

Report of the Social Justice Outreach Committee March 31, 2003

During this fiscal year, we endeavored to put our mission, newly defined during the last fiscal year, into action. We sought and received Standing Committee approval to change our name from the “Outreach Committee” to the “Social Justice Outreach Committee” (SJOC) so that it would better convey our broader mission.

Below is a comprehensive accounting of the FY’03 charitable giving of UUSWH, including \$12,000 allocated by the SJOC to causes in the larger world. In addition to fulfilling our reporting mandate and allocating our budget, the SJOC maintained a high level of activity on a variety of fronts. We informed the congregation about social issues, spearheaded political advocacy efforts in support of those issues, served as a launching pad for new social action initiatives, and built alliances with other social action/social justice programs. Collaboration with other UUSWH committees and groups is a central operating principle of the SJOC as we strive to enhance the impact of our committee through coordinated social action by our Society as a whole.

Specifically, the SJOC:

- Continued to develop our liaisons with the UU Urban Ministry and the UU Service Committee;
- Informed the congregation by establishing a bulletin board highlighting charitable organizations we support;
- Recruited UUSWH volunteers to sponsor an inmate enrolled in the Partakers “College Beyond Bars” Program and provided ongoing support for this initiative;
- Led a group of Wellesley College UU students in a social action project at Second Step (transitional housing for battered women);
- Recruited a second group of volunteers from our congregation to tutor students at the Lucy Stone Elementary school in Dorchester, and provided ongoing support for the tutoring program which now includes 14 volunteers;
- Sponsored “Undecorate the Tree,” collaborating with Making a Difference and the Committee Against Hunger and Poverty for the benefit of the Paul Sullivan Housing Trust of Pine Street Inn and residents of Wellesley public housing;
- Drafted a “Statement Against a Preventive War in Iraq,” obtained the endorsement of 177 members and friends of UUSWH, and distributed the statement to a variety of legislators and officials;
- Supported an initiative by a UUSWH member inviting Representative Barney Frank to address our Society and guests regarding the possibility of war;
- Sponsored a letter-writing campaign against war in Iraq;
- Solicited support from the congregation for the “34 Million Friends Campaign,” which was established to raise funds for the UN’s family planning and reproductive health services for women around the world; and,

- Initiated planning for a worship service focusing on the contributions of Albert Schweitzer and the Fellowship Program named in his honor.

The UUSWH's Charitable Donations

In keeping with the Social Justice Outreach Committee's mandate to report all charitable contributions made by our Society, we have collected the following information for FY'03. Our accounting includes money, goods, and services that our congregation has donated to make a difference in the larger world.

Charitable Funds Allocated by the Social Justice Outreach Committee

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	\$1000
UUSWH donated a total of \$1814 to the UUSC: the Committee Against Hunger and Poverty allocated \$200 and \$614 was raised through the Guest at Your Table program.	
UU Urban Ministry	\$1000
UUSWH donated a total of \$2500 to the UUUM: the Committee Against Hunger and Poverty earmarked \$200 for the UUUM Roxbury Youth Programs and \$200 for UUUM's Renewal House. The Senior Youth raised a total of \$1100 to provide foodstuffs for the Asian Food Pantry, also a program of UUUM.	
Albert Schweitzer Fellowship	\$1000
Boston Educational Development Foundation	\$1000
These funds were earmarked for the Lucy Stone Elementary School library renovation fund. Additionally, Making a Difference raised \$1100, which was used by the school for supplies.	
Partakers	\$800
Healing the Children Northeast	\$500
Newton/Needham Task Force for Child Assault Prevention	\$500
Doctors Without Borders	\$500
Population Communications International	\$500
Wellesley ABC Inc.	\$500
Wellesley METCO Committee	\$500
Second Step	\$500
Wellesley Friendly Aid	\$500
Clara Barton Camp for Girls with Diabetes, Inc.	\$500
Boston Healthcare for the Homeless (Motel Outreach Program)	\$500
Friends of NITCA, Inc. (for Nicaraguan street children)	\$500
Cambodian Arts and Scholarship Foundation	\$500
Friends without a Border (medical care for Cambodian children)	\$500
Women of Means (medical care for homeless women)	\$500
Support Committee for Battered Women	\$200
UUSWH allocated a total of \$500 to the Support Committee for Battered Women: the Committee Against Hunger and Poverty's donated an additional \$300.	

Total \$ Allocated by the Social Justice Outreach Committee \$12,000

Charitable Funds Allocated by the Committee Against Hunger and Poverty

UUUM	\$400
Includes \$200 for Roxbury Youth Programs and \$200 for Renewal House.	
Support Committee for Battered Women	\$300
UUSC	\$200
Barton Road Summer Program	\$200
Community Works	\$200
The Food Project	\$200
HRS Daycamp	\$200
Wellesley Food Pantry	\$200
A Place to Turn	\$200
Wellesley Volunteer Coalition/Xmas Gift Program	\$200
Interfaith AIDS Ministry	\$100
Boston Women's Fund	\$100
Bread for the World	\$100

Total \$ Donated by the Committee Against Hunger and Poverty *\$2600*

Special Offerings

- \$1303 was collected for Oxfam's relief work in Southern Africa during the Thanksgiving service.
- \$2083 was collected for the Middlesex Human Services Agency (which includes Bristol Lodge under its "umbrella") during the Christmas Eve service.
- \$1956 was collected for our Partner Church and hand-delivered by a delegation from our congregation in August 2002.

Total \$ Contributed through Special Offerings *\$5342*

Other Contributions of Funds

- We contributed \$500 to the Save the Children Foundation to continue our sponsorship of two children.
- \$614 was collected for the UUSC through the Guest at Your Table program.
- As part of the Making a Difference program, our children collaborated with Lucy Stone Elementary School students to produce a poetry anthology entitled "If I Could Change the World..." This poetry volume was sold to the UUSWH congregation raising \$1100 for Lucy Stone, enabling students there to benefit from resources and opportunities we take for granted in our local schools.

- The children of the Cooperative Church School collected school supplies and raised \$136 to supplement the collection for the Red Cross' Afghan School Chest Program.
- The Committee Against Hunger and Poverty raised \$795 through "Undecorate the Tree" to purchase Wellesley Booksmith and Roche Bros. gift certificates for families in Wellesley public housing.
- We sent \$600 to our Partner Church to enable students to pursue high school and art education outside of Torocko.
- Our Partner Church's Women's Alliance received \$400 which was raised through our purchase of their hand-made Christmas decorations.

Total Other \$ Contributions \$4145

Food Donations

- A monthly meal was prepared for the Bristol Lodge soup kitchen in Waltham (three of these meals were prepared by our Youth Groups, and 7 by the Committee Against Hunger and Poverty which organizes this program). Food preparation costs, totaling approximately \$1000, are covered by Hunger and Poverty fundraisers and contributions by members of the Society.
- The Senior Youth Group raised \$1100 during spring 2002 and winter 2003 events to pay for foodstuffs used to stock the Asian Food Pantry.

Total Cost of Food Donated \$2100

Total Charitable Donations of UUSWH \$26,187.00

Other Donations of Goods and Services

- Goods left over from our annual Rummage Sale were donated to 10 organizations, including the Epilepsy Foundation (2 trucks full of clothing and household goods), the Fernald Center (1 van full of clothing), the MSPCA (a carload of linens), Codman Square Charter School (8 boxes of books), American International Children's Alliance (2 boxes of baby clothes), Brandon Residential Treatment Center (sporting goods—12 sets of roller blades), Casa Myrna Vasquez (6 bags of clothing for shelter residents), as well as the Bedford VA Hospital, Goodwill, and the Salvation Army.
- We collected used stamps (sold to raise funds to send books to children in South America), as well as used eyeglasses and old jewelry to benefit New Eyes for the Needy, to support the collections sponsored by Church Women United.
- We collected toiletry items for clients of Bristol Lodge in Waltham. A bag was delivered with most of the monthly meals prepared for the soup kitchen.
- Seven carloads of winter outerwear was donated by our congregation and delivered to Bristol Lodge.

- We purchased gifts to fulfill the holiday wishes of 71 formerly homeless residents of the Pine Street Inn's Paul Sullivan Housing Trust.
- As part of the Making a Difference Program, our children created a book about friendship for the Lucy Stone Elementary School and sent it along with 17 boxes of books donated by our congregation for their new library space.
- Forty five pounds of over-the-counter medicines, eye glasses, and blood pressure cuffs were donated by our congregation to our Partner Church in Transylvania.
- UUSWH hosted its annual oriental rug sale: \$9750 in proceeds were sent to Yayla, Inc. and Cultural Survival, which provide badly-needed employment for people living in refugee camps in Pakistan and Nepal and fund schools for the refugee children.
- Six volunteers wrote letters and visited a prison inmate through Partakers, supporting his participation in its "College Beyond Bars" program.
- Fourteen UUSWH volunteers provided weekly math tutoring to 4th and 5th grade students at the Lucy Stone Elementary School in Dorchester.
- Six members of the Junior Youth Group have participated in Sunday night practices for Special Olympics swimmers, encouraging and pacing them as they prepare for meets.