

MEDIA RELEASE

29 November 2011

Volunteers celebrated for their valuable donation of time

Volunteers at Churches of Christ Care's Aged Care Services on the Gold Coast will be honoured on International Volunteers Day for their dedicated and tireless efforts in sharing their lives and time with the community.

International Volunteer Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985. International Volunteer Day is now celebrated worldwide with thousands of volunteers involved in a range of initiatives including conferences, exhibitions, morning teas and many other activities, which highlight the role of volunteers in their communities.

Churches of Christ Care's Golden Age, Homesteads and Marana Gardens Aged Care Services will recognise their volunteers at the three separate celebratory events on Monday 5 December.

Service Manager at Golden Age Helen Hardcastle said volunteers play an important role at the service, and this was one way of thanking them for their contribution.

"Our volunteers help out in a variety of ways and each contributes to enriching the lives of our residents," Ms Hardcastle said.

Lifestyle Therapy Team Leader at Marana Gardens Linda Chapman agrees. "Volunteers take the pressure off our staff by helping out with bus outings, activities, transport, meal times, and of course by providing companionship to residents.

"We are taking our volunteers out for breakfast to say thank you to them and celebrate all they do for us," Ms Chapman said.

Ms Hardcastle said Golden Age is holding an afternoon tea to say thank you. "We want to thank each of our volunteers. Having an afternoon and giving them a gift each is just a small way to say thank you for everything they do for our service and the people who call Golden Age their home."

Golden Age has 23 aged care volunteers and eight pastoral care volunteers, Homesteads has 22 aged care volunteers and Marana Gardens has 10 aged care volunteers and one pastoral care volunteer.

Churches of Christ Care has more than 700 volunteers across Queensland who assist in early childhood, child protection, affordable housing, retirement living, community aged care and residential aged care services.

For more information about volunteering with Churches of Christ Care please phone Andrea Harborne on (07) 3363 1701.

ENDS

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Photo opportunities

Who: Volunteers and staff from Churches of Christ Care's Golden Age Aged Care Services

What: Afternoon tea to celebrate International Volunteers Day

Where: Golden Age Aged Care Services: 60 Ridgeway Ave Southport

When: Monday 5 December 10.00am

Who: Volunteers and staff from Churches of Christ Care's Marana Gardens Aged Care Services

What: Breakfast to celebrate International Volunteers Day

Where: Southport Surf Life Saving Club Macarthur Parade Main Beach

When: Monday 5 December 8.30am

Who: Volunteers and staff from Churches of Christ Care's Homesteads Aged Care Service

What: Breakfast to celebrate International Volunteers Day

Where: Homestead Aged Care Service 80 Billabirra Crescent Nerang

When: Monday 5 December 8.30am

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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.

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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.