

Freo's jubilee harvest

by ADRIAN KWINTOWSKI

AT least 36 Freo locals will keep a roof over their heads thanks to the generosity of port city residents and churches.

Organisers of the week-long Fremantle Jubilee – which concluded last week – say they've raised more than \$111,000, half of which went towards paying outstanding Homeswest rents, water, gas and electricity bills in Freo.

Approximately \$60,000 was spent wiping outstanding debts of at least 200 of Fremantle's most needy residents including 36 Homeswest clients facing eviction due to unpaid rates, says Jubilee director Julie Hollett.

By last Tuesday 70 Western Power and 72 Alinta Gas and 26 WaterCorp accounts had been paid and reconnected.

Court action against defaulting WaterCorp clients was also stopped.

Another \$10,000 was given to government agencies for emergency

relief and food vouchers, and fridges and washing machines were purchased for young people trying to set up homes.

Ms Hollett said the jubilee heralded a unified stand by Fremantle's churches to lead the way in caring for those in need.

"This is not a flash-in-the-pan thing because what this is about is ongoing care in the community," she said.

"I think it [jubilee] can certainly happen again. We're just waiting for the next inspiration."