

Media Release
For Immediate Release
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Take a path you never expected...with UnitingCare

Leading community services provider, UnitingCare NSW.ACT is seeking compassionate, caring people to volunteer in 2010. Volunteers can donate as much or as little time as they would like to brighten the lives of children, young people, families and older people. Craig did and it changed his life, leading to career satisfaction he hadn't thought possible.

After Craig's mother had a heart attack and entered a nursing home, Craig struggled to help his father perform the tasks his mother had left in her absence. Despite an understanding employer Craig joined the ranks of the unemployed and became a member of the 'Work for the Dole' program.

As luck would have it there was a position at the UnitingCare Ageing facility Craig's mother was in – which would allow Craig to fulfill his Work for the Dole requirements while his parents spent valuable time together.

Craig started out doing grounds maintenance but his experience in light steel fabrication was soon discovered, resulting in the design and creation of a much loved bird aviary and more complex tasks.

When Craig's mother passed away, Craig says "it was volunteering that literally saved my life".

"I had begun to fall into a deep depression that I couldn't shake, and was not coping well at all, but pottering around the nursing home and talking to staff and residents took my mind off what had happened."

During discussions with the Volunteer Coordinator, Craig arranged to apply for the recently vacated Work for the Dole Supervisor role. Showing up for his interview, Craig was awarded the position that same day.

Beginning as Work for the Dole Team Leader, Craig now works fulltime as Work for the Dole Coordinator.

Having never known about the role previously Craig says “I have no doubt in my mind that this is the job I was destined for and if I had not been a volunteer it would not have happened”.

UnitingCare NSW.ACT is a practical arm of the Uniting Church. Services include aged care, disability programs, services for vulnerable families, children and young people and quality early childhood education and care.

Volunteers are able to help in a number of capacities ranging from chatting with or reading a book to older people or children through to providing support to staff in areas such as gardening or crafts. The amount of time donated will vary with each volunteer but any time given is greatly appreciated.

If you have a skill or talent you would like to share through volunteering with UnitingCare NSW.ACT or would like more information please visit

www.withoutfearorfavour.org.au/volunteer.

Ways you can volunteer

- Drop in and have a conversation
- Visit an ageing service or children’s centre and help with craft
- Take a day trip with UnitingCare Ageing residents
- Enjoy a song
- Play a game with children
- Listen to someone’s story
- Help at mealtimes
- Share your business expertise on a Board or Committee

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For more information please contact Ingrid Hoff, Public Relations Assistant, UnitingCare NSW.ACT on 02 8267 4374 or email ingridh@nsw.uca.org.au.