

MEDIA RELEASE

11 October 2011

Volunteering provides second wind

There is a perception that as people age they take life easier but for Churches of Christ Care Lady Small Haven Village residents Ann Borthwhistle and Vera Hewett, in their 80s, they are too busy volunteering to sit around.

Both moved into the aged car service because of ill health, but have found restorative powers in sharing friendship, community and volunteering.

Ann said she really had no choice about moving into Lady Small Haven Village.

“Physically, I could not look after myself living alone, but I decided if I was moving into care, was going to be happy and busy. I have found my second wind,” she said.

“Vera and I have a lot of fun together and do a lot for the service. We go shopping for people who can’t and organised lots of group activities like our own royal wedding and pizza nights.

“And now that I am fitter, I walk over to St Kevin’s primary school to help out in the tuckshop.”

The highlight of Ann’s day is taking the Village’s pet dog, Harley, to visit the residents.

“He is my dog, well, not really; he belongs to our Lifestyle Therapist, but I enjoy taking him to see the oldies in the nursing home. They love seeing him. He brings so much joy and is everyone’s favourite,” Ann said.

Vera said she and Anne fundraise for the service and other charities. “We collect money for goods we sell like rocky road, and so far this year we have donated money to buy talking books, for a needy family, for the nursing home for spa bath needs and for a Cambodian school,” she said.

For any sewing needs, Vera is the ‘go to’ person. With a sewing machine set up in her room, she whips up covers for chair footpads, tablecloths for the dining room or comfort cushions for the nursing home residents.

“I have even been ‘conned’ into chairing the residents’ meetings. I came along one day to offer my help and the next minute, I was voted in,” she said.

“But it is all good; this is my home and I enjoy doing things to help out others.”

ENDS

For further information, please contact:

Annette Densham
Media and Communications Coordinator
Ph: (07) 3363 1747

MEDIA RELEASE

Desley Millwood
General Manager Communications and Marketing
Ph: (07) 3327 1692 or 0419 486 943

About Churches of Christ Care

Established in 1930, today Churches of Christ Care is one of the largest, most diverse not-for-profit organisations in Australia.

Churches of Christ Care, a division of Churches of Christ in Queensland and working with Churches of Christ in Vic/Tas, provides a range of care services to vulnerable persons at different stages of their life journey.

Churches of Christ Care is active in the areas of early childhood services, child protection, community and affordable housing, retirement living, community aged care, and residential aged care. We operate more than 144 services throughout Queensland and Melbourne, Victoria with the support of more than 3,100 staff and over 750 volunteers.

Services provided by Churches of Christ Care are funded by a mix of government subsidies, grants, fees and charges for our services such as early childhood services and residential aged care, and through fundraising activities.

Our services are offered to all those in need regardless of religious background. Churches of Christ Care is built on a foundation of Christian values, commitment to quality care, and trust and respect for clients and the community.