Social Justice Action

“You are either part of the problem or part of the solution. If you do nothing, you are part of the problem.”

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

UUCSW Service Project

Social Justice FAMILY Event –
When – Sunday December 1, 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.

In addition to packing lunches for the homeless, several times we have taken other items to the Shelter – warm socks are a good example. If anyone is inspired in this direction, we can deliver your contributions on December 1.

I can say with a high degree of certainty, cash always works,” said Michael Ferrell, CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless, which provides housing and direct services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C.

Beyond money, Ferrell said personal care items like soap, washcloths, and feminine hygiene products are always needed.

Jessica Salter, chief philanthropy officer at Amos House in Providence, Rhode Island, said not to forget about daily clothing essentials. “Often, things that many of us take for granted is access to new and clean underwear and socks,” she said. “Two of the least donated things and something that we need every single day and are seasonless.”

Dakota Chisholm, the volunteer coordinator for Chicago-area organization Sarah’s Circle, recommended checking your local organization’s Amazon Wish List. Sarah’s Circle is requesting deodorant and incontinence underwear, plus other nonessential items, such as journals and yarn for their daytime center programs.

Another overlooked item that can make a world of difference to a family are diapers. “For families who are experiencing homelessness, they might be receiving food stamps, and food stamps can only be used for food,” said Ferrell. “Things like diapers—which are critically needed for infants—they have to figure out how to purchase those.”

Support the Safe Communities Act

Here’s what’s included in this bill:
1. No questions about immigration status: Bars law enforcement and court personnel from asking people about their status unless required by law. The State Police already have a similar policy.
2. Protects due process: Before Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) questions someone in local custody, requires police to obtain their consent using a form that explains their right to decline an interview or have their own attorney present.
3. Limits notifications to ICE: Bars police, court officers and jail officials from notifying ICE that someone is about to be released. Sometimes law enforcement will call ICE to try to keep an immigrant from going free when they can no longer hold them, even though a citizen would go free. The bill would still allow notifications to ICE if a person is being released after serving a criminal sentence.

The Joint Committee On Transportation has heard testimony for the Work & Family Mobility Act. This is the bill that will provide a driver’s license option to people in Massachusetts who are undocumented. It is a crucially important bill and there are many ways in which you can support the coalition of people working to pass it.

Jerry Breecher is your editor.
Please contact him at Jerry@Breecher.com