

The mission of the Social Justice Council (SJC) is to inform and educate the congregation and the public about social concerns, to find ways and means to rectify social injustices and to take action for social change in accordance with UU principles.

This year a change was made to the Social Justice Committee. After several meetings and much discussion it was decided to change structure of the SJ Committee to a Council. Three Team Leaders were selected and Teams based on areas of focus were established. Allison Snell is Team Leader for Peace & Human Rights; Linda Stoller for Economic Justice; and Dotti "Green Jeans" Doyle is Team Leader for Environmental Justice. It has been decided to establish a fourth Team separating Peace & GLBT issues from the remainder of Human Rights issues. We are continuing to recruit another Team Leader and additional volunteers.

For the sixth year the SJC continues to coordinate the Khasi Hills Project presently under the direction of Marlene Calderone. Meeting our commitment has been difficult this year due to the economy. \$3,360.00 was sent in March. Upon hearing of our difficulty meeting our goal a very generous member donated \$1,000.00 and two members initiated a \$300.00 challenge each. The two challenges were met with one member donating an additional \$500.00. We now have raised an additional \$2,550.00 to continue our sponsorship of the Margaret Barr Memorial School in India. The school has had some difficulties and has a decreased number of students. Sixty five students and eight teachers now benefit from the sponsorship and generosity of our congregation. We are looking at options to improve our support such as changing the renewal period or making it a year long program. Reverend Abhi intends to visit the school in August, 2010 and will bring back information to assist us.

Marlene Calderone organized the Mitten Tree purchase of holiday presents for low income/homeless children and those affected by Aids or HIV with the invaluable assistance of the Economic & Human Rights Teams, Linda Stoller, Allison Snell, Maralyn Toman and others. Due to the economy and the need, we expanded the program again this year. A total of 108 gifts were distributed, 50 through the Shepherd Center of Tarpon Springs and 58 through Metropolitan Charities of Pinellas County. Again, our members overwhelmed me with their generosity. This continues to be an extremely successful project.

Our UUSC representative, Ann Myers, was able to listen to the phone conference call each month with few exceptions. We were informed about Darfur and Haiti, their problems, progress and hopes for the future. Ann coordinated the sale of UUSC holiday cards and the distribution of "Guest at Your Table Boxes." The sale of the holiday cards was down by two thirds this year, most likely because of the economy. The total collected for "Guest at Your Table" contributions was \$1,372.76 commensurate with last year.

Linda Stoller continues to manage the Fair Trade Coffee Project. In its fifth year this project is extremely successful. The UU Service Committee and UUC, as well as the growers, benefit. These sales recently allowed us to contribute \$500.00 to the UUC General Fund. In addition to coffee; tea, hot chocolate and chocolate bars are sold once a month. Members really enjoy the Fair Trade coffee being served during the social hour. We are considering expanding the sale of Fair Trade products during the next fiscal year.

In total, our relationship with the UU Service Committee continues to be an informative valuable resource.

The following items are under the Human Rights Team which focuses on Peace and GLBT issues. .

Petitions were signed, phone calls made and e-mails and letters were send to the appropriate elected officials asking them to push for peace.

We continue to monitor Darfur and have sent many e-mails and phone calls to President Obama asking him to honor his pre election promises regarding Darfur. Progress is extremely slow and discouraging.

Participation in the Pride in Paradise Parade in St. Pete was very positive. The Cluster did not sponsor a booth this year so everyone who wanted to be a part of Pride either marched or rode on the flat bed truck. Our reception was wonderful with people cheering "Here come the UUs".

The Standing on the Side of Love campaign is in full swing. We donated toward a large "Marriage is a Civil Right" banner displayed on a building in Salt Lake City during GA and purchased our own SSL banner which hangs on the UUC wall. On Valentine's Day SSL Tee shirts and buttons were sold to publicize the campaign.

A Racial Concerns Sub-committee was established with Co-Chairs Arnt Monge and Scott Milinder. In celebration of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday twelve members attended the breakfast and approximately 25 marched in the MLK Parade proudly carrying the UUC and Social Justice Committee Banners. A connection with the NAACP has been established with the hope of mutual support of future projects. Membership to the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum was renewed.

The Social Justice Council hosted a special program on Meeting the Needs of Clearwater's Growing Hispanic Community organized by Greg Musselman, Outreach Coordinator for Lutheran Services FL.

The Economic Justice Team headed by Linda Stoller had an extremely busy and fulfilling year. Concentrating on assisting the Coalition of Immokalee Workers with their Fair Food Campaign the Social Justice Council participated in an action picketing Publix in Clearwater and presenting the store manager with letters from UUC members encouraging Publix to agree with the CIW's request for fair working conditions and a penny more per pound of picked tomatoes. The SJC served lunch to the CIW participants and, on several occasions, helped house them. Several SJC & UUC members traveled to Lakeland to join in another action against Publix at their home location.

In December blankets were collected and donated to the farmworkers in Plant City. In January we conducted the first annual, extremely successful, Maralyn Toman Rice, Beans and Tortilla Collection for the farmworkers.

An "Undie Sunday" collection was held and new underwear and sox were delivered to HEP the Homeless Emergency Project in Clearwater.

We brought the CIW's award winning Modern Day Slavery Museum to UUC to educate the community about slavery right here in Florida.

Signed post cards in support of the tobacco workers were collected and delivered.

We continue to support Religious Community Services (RCS) with ongoing collections of food and toiletries. Donations from Split the Plate went to the Food Bank and Grace House. Members assisted with the letter carrier food drive and other members volunteer at the Food Bank throughout the year.

The Environmental Justice Team headed by Dotti "Green Jeans" Doyle meets regularly and is continuing to work on green issues. This active group is pursuing the goal of UUC becoming a Green Sanctuary. This is an enormous and very intensive process. They continue to educate members, showing films, sharing conservation tips, and organizing trips to green projects.

Through our own Better World Emergency Fund and an agreement with the ASAP Homeless Services Inc. we continued our one year sponsorship of a room in their Women and Children Shelter. . The BWEF also contributed to SHARE in Clearwater and provided funds for the purchase of computers for disadvantaged children in South Africa. In addition, donations were made to the following funds; Philippine/Vietnam Disaster Relief, American Samoa/Samoa/Tonga Disaster Relief, Haiti Disaster Relief and Rev. Abhi's Discretionary Fund. The BWEF allows us to respond immediately to a disaster or emergency.

Our monthly Split the Plate program enables us to donate to many worthy charities and causes. Recently, due to the economy and great need, we have concentrated on local charities such as RCS, Pinellas Hope, Metro Charities and Clothes to Kids, Inc.

The SJC table in the Social Hall was staffed by Marlene Calderone and various Team members, after services most Sundays, to distribute information, answer questions, address concerns and educate the members. Due to the world situation, our economy, and the many changes nationally, educating and keeping UUC members up to date on issues of concern, has been of primary importance. Many action alerts, letter writing campaigns and petitions were initiated on a wide variety of important issues. In addition to those members mentioned above there were many members of this committee who attended Saturday meetings, staffed tables, contributed ideas and supported the projects.

Our Chair of nearly five years, Marlene Calderone resigned effected March 1st. Marlene will continue to offer support, serve as Treasurer and Chair the Khasi Hills Committee.

Special thanks to everyone who pitched in to make this a very successful year. And, as always, a special thanks to Reverend Abhi for his support and commitment to social justice issues and the work of this committee.

Marlene Calderone, Past Chair
Social Justice Council UUC

Attachment 1

Split the Plate Donations 2009 - 2010

June 2009	Community Tampa Bay's Anytown	\$ 450.00
July	Boys & Girls Clubs of the Suncoast	\$ 300.00
August	Clothes to Kids, Inc.	\$ 300.00
September	RCS Food Bank	\$ 522.00
October	Metropolitan Charities	\$ 577.00
November	Coalition of Immokalee Workers	\$ 517.00
December	RCS Grace House	\$ 711.00
January 2010	Association Sunday 70% - 30%	\$ 1,355.00
February	Pinellas Hope	\$ 879.00
March	UU Legislative Ministry	\$ 515.00
April	Community Tampa Bay's Anytown	\$ 470.00
May	Big Brothers Big Sisters	\$ 438.00
Total Split the Plate Donations 2009 - 2010		\$ 7,034.00

Better World Emergency Fund Donations

ASAP Homeless Services, Inc.	\$ 1,500.00
Rev. Abhi's Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,000.00
SHARE	\$ 100.00
Friendship Force FL Suncoast – Computers S. Africa	\$ 500.00
Philippine/Vietnam Disaster	\$ 900.00
American Samoa/Samoa/Tonga Disaster	\$ 500.00
Haiti Earthquake Relief	\$ 1,000.00
UUA Kentucky/Tennessee Disaster Relief	\$ 1,000.00
Total BWEF Donations 2009 – 2010	\$ 6,500.00

Additional UUC Donations

UUSC Guest at Your Table	\$ 1,372.76
UUSC Holiday Cards	\$ 380.00
Khasi Hills – Margaret Barr Memorial School	\$ 5,910.00
UUC Auction Donation	\$ 1,900.00
Haiti Disaster Relief Collection	\$ 5,722.00
Total Additional UUC Donations	\$ 15,284.76
Grand Total UUC Donations 2009-2010	\$ 28,818.76