

CEOs swap a day in the office to help local community centre



Decorating a playroom, painting a fence, and getting their hands dirty in the garden; these were just some of the tasks involved for a group of Sydney-based CEOs who spent the day at The Shop, Waterloo, a centre for women and children, as part of the CEO Day of Caring, organised by United Way.

Roy Wakelin-King, CEO of the Redfern-Waterloo Authority, was one of a dozen CEOs who offered their support to improve The Shop for the women and children who use the centre.

"It was very rewarding to volunteer and to be part of the transformation of the The Shop," says Mr Wakelin-King. "It took great team work and all of us really enjoyed lending a hand to improve the space for the benefit of the local community."

Susan, The Shop's Team Leader was thrilled with the outcome and the team's achievements.

"The painting of the art room, playroom, fencing and planter boxes, plus the planting of shrubs and other tasks has really lifted the centre's presentation and provided much-needed maintenance. The improvements have also created a significant morale boost for the service's clients, staff and visitors. The Shop is very grateful for all the CEOs hard work."

United Way, Sydney who organised the volunteer opportunity on 11th May aims to provide leadership to create positive and lasting change and to address the underlying causes of Sydney's priority education, income and health problems.

Doug Taylor from United Way said: "There are many women and children in Waterloo who are in need of support because of the significant social and economic challenges they face in life. Our community partners and The Shop tell us regularly about the positive impact a better physical environment has on the mental well-being of individuals that access their service. It is very satisfying to see the work that the CEOs completed in just one day and the positive impact this will have."

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PHOTO CAPTION:

Getting their hands dirty for the local community: CEO Day of Caring at The Shop, Waterloo.

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