hope to be able to keep you informed on what issues we are tackling on your behalf, and how valuable your ongoing support is.

Thank you and God Bless,
Yours in Jesus Christ,

The Most Rev Barry J Hickey
Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth.

STOP PRESS CHRISTMAS APPEAL REACHES GOAL STOP PRESS

Thanks to the generosity shown by all of our donors, and with the outstanding support of Parish Priests and Parishioners, as at the 1st February 2001 the Archbishop's Appeal had raised \$308,000.

This will ensure that every LifeLink Welfare Agency will have its current funding maintained for the coming year, and in fact, will receive a small increase from the Archdiocese to assist them in their Mission.

Thank You and God Bless!



The CDF is proud to be the inaugural sponsor of 'LIFELINKS'

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saying goodbye



There is a small garden, beautifully maintained with a rock wall, a pond, and a gentle waterfall. Along the wall are wonderfully coloured tiles - some are fantastically artistic in design, others are more simple, but each "square or rectangle" projects such tangible and powerful emotions.

An overwhelming sense of loss, of love, of hope, of regret, of sadness, and of even joy, floods over those who visit this tiny garden in Burswood, which is situated at the rear of the HIV/AIDS Pastoral Care Centre.

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Br Damian Walsh, Director of the LifeLink funded HIV/AIDS Pastoral Care facility, sits alongside the Centre's Memorial Wall.

Perhaps the most striking emotion you have is "recognition of the sheer number of tiles". You see, each tile represents the loss of a loved one to HIV/AIDS by a West Australian family.

Usually, 12 months or so after someone has passed away, the family are provided a tile to decorate as a way to remember, say goodbye, or to celebrate the life of their loved one.

A special service is then held in the garden, and perhaps for the first time, the family have the opportunity to "let-go", to come to terms with their loss.

The HIV/AIDS Pastoral Centre was established (and continues to be supported by) funding through LifeLink and the St John of God Foundation. There are 767 registered known HIV/AIDS sufferers in Western Australian. The centre was designed to handle between 6-8 persons a day - they are currently seeing 10 -12 or more.

The Centre's primary focus is to provide a "safe haven" - supporting those who feel so isolated in our community - men, women and children. The Centre supports over 120 HIV+ clients annually with ages ranging from just 4 to 70 years of age.

Importantly, Br Damian and his team of volunteers, also offer help and support to the families and friends of those who turn to them. Due to the increase in demand and the rising costs, the Centre now has to close on Thursdays and can only provide the services of a professional psychologist twice a week, for a few hours...it's simply not enough.

Br Damian needs our continuing help, to build a new expanded Centre, and to provide for the necessary professional staff to support him in his mission.

By donating to LifeLink -

YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.



The first group of budding artists "piecing together" their mosaic's at the Emmanuel Centre.

Good News for people with disabilities - the Emmanuel Centre has just been awarded a Grant from the "Trustees of the Artists with Disabilities Fund of the University of WA" for the purchase of equipment and materials for furthering the skills of participants in "mosaic and stained glass expression".

This grant will allow the centre to purchase a diamond grinding wheel machine, which means that participants in their art programme will now need to use a lot less "elbow grease" on fitting the pieces together.

Last year, a number of Emmanuel's artists entered (some winning prizes) in the Ansett Golden Wing Award for Artists with Disabilities - let's hope this year, with the new equipment, it will be an even more creative year for the group.

The Emmanuel Centre, funded through LifeLink, is a self-help centre for people with disabilities and their families. Barbara Harris and her team provide information; counselling, faith development, advocacy, training and work experience for and on behalf of their clients - to name but a few of the many services offered.

agency: **Emmanuel Centre**



"Staying on Course Maintaining the Spirit"

"It feels as though there is a real need to rediscover the spirit of things. Nowadays, there is so much emphasis on productivity, competitiveness and rationalising it is easy to forget that what we do and achieve, has very little meaning unless it is to improve the quality of life for our people.

There is little point in having highly profitable corporations, if they are not motivated by "a spirit" that incorporates the health and wellbeing of their employees, and society as a whole. Non-profit organisations, like Centrecare (an agency supported by LifeLink), have to work harder and harder to retain their commitment to social justice and community service.

Charitable organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to provide services within a "hard-nosed" environment. An example of this is the fact that non-profit organisations now must compete with business - profit driven corporations - for Government funding.

The expectation for greater productivity and less cost can also easily enmesh non-profits in a web of diminishing funding and increasing demands. In these circumstances, the spirit of service, that is the basic inspiration of our organisations, can be easily extinguished.

Retaining this spirit is essential if we are to remain true to our mission of care. There is little doubt that organisations like Centrecare have an important part to play in assisting the community to retain a sense of purpose - in what it does, and a concern for others in how it does it."

agency: **Centrecare Marriage & Family Service**

a refuge for the desperate



There is an anonymous house in the suburbs run by Linda Watson, who for over 20 years, rose through the ranks of the local prostitution scene to become one of Perth's most successful madams. Linda had seen first hand countless women and girls die through suicide and drug addiction, and she knew many women who, as mothers, were trapped by circumstance into prostitution.

In 1997, after leaving the sex industry behind her and embracing the Catholic Faith, Linda set about putting an end to the physical, sexual and emotional exploitation and degradation of women and girls - she wanted to help them break free.

Despite seeking help from all quarters, it was only Archbishop Barry Hickey who decided to support Linda's mission. Through his LifeLink organisation, funding was arranged to establish a special house - Linda's "House of Hope".

Linda and LifeLink are helping women and underage girls to escape the clutches of the sex industry and its ethos of misery, slavery and drug addictions. Receiving calls from across Australia, over 380 women and 40 underage girls have been supported so far.

At the time of writing this article, Linda was even helping three current madams to exit the prostitution scene, just as she has done!

agency: **Linda's House of Hope**