

APPEAL FOR GIFTS AND FOOD

CONNECTIONS UNITINGCARE LAUNCHES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Connections UnitingCare is calling on the local community to help support their annual Christmas Appeal that provides food and gifts to families in need during the Christmas period.

Last year the Connections Christmas Appeal supplied more than 2292 gifts and 403 large food hampers to 1519 individuals and families who were in need of support.

Connections Chief Executive Officer, Ms Angela Forbes believes that the need for appeals such as this is increasing each year.

'We have a large number of families that we support through our programs and services. We share concerns with other welfare agencies that with the impact of the broader global economic crisis, we will see an increased number of families needing help and support.'

'As a welfare agency we are proud to be able to support these families but we rely on the goodwill of other members of the community to help us provide that support, especially through the provision of toys and food for this Christmas Appeal,' said Ms Forbes.

In its 8th year, the Connections Christmas Appeal is supported through the UnitingCare fundraising division SHARE, whose association with Target and Medicare stores across Victoria sees Christmas trees and Collection tins placed in all their locations. Last Christmas, UnitingCare was able to provide gifts or gift cards to 40,000 people in Victoria.

'Links with organisation as large as Target and Medicare are vital to the success of our program, but we need the support of members of the community and we extend this appeal for gifts and food,' said Ms Forbes.

Donations of non-perishable food items or gifts can be made to any Connections office. For your local office or for more information about the work of Connections, please visit our website www.connections.org.au

Media: Connections Chief Executive Officer, Angela Forbes is available for interview. Photos of Gift Coordinators with presents are available. Contact Connections Communications Officer Kirrilee Torney on 03 9271 0800 or kirrilee.torney@connections.org.au