



The International Outreach Task Force

The mission of the International Outreach Task Force (IOTF) of our congregation is to provide direct financial, material, and/or humanitarian support to specified international development projects with the aim of bettering lives and building human bridges between people of different cultures. The core intent of the IOTF is to direct our efforts toward supporting small scale service/development projects that are tied directly to members of our congregation and/or community. The IOTF will also focus on enhancing the development of cultural awareness, understanding, compassion, and Love in our congregation and greater community. We feel that, by both its inherent nature and our specific intent as a task force, the work of the IOTF supports core principles of Unitarian Universalism including; The inherent worth and dignity of every person; Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; and The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.



IOTF member Jason Blankenship with students in Kpain, Liberia.

Since its inception in 2008 the IOTF has worked with the congregation and local community members to help support education initiatives in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Costa Rica. In 2009 the IOTF partnered with the People's Church, a UU congregation in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to help support an ongoing micro-lending project being run by a Unitarian congregation in Bujumbura, Burundi. In 2008 the IOTF began an ongoing association with congregation member Claire Robertson to support the

Ndethya wa Ngutethya women's agricultural cooperative based in Kathonzwi, Kenya. Most recently, in the tragic aftermath of the January 2010

earthquake in Haiti, the IOTF has dedicated itself to supporting long term relief efforts in Haiti on behalf of the UUCB congregation. On top of \$3,620 raised by the congregation in a special collection to support the Unitarian Universalist Association/Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Joint Haiti Relief Fund, the IOTF raised an additional \$6,264 in support of the UUA/UUSC initiative and Partners in Health, Haiti. This made for a total of \$9,884 raised by the UUCB in 2010 in support of Haiti relief efforts.



Member of Ndethya wa Ngutethya with family, Kathonzwi, Kenya.

For 2011 the IOTF is focusing on two small scale community based international service projects that fit well with our core purpose. In July of 2011, two members of the IOTF, Claire Robertson and Jennifer Blankenship, traveled to Kathonzwi, Kenya to represent our congregation and strengthen the ties of Love and fellowship that link our community with the women and families of Ndethya wa Ngutethya. This trip will focus on viewing the progress of past and current

projects, meeting with the leadership of Ndethya wa Ngutethya to discuss ideas for the future, and to investigate the potential of having a dedicated representative based in Nairobi to better facilitate communication and transfer of funds in support of the project. The members of the trip will also be shopping the markets of Nairobi in search of beads, cloth, baskets and other handmade Kenyan goods to bring back and sell in support of this project.



Imagine Haitian co-founder Lizzy Cooke inspecting the nursery at Eben-Ezer Mission with Remy, the nursery attendant, and Pastor Josue, the general manager.

In our continuing effort to support long term Haiti relief the IOTF is proud to be partnering with the non-profit organization Imagine Haitian. Created and operated under the initiative of congregation member Lizzy Cooke, Imagine Haitian collaborates with community groups near Gonaives, Haiti to promote environmental education, reforestation, and alternative fuels. The Haitian partners of Imagine Haitian include Eben-Ezer Mission of Gonaives, the Mapou Women's Organization, the La Croix Peasant Association, and the Passe-Reine Youth Group. For more information on Imagine Haitian please go to www.imaginehaitian.org.