Social Justice Action

“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” — Howard Thurman

If you have something YOU are passionate about, please tell us so we can spread the word.

UUCCSW Service Project

Social Justice FAMILY Event – Please mark your calendar.
When – Sunday September 15, 12:00 – 12:30 PM
Where – In our very own church kitchen.
What – Pack meals. We will be packing meals for people in a homeless shelter in Worcester. There will be jobs for all ages. We deliver 100 meals on Sunday and they are handed out the next two days. The shelter does NOT provide lunches so this is a big help for people.

The SINGLE most successful project we’ve had in the last few years has been our meal packaging. There are a number of factors contributing to that success: People driving the project → Ed Walsh and Marge Fisher; The project is worthwhile; The task requires only an hour of time after church.

We would like to kick off an additional project this year. This editor believes that to be successful, a project requires all three of the factors just mentioned.
On September 29, those interested in Social Justice will meet after church to discuss next opportunities, including the areas listed here:

Opportunity #1:
https://www.teambrownsville.org/
This is a group in Brownsville Texas that helps people seeking entrance into the U.S. They work at the border to provide meals to people waiting entry, and wait at the bus station to get released people to where they need to be.

Opportunity #2:
https://beyondbondboston.org/
Here’s how ICE works: People who are arrested crossing the border are placed in jails around the country. Many of them are at Suffolk County Jail in Boston. BeyondBondBoston has a wide range of responsibilities – provide bail money to get people out of jail, find housing to get people started, help them with whatever they need.

I wrote about one particular young man and his sponsor in a Green Sheet this Spring. See http://www.uucsw.dreamhosters.com/uu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/GreenSheet-2019-04-28.pdf This activity was sponsored by Beyond Bond Boston Rev. Annie Gonzalez Milliken at First Parish in Bedford, and many other volunteers run this program.

Opportunity #3:
People languish in our jails, many for petty offenses. If they don’t have the bail – often $100, they can’t get out of jail – so they lose their jobs, custody of their children, and much more. This fund is designed to pay their bond (which is returned when the individual shows up for a hearing), and give them immediate aid to get them started again.

Here’s an overview of this program https://www.massbailfund.org/. On September 29, our church speaker is Muriel Kramer who is an active volunteer with this group. You can see a write up about her at https://www.wgbh.org/news/2018/04/22/local-news/challenging-massachusetts-bail-system-one-arrestee-time

Opportunity #4:
Safe Communities Act provides protections for immigrants, legal or not. It states that state law enforcement officers are required to obey State and Federal laws, but not to assist ICE in finding and holding people because of their legal status. This bill passed in the State Senate in 2018 but failed in the House. You can see an overview of the bills (in the house and senate) here, along with the sponsors of the bills:
https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S1401/Cosponsor
https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/H3573/Cosponsor

The challenge is not to find important and useful opportunities. The challenge is to shape an opportunity so we can all contribute with limited time resources.

We all want to be useful.

Jerry Breecher is the editor of this Social Justice Action sheet. I welcome any and all notices you would like to place here. Inherent in any such listing as this is a point of view – your point of view may differ from mine, but I would be truly delighted to express your social action agenda here. Jerry@Breecher.com