



Share Appeal 2009

Finding hope for Josh



Josh is a healthy seven year old, but already life has set him some challenges. His world is often filled with feelings of frustration and isolation and his only defence at times is to take it out on those around him.

Living with autism has been distressing for Josh and his family. After trying mainstream activities with little success, Mum Fiona was determined to find help.

Being in a rural community where services can be limited, Fiona's search ended at UnitingCare Singleton Disability Respite Services. The service is run by volunteers from the local Uniting Church and provides inclusive after school activities for children with disabilities and their families. After four years, both Josh and his family still attend the service and enjoy craft, bowling, ball sports and other activities without any pressure.

“It is so comforting to receive this support. Josh loves the outdoor activities and my other children join in and have made some lovely friends. We have no family in the local area which makes social outings very difficult. After being involved with all the wonderful volunteers in this program, I now have a whole network of friends who feel just like family,” says Fiona.

‘Being able to share challenges and triumphs with other families who face similar experiences provides strength and reassurance’, says Fiona.

UnitingCare Singleton Disability Respite Services is free to families, and relies on volunteers as well as the kind donations and ongoing support of the Uniting Church and the community.

Please support UnitingCare NSW.ACT by making a donation as we continue with the Church's ministry of care and compassion for vulnerable children, families and older people in our community.

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