

2013



YES WE CAN



Uniting Church. **Uniting Young People.**



UnitingCare
South Australia

CONTENTS

Introduction3

Step by Step instructions.....4

Who is UnitingCare.....6

Frequently Asked Questions7

Getting Organised8

 Tips for communication with supermarkets

 Other helpful tips

 Sample letter to parents

 Sample permission form

 List of UnitingCare Agencies

Bible Study.....12

Role Plays.....14

Flyers to give to shoppers.....16

A4 poster17



Poverty and hunger exist. In our community.

Can we help?

YES WE CAN

In partnership with UnitingCare SA this resource has been created to assist you & your youth group to missionally engage with your local community. No matter how big or small your group this simple event & resource can be used at any time through the year to serve your local community.

ABOUT

What: Set up outside a supermarket with your youth to collect cans from shoppers for those in need.

Purpose: To teach young people how to missionally engage with their local community by acting out the principles of social justice.

Theological Reflection: God is on a mission to bring love and justice into the world, and the church is called to partner with Him. This is a great opportunity for practical discipleship and to teach young people about serving others.

ORGANISING YOUR YES WE CAN EVENT

In the next pages of this resource is a simple step by step kit to help you plan, prepare & organise your 'Yes We Can' event. Our goal is to make organising & participating in 'Yes We Can' as simple as possible. If you have any further questions or need further ideas or information on how to best utilise this pack please contact:

Will Hall – Youth & Young Adults State Coordinator

whall@sa.uca.org.au or 0415 175 346

Katrina Levi – Youth & Young Adult Administrator

klevi@sa.uca.org.au or 0421 118 263

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN YES WE CAN

Have fun at the supermarket!

-UnitingCare SA & Youth State Team



STAGE 1

PLANNING + PAPERWORK

1. Start with Prayer.
2. Plan YES WE CAN into Youth Ministry term schedule
3. Send out a YES WE CAN letter to parents, and make sure the permission form has been signed before the event (see 'getting organised' for sample letter & form).
4. Risk Assessment: fill out appropriate forms and assign someone to look after Duty of Care. If you need assistance please contact Katrina or visit sa.uca.org.au/called-to-care/downloadable-resources
5. Contact supermarket - A month in advance, call your local supermarket to organise your 'Yes We Can' event.
6. Contact a UnitingCare agency from the list provided to pre-organise a time to drop-off your cans (see pg 11).

PREPARATION

7. Promotion - Get everyone excited at youth ministry nights leading up to the event.
8. Train and equip youth – see Bible Studies provided and have fun with the role play.
9. Prayer, prayer and more prayer!
10. Organise a trailer, driver and a car with a towbar (as a guide 1 trailer per group).
11. Organise young people into groups of 4-6 for 2-3 hour shifts (or whatever works).
12. Duty of Care - make sure you have enough leaders to youth numbers.

Leader Numbers	Youth Numbers
3	8
4	16
5	24
6	32

13. Call your supermarket and UnitingCare agency a few days prior to confirm.
14. If you will be situated in a car park, organise hi-vis safety vests (\$5 from Cheap As Chips stores).

STAGE 2

YES WE CAN

STEP-BY-STEP

STAGE 3

ON THE DAY

15. Did you remember to pray?
16. Arrive at supermarket & set up trailer/tables/ trolleys in front of entrance to supermarket. Feel free to let the youth decorate the table/trailer, make it stand out.
17. Hand out flyers to shoppers, and collect cans.
18. Remember, represent your church well. Youth are to behave in a respectful and responsible manner.
19. We suggest you remain at supermarket all day and if you can for a weekend.
20. Optional – take a camera/video camera to document activities for youth ministry & church.

DELIVERING DONATIONS

21. Deliver your collected food to your local UnitingCare agency.



STAGE 4

Uniting Church. **Uniting Young People.****UnitingCare**
South Australia

WHO IS UNITINGCARE?

UnitingCare is the community service agencies of the Uniting Church, providing a network of care in our community.

In South Australia, 18 agencies deliver services including welfare, hospital and health care, advocacy, emergency support, aged care, accommodation, children, youth and family support, and disability services.

EVERY DAY UNITINGCARE PROVIDES

- storage for 200 bags of luggage, does 30 loads of washing, and provides 50 showers for homeless people.
- a home for over 3,000 aged care residents.
- emergency accommodation for 600 people including those with disabilities, mental health needs and the homeless.



EVERY WEEK UNITINGCARE PROVIDES

- more than 128,000 meals.
- affordable rental housing for more than 340 families.
- accommodation for 1,300 young people, including secondary and university students.

EVERY YEAR UNITINGCARE PROVIDES

- emergency assistance to over 18,000 people across the state.
- care for more than 23,000 hospital patients.
- in home support to over 6,500 people.
- education for around 6,000 students from Early Learning to Year 12.
- response to more than 17,000 lifeline and domestic violence helpline calls.
- 9,000 families with childcare, foster care and respite care.
- assistance to over 220 people with disabilities to find work and supports more than 350 people with disabilities to maintain employment.
- over 288,200 hours of respite care.
- medical care for around 2,000 breast care patients and has 6 breast care nurses.

WHERE WILL THE CANS BE DONATED TO?

All cans collected will be donated to the Uniting Church's community services arm, UnitingCare, which provides a broad spectrum of services including food relief to struggling families. (See "About UnitingCare" Info Sheet pg 6).

WHAT CAN PEOPLE DONATE?

People are encouraged to donate canned goods, pasta, muesli bars, sugar, nuts, flour, and dried fruit – most packaged goods with a lengthy use-by date. If someone insists on donating perishable goods (fresh fruit and vegetables etc), graciously remind them that you don't have the ability to accept them and offer the website for Oz Harvest - www.ozharvest.org

WHAT ARE SOME STATISTICS?

--Homelessness and poverty in South Australia--

- Over a thousand people are sleeping rough each night in SA.
- Out of ten people one person is earning less than \$249 each week to support themselves and often a family.
- Centrelink payments fall short of pushing these incomes over the poverty line by \$80-\$180 each week.
- Hundreds of people request support services each day from UnitingCare agencies.
- People from all walks of life can find themselves suddenly out of work or, due to a sudden crisis, find they are just unable to make ends meet.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

Suggested time is 9am-5pm on a Saturday. Perhaps youth could work in 2-3 hour shifts, depending on the number of volunteers. Feel free to expand to a Sunday, if you have enough youth to sustain.

WHAT DO I DO IF SOMEONE SAYS, "I AM THE POOR IN THE COMMUNITY"?

Tell them that their situation is important to you and give them the details of the UnitingCare agency where your cans will be going and encourage them to register there.

WILL PARENTS NEED TO SIGN A PERMISSION FORMS?

Yes. Parents of all participating youth will need to sign a permission form. (Sample permission form provided)

WHAT DO WE DO WITH A TRAILER FULL OF CANS?

In the month before you take part in YES WE CAN, ring your local UnitingCare agency, and organise a time to drop off the cans. If necessary, arrange a secure, lockable area for the cans to be stored in until the drop off time (eg. A lockable garage).



1. Tips for good communication with supermarkets

- It's important to retain a good relationship with them, not only because we want this project to work smoothly and don't want to disrupt trade, but also because we are representatives of Jesus in our local community.
- Shopping Complex – in the weeks preceding YES WE CAN, make contact with the complex that the supermarket is situated in to notify them of the event. Ensure they understand the 'Yes We Can' event and answer any questions.
- Surrounding Shopkeepers – During the day, attempt to meet the people working in the businesses around you. Get to know those who serve us in our shopping centres.

Example conversation

For when you call or visit your local supermarket (we strongly encourage you to meet the manager in person at their store):

Hi, I'm *name* from *Church*. I would like to speak to your manager, please.

*(**If the appropriate person is not available, ask when they WILL be, and ring back at the right time.*

*Chances are, they won't return your call if you just leave a message, so try again.**)*

My name is *name*, and I'm calling from *church name*. We are holding an event called 'Yes We Can', on Friday/ Saturday / Sunday March 1-3. Young people all over SA will be setting up outside supermarkets to collect cans for people in need.

We'd love permission to set up near the entrance your supermarket, and kindly ask customers if they'd like to buy a can to donate to people in need.

Would you be willing to participate?

Would you like to meet to talk about this further?

Extra information

- All insurance is covered by the Uniting Church SA.
- There will be leaders present at all times.
- Hi-vis vests will be worn if youth are in car parks.

2. Helpful Tips

- Organise Yes We Can with another local youth group & work together to make it a great event.
- Go back to the supermarket you did Yes We Can at last year, keep building on that relationship & community connection.
- Make sure youth learn to hold out flyers as people are going past – that way, even if they don't have a conversation, they will get information and may still donate. And remember to smile.
- We recommend doing 'Yes We Can' over the weekend, Saturday or Sunday when there is high traffic through the supermarket.
- Think about getting young adults or parents involved in helping on the day.
- Challenge your youth & leaders to step out of their comfort zone with this event.



3. Sample Letter to Parents

Date

Dear Parents,

Poverty and hunger exist. In our city.

We've created a simple resource and event to get our young people serving their local community.

Can we help? YES WE CAN!

On the weekend of _____ our youth ministry will set up outside local supermarkets to collect cans for those in need.

Purpose: To teach young people how to missionally engage with their local community through a social justice act to support those in need.

Theological Relevance: We would like your child/ren to know that God is on a mission to bring love and justice into the world, and He calls us as His people to partner with Him. We desire to give your child the opportunity to practically learn about serving others in need.

[NAME] youth ministry will be travelling to [name of supermarket] from *time* to collect non-perishable goods.

All food collected will be given to UnitingCare agencies, who prepare emergency food relief for families in need.

All you need to do is sign the attached permission form, and have your child return it to us on or before [Friday / Saturday/Sunday, _____].

If you and your family would like to participate by donating goods, please send them along with your child on the day.

Ask your child about the event as this would be a great activity for your family to do.

Please call our office if you have any questions.

[Signature]

[Youth pastor name]

[Youth ministry name]

[Contact details]

4. Sample Permission Form

Personal Contact details:

Name of participant:

Date of Birth: / /

Residential Address:

Suburb/Town:

Postcode:

Caregiver's contact details:

Home Ph:

Work Ph:

Mob Ph:

Email address:

Emergency Contact:

Full name of person for contact in emergency: _____

Relationship to child/young person: _____

Home Ph:

Work Ph:

Mob Ph:

Signed: _____ Parent/Caregiver Date: _____

I consent for my child to take part in the YES WE CAN service event.

Signed: _____ Parent/Caregiver Date: _____

Confidential Medical Report:

Please circle any of the following that apply:

• asthma • blackouts • diabetes

Additional

• heart condition • migraines • blood disorders • blood pressure

• allergic reactions (eg bee stings, penicillin) • other _____

I, _____ authorise the leader in charge of the group, where it is impracticable to communicate with me, to arrange for medical treatment, as the leader may deem necessary at any time during YES WE CAN. I accept responsibility for payment of all expenses associated with such treatment.

Please tick if you agree.

I further authorise the use of Ambulance and/or anaesthetic by a qualified medical practitioner if in his/her judgement it is necessary.

Ambulance cover: • No • Yes (please provide details)

I understand that this information will be stored in a secure and confidential manner.

I appreciate that the leaders of church name will take every care and that the leaders and those connected with the activities cannot be held responsible for personal injury, loss or theft of property.

Signed: _____ Parent/Caregiver Date: _____

Permission to be photographed or filmed

There are times when young people may be photographed, or videotaped, e.g. in program activities, special events, etc.

I give permission for my young person to be photographed and/or videotaped and may be displayed in church and other not for profit publications or on the church website. I understand that as a safety precaution my young person's family name will not be published on the Internet and there will be no linkage of names with photographs.

Signed: _____ Parent/Caregiver Date: _____

***Privacy Information**

All the information recorded on this form is collected and managed in accordance with the Uniting Church Privacy Policy. This information has been collected for the primary purpose of church name and may be used for any activities, conducted or promoted by church name.

If you do not want this information to be used for any other purpose other than YES WE CAN, please let us know. For further information please contact: **Youth Pastor** Ph: XXXXXXXX

LIST OF UNITINGCARE AGENCIES WITH FOODBANKS

Byron Place Community Centre
(UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide's homeless shelter)
61-67 Byron Place,
Adelaide 5000
Ph: 8217 9600

Ucount Support Services
56 Sunnymead Dr, Aberfoyle Park
Ph: 8358 6960

Uniting in Care - Salisbury
1 Brown Tce, Salisbury
Ph: 8258 2675

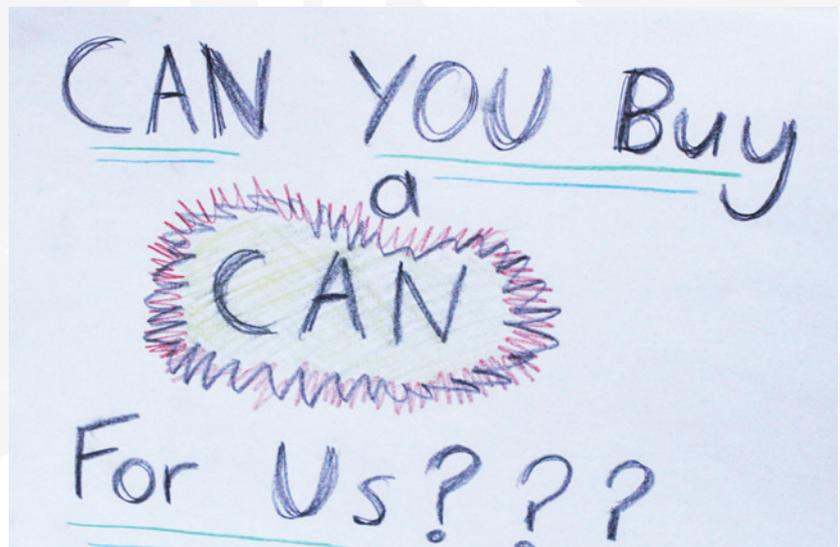
UnitingCare Adelaide East
Crn Port Rush Rd & Norwood Pde,
Beulah Park
Ph: 8331 3529

Uniting Care Glenelg
92 Jetty Rd, Glenelg
Ph: 8295 1771

UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide
10 Pitt Street,
Adelaide, South Australia 5000

UnitingCare Wesley Bowden
77 Gibson St Bowden
Ph: 8245 7100

UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide
58 Dale St, Port Adelaide
Ph: 8241 0016



*For country areas, please contact Amelia at UnitingCare SA 8236-4255 or unitingcare@sa.uca.org.au

Study 1: Listening to the World

Read Micah 6:8

REFLECT

Micah conveniently summarizes the way of life to which God calls us; “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God”.

Make three columns in your journal, one for each aspect of living by God’s call: do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God. Before you pray today, take time to read or watch the news – check out www.abc.net.au/news Ask yourself where you hear God’s call to justice, kindness, or humility. Write what you hear under the appropriate columns.

PRAY

Pray for those who desire justice, need healing, are being persecuted, or long for compassion.

ACT

Like ‘UnitingCare SA’ on Facebook or sign up for a new email from a site like Uniting World – www.unitingworld.org.au or Uniting Justice - www.unitingjustice.org.au to stay in touch with what’s happening in our world.

READING

In our church youth group there is one young man who reads the local newspaper every morning, National Geography Magazine every month, and reads history books in his spare time. I learned this about Tim at Bible study on Wednesday nights. During scripture study or when we shared joys and concerns, Tim would offer an illustration or insight from the world around us: local policy decisions, a natural disaster, or an international event. I was impressed with his reading commitment and ability to remember so much information. More importantly, I learned from Tim the value of being aware of the world around me in relation to my faith. Being a disciple of Jesus means listening to the cries, needs, and groans of all God’s children and all God’s creation.

It is naive to pray only for the joys and concerns of our congregation when people in our own city can’t afford the basics of living because they have lost employment and whole nations are in the midst of war. It is impossible for me to reduce damage to the environment if I don’t take time to learn how my own actions contribute to wasting our precious resources.

Tim taught me that I cannot read, study, and pray in a vacuum. Part of living out my faith requires awareness of the world, the people, and the environment around me. This effort takes time, and I have to be intentional about it. But when I tune in to the joys and trials beyond my own immediate circle, I have found my prayer life to be more meaningful, and I see more clearly God’s incredible love and compassion for all of creation. I feel called to be more sensitive, compassionate, and active in the world and realize tangible ways to help bring about the kingdom of God on earth.

YES WE CAN BIBLE STUDY

Study 2: Using Gifts to share God's Love

Read 1 Corinthians 12:31- 13:13

REFLECT

God gives us not only the gifts (physical and mental equipment, ability, know-how) to live out our faith but the love to do it without self at the centre.

Meditate on the nature of "the greater gifts" of love described by Paul. Consider the spirit in which you have done your work, participated in activities, or helped others during the past week. When have you done so grudgingly and when in "the more excellent way"?

Down one side of a journal page make a list of all the qualities of love Paul names in 1 Cor 13:4-7. On the other side of the page make a list of your group's members, including yourself. Draw connections between love qualities and names, identify where you see the love of Christ active in and among you.

PRAY

Open your heart to the gift of God's love poured out on us through Christ. Open your heart to pour out that love for others today.

ACT

With each and every encounter today, let the gift of God's love be outpoured through you.

READING

Writing in *Wishful Thinking: A Seekers ABC*, Fredrick Buechner helps us understand the connections between our calling and our gifts. The passion between lovers, the sympathy among friends, or the radical love of forgiveness, all these are forms of love. Each entails an ability to lose oneself in another's arms, in another's company, or in the suffering of others – and therefore find love as God desires it. "Love", Buechner says, "is not primarily an emotion, but an act of the will. When Jesus tells us to love our neighbours, he is not telling us to love them in the sense of responding to them with cosy emotional feelings. You can as easily produce a cosy emotional feeling on demand as you can a yawn on a sneeze".

Instead, Jesus wants us to choose to love our neighbours enough to work for their well-being, even if it requires making sacrifices along the way. When we choose to love our neighbours, we may be surprised to find that we can serve those around us without even liking them very much.

Our calling asks us to love people in the messiness of life. Whether someone needs a ride, needs to talk late into the night, or needs some extra help to get through the week, God calls us not only to help but to do so with an attitude of love.

Get your young people to practice different scenarios, in order to build confidence in approaching shoppers.

Have everyone break into groups of three. Practice different scenarios, and use the scripts below to get things started. Take it in turns to role play, and have the third person offer feedback.

SUGGESTION: SHOW AND TELL

- After practising, have everyone gather and perform to the whole group.

SUGGESTION: BE CREATIVE!

- Have a basket full of random costumes and props.eg. old lady dress, punk wig

SCENARIO ONE

1

Youth: Hi, we're from *** Uniting Church, will you join us and make a difference today by donating food for emergency relief?

Old lady: That sounds nice, dear. What can I do?

Youth: All you need to do is buy a couple of extra things when you go into Foodland today, and drop them off in our trailer when you leave. We accept all non-perishable goods, like cans, pasta, breakfast spreads, dried fruit, flour, and many other things!

Old lady: Alright dear. Does cat food count? Where will the food be donated?

Youth: Any donations you make will be taken to a local UnitingCare agency, which provides for people in desperate situations through emergency food relief.

SCENARIO TWO

Youth: Hi!

Young guy: What? I'm in a hurry.

Youth: *hands him flyer* Look man, I don't want your money.

We're just collecting cans for struggling families – thought you might be interested in buying a couple when you're in the supermarket, and giving it to us on the way out.

Young guy: Sounds epic mate! Can I give you some cash?

Youth: That's very kind of you, but we're just collecting food at the moment. Remember us when you go shopping!

2

Tip: Appearance matters: good, confident posture, eye contact, smiling, appropriate clothing, enclosed shoes.

3

SCENARIO THREE

Youth: Hello, would you like donate to...

Mum with pram: *walks past and ignores youth*

Youth: *keeps smiling*

(Pregnant Woman walks up.)

Youth: Hi! Would you help us...

Woman: "No, thanks! I'm in a hurry!"

Youth: "No worries. Maybe next time."

SCENARIO FOUR

Youth: Hi! I'm from **** Uniting Church, and we're collecting cans for...

Teenager: You know what? I'm sick of you people. I don't want to be preached at.

Youth: We're not preaching. There are a lot of people who are facing tough times and we want to stand beside them and let them know they aren't alone. May I invite you to help us help others.

Teenager: You should be giving food to me, because I don't have enough food!

Youth: Your situation is important to us. We are taking this food to UnitingCare *****. If you ring them up on this number, they can register you to receive some food assistance.

Teenager: Why can't I take this now?

Youth: There are very strict laws about the distribution of food. Our local UnitingCare is able to meet all those expectations. And they'd be pleased to lend a hand.

Teenager: *walks away*

TIP: Make sure youth learn to hold out flyers as people are going past – that way, even if they don't have a conversation, they will get information and may still donate. And remember to smile.

Have Fun at the supermarket!

4



Uniting Church. **Uniting Young People.**



UnitingCare
South Australia

POVERTY AND HUNGER EXIST. IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Can we help?

YES WE CAN

We've created an easy way for you to make change happen.

1. Buy non-perishable goods (eg cans)
2. Drop them in the trailer on your way out

That's it! By simply giving to our food collection, you are assisting people in need.



Uniting Church. **Uniting Young People.**



All cans donated to your local

UnitingCare

POVERTY AND HUNGER EXIST. IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Can we help?

YES WE CAN

We've created an easy way for you to make change happen.

1. Buy non-perishable goods (eg cans)
2. Drop them in the trailer on your way out

That's it! By simply giving to our food collection, you are assisting people in need.



Uniting Church. **Uniting Young People.**



All cans donated to your local

UnitingCare

POVERTY AND HUNGER EXIST. IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Can we help?

YES WE CAN

We've created an easy way for you to make change happen.

1. Buy non-perishable goods (eg cans)
2. Drop them in the trailer on your way out

That's it! By simply giving to our food collection, you are assisting people in need.



Uniting Church. **Uniting Young People.**



All cans donated to your local

UnitingCare