



Unitarian Universalist Church at Washington Crossing

One Hundred & One Years of Faith, Hope, Love and Action, 1916 to 2017

Plate donations have supported the following organizations and causes during the 2016-2017 church year:

Loaves and Fishes: \$1,120

Churches and social service organizations in central New Jersey take turns preparing and serving a hot meal and providing a bag lunch for those who are hungry at St. Mary's Cathedral in Trenton. Over 800 meals are served on a typical Saturday. UUCWC again partnered with the Princeton UU congregation for our turn in March.

Morrisville Food Center: \$500

The Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church provides supplemental food assistance to hungry families in Lower Bucks County and the greater Trenton area. The Food Center provided non-perishable groceries, produce, meat, dairy and bread to over 16,000 individuals last year. It is a ministry run by over 70 dedicated volunteers, including a number of UUCWC members who have participated for many years.

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen: \$1,500

TASK feeds those who are hungry in the Greater Trenton/Princeton area and offers programs to encourage self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life of its patrons. TASK provides 3,500 meals a week at their primary facility and satellite locations. Programs include tutoring in basic literacy, math, GED preparation, and computer skills. TASK also provides referral services for housing, medical assistance and advocacy, employment, substance abuse rehabilitation, receipt of benefits and assistance in obtaining medical services.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: \$1,000

UUSC advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC's innovative approaches and measurable impact — in promoting economic justice, bolstering environmental justice, and protecting rights at risk — are grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights.

Unitarian Universalist United Nations Organization - Every Child is Our Child & Climate Justice Initiative: \$1000

ECOC helps children in Africa who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS reach their full potential by providing them with opportunities to attend school and receive the medical attention they need. The Climate Justice Initiative bolsters the UU climate change movement through advocacy and educational resources as well as collaborating with like-minded organizations at the UN, calling for global action in the name of a sustainable future for all.

Interfaith Housing Visions: \$500

Interfaith Housing Visions provides housing for rent for low-income families and the homeless in Bucks County, PA. They encourage families and individuals to become financially sustainable by providing referrals to various social and credit counseling services. They help to create better neighborhoods by rehabbing blighted houses and turning them into homes for low-income families. UUCWC member Bud Johnson is a former member of their Board of Directors.

A Woman's Place: \$500

This is the only domestic violence community benefit organization in Bucks County, PA. They provide a full range of programs and services to individuals experiencing domestic violence, their children, and the community, including emergency shelter, 24-hour hotline, counselling, support groups, prevention education and financial empowerment programs.

Womanspace: \$500

Womanspace provides a wide array of services to individuals impacted by domestic and sexual violence and are the only agency in Mercer County, NJ, with staff specifically trained to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual. They work in conjunction with the court system, police, social service providers and many private nonprofit organizations within the county.

Anchor House: \$1,000

This donation supports the participation of congregant George Desser in the annual Anchor House Bike Ride for Runaways. The agency works with homeless, runaway and abused children and youth, from birth to 21 years of age, to enable them to utilize their strengths and the support of their families and communities to help ensure a stable and successful home

New Hope Gay Pride Parade: \$75

Registration fee and donation for UUCWC's delegation.

HomeFront:

HomeFront's mission is to end homelessness in Central New Jersey by harnessing the caring, resources and expertise of the community. They work to give their clients the skills and opportunities to ensure adequate incomes, and work to increase the availability of adequate, affordable housing. The plate funds supported HomeFront as follows:

- **\$1043** to Monday Night Tutoring/Wacky Wednesdays: Monday evening tutoring includes one-on-one tutoring, supplies and equipment, plus a healthy dinner, are provided by UUCWC and its volunteers. Wacky Wednesdays is a series of summer enrichment activities.
- **\$262** to the Family Preservation Center: Furnishings for room sponsored by UUCWC. The furnishings include linens, towels, comforters, lamps, etc., and are taken by the occupants to their new housing.
- **\$285** for supplies and dinner for Holiday Craft Party for HomeFront and UUCWC children
- **\$600** towards the summer camp program for children

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice: \$750

This is a national community of religious organizations and individuals dedicated to achieving reproductive justice. Through education, organizing and advocacy, they work to elevate religious voices wherever faith, policy and reproductive lives intersect.

Equal Justice Initiative: \$1000

The Equal Justice Initiative is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. They provide legal representation to indigent defendants and prisoners who have been denied fair and just treatment in the legal system and they have won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill and aiding children prosecuted as adults. They are plans to build a national memorial to victims of lynching in Montgomery, Alabama, which is expected to open in 2018. This memorial project relating to America's history of racial terror and lynching will become the most ambitious in the nation on this topic.

UUCWC Earth Ministry: \$800

Ali's Garden, started by a youth member of UUCWC, provides produce for HomeFront participants as well as giving HomeFront children an opportunity to connect with the earth. This contribution covers new fencing and other necessary improvements.

Trenton Children's Chorus: \$500 in honor of Caryl Tipton's 25th Anniversary as UUCWC's Music Director.

Trenton Children's Chorus provides musical, academic, social, and personal opportunities for young people in the Greater Trenton Area. The program serves 150 singers in grades K-12. TCC offers choral music education and performance opportunities as well as drumming and keyboard instruction, music theory instruction, tutoring, homework assistance, SAT prep, college application help, and summer camp scholarships. Tuition is on a sliding scale; no child is ever denied participation because of limited resources. In an urban area where the high school drop-out rate of nearly fifty percent, 100% of TCC's graduates attend college.

Rescue Mission of Trenton \$500 in honor of the Annual Bike Ride for Battle Against Hunger.

The Rescue Mission of Trenton serves the truly needy men and women who have no place to turn for shelter, food, and clothing. The Mission provides a safe, clean, warm, refuge for the homeless, the hungry, the transient and the addicted. UUCWC congregant Denny Rodgers is a regular participant with Battle Against Hunger.

Oxfam America for Hurricane Matthew Relief Efforts in Haiti: \$750.

Oxfam's emergency teams provided the residents of Haiti with clean water, food, sanitation and protection after the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. At any given time, they are responding to over 30 emergency situations, giving life-saving support to those most in need. They also work to encourage global and local policy makers to bring about the changes needed to improve the lives of those affected.

Unitarian Church Baton Rouge Flood Fund: \$977 (full plate)

In August 2016, prolonged rainfall in southern parts of the U.S. state of Louisiana resulted in catastrophic flooding that submerged thousands of houses and businesses. The Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge provided emergency assistance to the community as well as longer term assistance to members of their congregation whose home were damaged by the flooding.

Peace Action Education Fund: \$350

Co-sponsorship of the Coalition for Peace Action Annual Interfaith Service and Conference.

UUCWC's Journey Toward Wholeness Library/Racial Justice Project Books and Films: \$350

Videos and books for the library, for use by members and friends of UUCWC.

Trenton Animal Shelter in honor of the Blessing of the Animals Service August 2016: \$300

UUCWC Family Social Justice Brown Bag Dinners: \$540

UUCWC families gathered monthly in 2016-2017 for brown bag dinners and do social justice projects with their children. The funds paid for the supplies for the various projects, such the making of fleece blankets and the wrapping of plastic ware for TASK, among other projects.

Books for Houses of Healing: \$540

Houses of Healing is an emotional healing course for prisoners that has been taught in prisons nationwide for over 25 years. Each participant in the course receives a course book written by Robin Casarjian, the originator of the program. The purchased books go to prisoners in courses facilitated by several members of UUCW in two NJ state prisons and in the Federal prison in Ft. Dix, NJ.

Support for the UUCWC Racial Justice Initiative: \$190

Purchase of a webinar on talking to children about racism as well as supplies for RJI events.

Purchase of UUCWC Values Banners: \$660

One banner is on display on the property and can viewed coming from the river. There is a second banner which was initially going to be placed so that it could be viewed by people driving from Scotch Road and Pennington. However, there has been some difficulty finding a placement that allows it to be seen and which falls within township guidelines. The placement of this second banner is still to be determined.

If you any questions, concerns or require further information, please email the Council for Faith in Action at cfa@uucwc.org. CFA has fiduciary responsibility for distribution of the 50% of the plate monies designated for social justice causes. Any member of the congregation can suggest organizations or causes for potential funding. Again, if you'd like to do this, email CFA or contact Sallie Dunner, current chair of CFA.