



Social Justice

2010-11 Annual Report

by a panel discussion. This is a documentary film about the Mormon Church's support during the campaign to pass proposition eight in California. We did this and had around a hundred people attend. Several came back and attended services on Sunday and signed up for the RRTF at the Getting Involved Fair. This was a very successful event.

- The RRTF put a call out to our congregation to participate in the Rally for Equality. This was a rally in opposition to HJR-6. HJR-6 in part proposes to place one man and one woman as the definition of marriage in the Indiana constitution as well as further restrict civil options and domestic partner benefits. It is much worse than merely a marriage discrimination amendment. We had a very good response from our congregation with many families Standing on the Side of Love in opposition to this proposed amendment. The RRTF has agreed to work with the International Outreach Task Force to do a fund raiser for the UU-UNO Uganda Fund. LGBTIQA discrimination is rampant and fueled by right wing Christian missionaries in Uganda. We are committed to doing this in the coming year.

Phil Cooper

Task Forces:

Children's Task Force – Jennifer Livesay
 Elder Focus Task Force - Barb Backler
 Green Sanctuary - Marcia Veldman
 Habitat for Humanity - Barb Berggoetz,
 Connie Nelson-Laird
 Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors - Anne
 Graham
 Hope for Prisoners - Glenda Breeden
 International Outreach (IOTF) – Jason
 Blankenship
 Just Peace - David Keppel
 Katrina Relief – David Parkhurst
 Rainbow Rights – Phil Cooper

Common Ground Editor

Aleisha Kropf

Liaisons within the congregation:

Religious Education – Cindy Port
 Chalice Circles – Alan Backler

Liaisons with outside groups:

UUSC – IOTF, Jason Blankenship

SJ Committee:

Jason Blankenship
 Jackie Hall
 Rev Mary Ann Macklin

Social Justice Annual Report 2010-2011

Social Justice at UU Church Bloomington and its activities are an important part of how we live our faith. We are grateful to all the people involved in social justice work and want to recognize them, their commitment of time and energy and whatever it takes to get the job done. There were incredible SJ projects and people dedicated to Changing the World. 25% of our non-pledge Sunday Plate donations are given to a local agency. This year the recipient was PALS (People and Learning Services) who has already received \$5607 and will probably end up with about \$8000; last year's recipient Crestmont Boys and Girls Club received \$8162. Many task forces, groups, as well as our Religious Education raised money and collected materials in support of social justice work. We know that much more was given and not recorded.

The Elder Task Force was awarded a grant of \$230 to travel to and explore the Hope Meadows community in Rantoul, IL. Our Leadership Cultivation Committee received \$3000 for SJ Funds and a matching Center for Congregations grant for \$2500 to hold the Faith Formation 2020 workshop weekend which centered around how to best do social justice work in the next 10 years. Our congregation also donates \$1 per member to the UU Service Committee and makes annual contributions from our operating budget to the Social Justice Funds A and B. Common Ground is published monthly and was edited by Aleisha Kropf. Our SJ Bulletin Board and table are coordinated by Glenda Breeden, and are always filled with Social Justice news and activities. Each month a different task force or group is highlighted both there and in a Social Justice moment one Sunday a month.

Social Justice work is highly integrated in our Chalice Circles and Religious Education programs and each was highlighted for a month on the SJ B-board and SJ Moments. A major component of Chalice Circles is the two service projects each group does, one for the church and one for the larger community.

This past year the Elder Focus and Rainbow Rights task forces became very active. David Parkhurst has indicated that the Katrina Task Force will not continue – we're grateful to David for his leadership and persistence and for the trips to help re-build in New Orleans. The Green Spaces capital campaign has dedicated 5% to social justice. We will be making decisions in the next few months about how to allocate this money.

Children's Task Force (CTF)



The Children's Task Force seeks to provide assistance to local agencies serving the needs of children and to support children experiencing poverty and other stressors. Our group stays in touch via email newsletter and the occasional meeting.

In the past year we have held regular monthly bake sales on the first Sunday of the month, and used the proceeds to help a number of organizations benefiting children: Big Brothers/Big Sisters, during their Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser, \$150; Save the Children's emergency fund for children caught in disasters such as the Japan earthquake, \$100; the Harmony School scholarship fund, to help at risk youth attend Harmony School, approximately \$120.

The CTF also took an active role in providing information to our church community regarding the school funding referendum on the November, 2010 ballot. We also sponsored a meeting for Stepping Stones youth that was held at our church.

The CTF is also collecting Box Tops for Education. Box Tops are small coupons found on many products which, when cut out and taken to any participating school, are worth ten cents apiece. We have a collection box on the SJ table, and have been receiving a steady stream of Box Tops that we deliver to Templeton Elementary School. Thank you to all who have been cutting out their Box Tops to bring to our collection box, or taking them to your local school!

CTF is always seeking new volunteers, as well as new projects to support. If you would like to get involved, contact information is available at the SJ table.

Jennifer Livesay

Elder Focus Task Force



What We Accomplished

Served our Elders

Sponsored a Fall Gathering featuring Lesa Huber speaking about Ten Simple Things You Can Do to Live and Age Well – Homemade soups served

Deborah Rush created a wonderful "Silver Tsunami" Logo for our task force Applied for and received a grant from the Social Justice Funds to pay for gas and lunch for a visit to Hope Meadows on April 1, 2011

Connected with youth from the church – Emma diLavore, Claire Janda and Hannah Kasak-Gliboff – to provide support for their fundraiser to raise money for Alzheimer-

noon replacing an outdoor soffit.

At the second home, each member of the group worked on many projects, but had at least one major accomplishment. Gloria prepped and painted the master bathroom. Jesse laid tile and stained and placed the baseboards in the other bathroom. and spent nearly a day and a half sanding the kitchen cupboards so they could be refinished. Bill was the master handyman doing a number of tasks from hanging the venetian blinds, to making touch-ups on paint, and in general making sure that doors, hinges, and windows were in proper working order. Chris and Candene worked together on cleaning the woodwork throughout the house. They also spent a couple of days prepping for and blowing in installation. They both now claim to have a new appreciation for people who do that for a living. They also stained and finished the kitchen cupboards.

Both punch lists were substantially "punched out."

David Parkhurst



Rainbow Rights Task Force (RRTF)

The Rainbow Rights Task Force (RRTF) has once again become active after being inactive for several years. The reactivation was a two stage process. During the first stage a contact person was identified in an effort to channel requests related to LGBTQIA concerns. This was very informal and at best a hit and miss approach. The second stage involved a more formal organization; identi-

fying members and friends in the congregation who had a shared interest and willingness to be involved, scheduling meetings, and planning activities.

Activities and accomplishment during the past year include:

- The RRTF supported Spencer Pride by having a table with brochures from the church. We also had the Standing on the Side of Love banner on loan from the Heartland District.

- The RRTF was contacted with a request for information by a congregation member who had a friend whose partner had been hospitalized. This hospital quite possibly could have been less than accommodating to these same sex partners. We were able to provide our member with information from the Human Rights Campaign web site so accurate information was available to stand up for friends.

- The RRTF was contacted by a member of our congregation and informed that the AIDS Quilt would be on display. We were asked if there was anything we could do to assist with that effort. The AIDS Quilt display was being sponsored by Positive Link of Bloomington Hospital. We contacted them and they needed monitors to provide safety while the quilt was on display. The RRTF put out a call and several people volunteered to be quilt monitors. When viewing the quilt one is left with powerful feelings of love and loss, a life lived but much too short.

- The RRTF was approached by a representative of the PRIDE Film Festival and asked if we would be interested in co-sponsoring a pre-PRIDE event. The plan was hatched to have a screening of the film, "8 - The Mormon Proposition" to be followed

Peace Action Coalition and other groups including the Bloomington Environmental Commission, the Center for Sustainable Living, and our own Green Sanctuary Task Force.

Making connections with those working for environmental and economic justice is increasingly important to peace activism. More than ten years after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, the United States continues to wage an open ended and ill defined "war on terror," and President Obama has continued many of President George W. Bush's policies. Military spending consumes more than half of Federal discretionary spending at a time when budgets are being slashed across the nation for education and social services during a severe recession. Yet – in part because there is no draft, and daily life continues for most of us – people's willingness to turn out for peace events has sharply decreased, not only here but for peace groups nationally. Connections and alliances will be crucial. Equally important will be exploring the personal side of peace: how can we lead more peaceful lives, and how does the personal reflect and change the public and political?

In 2010, the Unitarian Universalist Association adopted a denominational Statement of Conscience "Creating Peace" (<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/13394.shtml>). The Just Peace Task Force worked successfully to strengthen the first draft and played a role in inserting language opposing "unilateral interventions and extended military occupations as dangerous new forms of imperialism." On the floor of General Assembly, our Church's delegates and Rev. Bill Breeden proposed and carried language "supporting nonviolent resisters and their families, and providing them with opportunities to share

what they have learned."

We want *You* for the Just Peace Task Force. Please contact David Keppel Keppel@sbcglobal.net, (812) 331-2815.

David Keppel



Katrina Relief Task Force

The Katrina Relief Task Force of the Social Justice program has wrapped up its work, after the fifth group went to New Orleans to work during spring break this year. We are closing out the program because the Little Farms United Church of Christ that we worked out of in New Orleans is closing its program due to diminishing funds and diminishing numbers of volunteers. Altogether we had 60 volunteers in our five crews, with many going multiple times.

Here's a report on this year's efforts:

The group worked on two houses. At both locations they were finishing items left over at the end of the remodel; this is known as a "punch list."

At one home, Kristiana, Sarah and Barb comprised the painting crew. There was a lot of painting. Tim from Little Farms UCC did most of the carpentry, including hanging a door and installing transition strips, assisted by Marcus. Hugh finished drywall and worked with Marcus on repairing the vinyl siding on the back of the house. The whole crew worked together for an after-

ers research and patients' projects – they raised over \$600 and collected 40+ beanbags to give to Cathleen Weber at the Alzheimer's Association at the hospital.

Visited Hope Meadows and had a follow up breakfast in which we shared the experience with community members

Engaged in an inquiry with Rev. Mary Ann Macklin about a vision she has to get UU young adults to learn about caring for elders with dementia in nursing homes

Participated in Getting Involved Fair – continue to add to our list of people who will visit our elders or occasionally help them out with chores

Presented intergenerational dinner and service on April 6th – celebrating place and memory

Provided a luncheon gathering (lunch sponsored by Bell Trace) on May 11th with a program on balance by Cassie Connelly from Bell Trace and singing by Amanda Biggs

Educated

Wrote a report about the visit to Hope Meadows and distributed to stakeholders in the community (attached)

Purchased several copies of Hope Meadows, so many could read. At least 6 people have read the book.

Provided Social Justice Moment in February and created bulletin board on Elder Focus Task Force activities

Continue to add books on aging to our library

Sponsored End of Life Interactive Theater on April 12th

Checking on Yellow Pages for seniors – want to distribute to our elders –

Being created by Active Aging Coalition

Provided a luncheon gathering (lunch sponsored by Bell Trace) on May 11th with a program on balance by Cassie Connelly from Bell Trace and singing by Amanda Biggs

Promoted the Bloomington Creative Aging Initiative to our elders

Offered an ARE class – Honoring and Celebrating Mothers the Tuesday before and after Mothers' Day – We're working on offering Honoring and Celebrating Fathers in June

Keeping track of the Senate Bill 23: Communities for a Lifetime

Attended Circle of Care: Mobilizing support in your congregation in Mooresville, put on by Duke Institute on Care at the end of Life

Created a chart – Congregational Self-Assessment: What are we already doing? Combined this with the Caring Committee chart. Reflected on our accomplishments and what we need to do in the future.

Considered calendar of events for Creative Aging Festival – Invited folks to attend Memory Bridge Initiative – a service learning curriculum designed to teach students how to communicate meaningfully with individuals with Alzheimers's disease – May 16th from 3-5 at Wegmiller Hall at hospital

Advocated for elder issues

Working to enroll community members in the Hope Meadows model and eventually create such a model in Monroe County

Keeping track of the Senate Bill 23: Communities for a Lifetime

Notified Area 10 Ombudsman and offered to sponsor a training for ombudsmen for nursing homes when she sees this need.

Community Organizing

Created a Nursing Home Directed Care Team for Arda Landergren – 15 people have been invited to meet on May 22nd to determine what's missing in Arda's life, declare what each person wants to contribute to the effort and coordinate activities through a calendar.

In communication with Rachel Johnson who would like to offer Reiki to church members who would then donate to the church

Helping Joseph Darriau organize support for Cherry Merritt-Darriau

Budget

May 7th, 2011 – Balance \$219.18 (still have a few incidental expenses like postage and picture development)

Requested for next year, 2011-2012 - \$500.00

Barb Backler

Hope Meadows Report – April 25, 2011

The Generations of Hope Development Corporation is an organization that created Hope Meadows 15 years ago and now works to extend the Hope Meadows model to address a range of social problems and to inspire new sites across the country. The neighborhood is the vehicle for action. Hence, the intergenerational community itself becomes the intervention – the key source of support and service. Creating an Intergenerational Community as the Intervention (ICI) is an interesting idea. The Elder Focus Task of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington believes

Monroe County or the City of Bloomington could benefit from exploring an intergenerational model similar to Hope Meadows in Rantoul, Illinois. This model addresses the problem of foster families too often feeling isolated and not receiving the support they need. The Hope Meadows model offers ways to connect foster families to elders who have the wisdom, experience and time these young families need. Community members add so much to the efforts of the professionals who are available on site, right in the community. Members of our task force visited Hope Meadows on April 1st, 2011.

What did we learn during our visit to Hope Meadows?

There is an excellent description of Generations of Hope, the innovative nonprofit corporation that established Hope Meadows in a paper entitled, "Generations of Hope Communities." There is a copy enclosed or you can find it at:

www.generationsofhope.org/documents/GHC_White_Paper.pdf

We were struck by the two operational principles that drive Hope Meadows:

1. Residents are not problems-to-be-managed but ordinary people requiring the same embeddedness in family and community that we would want for ourselves.
2. Given the opportunity, ordinary people will care for one another in ways, and to a degree, that go beyond the scope of traditional interventions.

As we sat and ate lunch with the residents we saw evidence of these principles. Over the years that Hope Meadows has been in existence elders have realized that this is a wonderful place to live. Professionals and

tee Joint Haiti Relief Fund, the IOTF raised an additional \$6,264 in support of the UUA/UUSC initiative and Partners in Health,



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

Haiti. This made for a total of \$9,884 raised by the UUCB in 2010 in support of Haiti relief efforts.

For 2011 the IOTF is focusing on 2 small scale community based international service

projects that fit well with our core purpose. In July of 2011, 2 members of the IOTF, Claire Robertson and Jennifer Blankenship, will be traveling to Kathonzweni, Kenya to represent our congregation and strengthen the ties of Love and fellowship that link our



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

community with the women and families of Nde-thya was Ngutethya. This trip will focus on viewing the progress of

past and current projects, meeting with the leadership of Nde-thya

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 shop-

ping 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.

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.

Jason Blankenship



Just Peace Task Force

The highlight of the year for the Just

Peace Task Force was a talk held at the Church in October by Barry Sanders, author of *The Green Zone: The Environmental Costs of Militarism*. He pointed out that while many of us recycle, try to drive less, and use less heating and cooling, a huge part of our collective ecological footprint lies elsewhere: in the environmental destruction caused by war and the military. The Pentagon is the world's largest polluter. To protect the global climate, we must work for peace. The task force co-sponsored the event, attended by 150, with Bloomington

Those clothes will be used by parolees as they move back into the community.

Besides our ongoing volunteer efforts, our goal for this fall is to put renewed energy into the Read-to-Me program. Volunteers will record prisoners as they read books to their children or grandchildren. Each recording and book will then be given to the children. This program has been successful in many jails and prisons in helping to renew or develop relationships between family members. We will have another children's book drive as we get this off the ground and running. We also plan to do a display of poetry and arts and crafts of people incarcerated, perhaps at the Showers Building.

Hope for Prisoners has monthly meetings at 11:30AM, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the church library. Contact person: Glenda Breeden, bgbreeden@att.net, 812-829-3431.

Glenda Breeden



The International Outreach Task Force

The mission of the International Outreach Task Force (IOTF) 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 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, MI, 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 Kathonzweni, 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 Commit-

talented individuals found that even though they were retired they still wanted to contribute to society. Former teachers who live in Hope Meadows derive great joy from tutoring children in the after school program. I sat across from a man who receives monthly visits from his own children, but at the same time he acts as a grandfather to little ones who live in Hope Meadows. He sat next to a 3 year old who didn't leave his side for the entire lunch period. They were clearly close friends. We became acquainted with a mother who was providing foster care to two children who came to live with her and her other two children. This mother had been trying to raise her two children on her own and was really struggling. As a member of Hope Meadows she found lots of support for all four children.

There was some concern expressed by one of the folks who travelled to Hope Meadows that the management seemed top down. The new director agreed that that had been the case and she was making changes. She is interested in empowering the members of the community, giving them a voice in the governance and valuing all of their healthy interactions with the families as valid volunteer hours. Elders are required to volunteer 6 hours a week, and they do a variety of things from tutoring to babysitting to acting as crossing guards in exchange for housing that is typically half the cost of other housing in the area.

Another concern that was expressed was that the residents of the community might feel isolated from the larger Rantoul town. This certainly wasn't the case. The houses are right next to houses that are not part of Hope Meadows. Members of Hope Meadows serve on the Rantoul Library board and are involved in other organizations in the

community.

Young families are given a six-bedroom house and a stipend, so that one parent can stay at home with the children. The families pay the utility bills.

We had lots of questions about financing, and we still need some clarification. Originally Hope Meadows was given a million dollar grant from the state. Recently they have received grants from the Department of Children Services. They also do fundraising. And of course they receive income from the elders in the form of rent.

"The Federal Foster Care Program helps to provide safe and stable out-of-home care for children until the children are safely returned home, placed permanently with adoptive families or placed in other planned arrangements for permanency. The program is authorized by title IV-E of the Social Security Act, as amended, and implemented under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 45 CFR parts 1355, 1356, and 1357. It is an annually appropriated program with specific eligibility requirements and fixed allowable uses of funds. Funding is awarded by formula as an open-ended entitlement grant and is contingent upon an approved title IV-E plan to administer or supervise the administration of the program. The title IV-E Agency must submit yearly estimates of program expenditures as well as quarterly reports of estimated and actual program expenditures in support of the awarded funds. Funds are available for monthly maintenance payments for the daily care and supervision of eligible children; administrative costs to manage the program; training of staff and foster care providers; recruitment of foster parents and costs related to the design, implementation and operation of a state-wide data collection

system. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/programs_fund/state_tribal/fostercare.htm

The Generations of Hope Development Corporation, which is working to extend the Hope Meadows model, is largely funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

With whom are we in contact?

The Elder Focus Task Force sponsored a breakfast the Friday after we visited Hope Meadows on April 8th. We shared our experience with others in Monroe County. Present were Kerry Conway, the director of Area 10 Agency on Aging; Doris Parlette, former Department of Child Services Regional Manager; Rosemary Doherty, case-worker at Area 10 Agency on Aging; Diane Gregory; Patsy Flint; Deborah Phelps; Iris Kiesling, County Commissioner and Reverend Emily Leite. Steven Vaughn, director of the Department of Child Services in Monroe County; Judge Steve Galvin; Phil Stafford and Gina Alexander, Vice President of Programs and Administration at the Villages have all expressed an interest in the model and have asked for more information.

How would this model work in Monroe County?

Kerry Conway spoke at our breakfast meeting about the possibility of making some of the senior housing that is available in Monroe County open to mixed generations. (Housing that was designated as strictly for elders is now open for negotiation after the 7-year requirement as strictly senior housing.) She also said that when given this option many elders are fearful of having active young people around them in case they might get knocked over. However, when seniors have had the opportunity to

interact with young people such as Girl Scout troops the elders have really enjoyed the experience. Perhaps elders need to have the opportunity to see what intergenerational activities and living together could provide. If this were offered over a longer period of time everyone might have a chance to form relationships and understand how much fun and how rewarding this could be.

Kerry Conway introduced the idea of providing some of this housing to adoptive families. She also said that perhaps a mix of special needs children and children who don't face so many challenges might be less "convulsive."

There is a need for more resources for foster children and youth at risk. This is a unique model and one that might serve our community well.

Where do we go from here?

What would a community such as Hope Meadows look like in Monroe County?

Whenever the city or county is looking at programs for elders it seems like a good idea to consider how other generations could be incorporated into the plans. And when the city or county is looking at programs for foster children or youth at risk it seems like a good idea to consider how other generations, specifically elders, could offer support.

Senior housing could be part of the 12 acres of land near City Hall that Bloomington is in the process of purchasing from Indiana University. Would there be any community center in which intergenerational activities could take place? Would this be

Fiber Arts Booth at Holiday Bazaar.

(December 2010). HFOHN runs a booth at the bazaar where we sell hand knit and handmade fiber items (scarves, hats, quilts, etc.). Members and friends of the congregation make these items and donate them to the sale. In 2010, the booth brought in \$1068.

CROP Walk. (October 2010) A local walk to fight hunger that is part of a national event that benefits local and national hunger agencies. We had several walkers and raised about \$200.

Homeward Bound Walk. (April 2011) A local walk to raise money for local agencies that help homeless people. We had two walkers who raised about \$300.

Dine and Donate. (May 2011). A new fundraising event for our group. We sponsored an evening at Lennie's Restaurant where UU's could dine during certain hours and have 20% of their bill donated to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank by Lennie's. This was a popular event – we gave away all of the 40 certificates that diners needed to have to participate. Many UU'ers were there enjoying good food and good company. However, we haven't received the total donated from Lennie's yet. We plan to have more of these fundraisers later in the year, beginning in August or September.

2010-11 Totals:

Total Pounds of Food Donated:
\$11,199

Total Money Donated to local agencies:
\$ 1,568

Anne Graham

Hope for Prisoners Task Force



Different name, same purpose and goals. We have 15 active members who are involved

in advocacy, mentoring, and partnering with people incarcerated and/or paroled. Our community partners are NewLeaf/NewLife, OASIS, and BCADP. Crafting Bridges, addictions counseling, life skills programs, employment search, spiritual guidance, socialization—we reach out in many ways. Our task force members also work with Area 10, Salvation Army, Work One, and other organizations that have programs for parolees and families.

Hope for Prisoners gave \$350 for reading glasses and birth certificates for inmates at the Monroe County Jail. And we continue to collect quilting materials for the Quilt Project at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility. The quilters, in turn, donated 50 quilts to Bloomington's Winter Homeless Shelter in December.

Afro Hoosier International (thanks to Bob Port) played for a benefit dance in February. Great music, great fun, and we were able to give \$250 apiece to NL/NL and OASIS to provide needed supplies to jail programs and parolees, and \$100 to Women Writing for a Change for materials for their bi-monthly writing circle at MCJ.

Through Common Ground, we have kept the congregation informed of the need for sentencing reform in Indiana and, during coffee hour, we obtained many signatures to that end and in opposition to a new prison that the state plans to construct.

Thanks to the Green Sanctuary Task Force for donating the leftover men's clothing to WVCF and women's clothing to the Indiana Women's Prison at the end of their clothing swaps last fall and this spring.

saw Habitat in action and the benefits to deserving area people.

Community organizing:

Co-chair Barb Berggoetz served as a team leader for the Habitat Women Build, recruiting 25 women to build on May 19 during the one-week build. The task force annually sponsors a team for the Women Build. This year, a total of 33 team members, including women recruited by another co-leader, raised \$10,385. Task force co-chairs met with a representative of Habitat to renew our understanding of the organization's greatest needs and learned that house financial sponsors and food for builders were top needs, along with builders.

Barb Berggoetz



Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force

The past year was a very successful and record-breaking year for the

HFOHN Task Force. We continued the activities that have been so successful for us in the past, and also added a new "Dine and Donate" event at a local restaurant to raise money for Hoosier Hills Food Bank. We plan to host more of these restaurant fundraisers in the near future. They are a great way to raise funds to fight hunger and to build community among people in our congregation.

2010-11 Activities: and Totals:

Each One Feed One Food Drive. (August

2010) This is a city-wide food drive for Monroe County United Ministries' Emergency Food Pantry (MCUM), collecting non-perishable items on-site at local grocery stores. Five members of HFOHN volunteered at the College Mall Kroger location, approaching shoppers and asking them to purchase canned goods to donate. The total donated to MCUM was over 14,400 pounds of food.

Holiday Basket Food Drive. (November 2010) This is our annual food drive for MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry. Individuals and families at the church can donate a "holiday basket" that will benefit a local family in need. A basket is actually 2-3 days worth of groceries, which can include the fixings for a holiday meal. In 2010, our congregation donated 89 holiday baskets. The total pounds of food donated in the baskets added up to 7,900 lbs.

BountyFull Sunday Food Drive: Monthly food drive held the first Sunday of each month to benefit MCUM. HFOHN task force members set up the tables for this drive each month and transport the donated food to MCUM. 2010 totals: 2155 lbs of food. January-May 2011 totals: 1144 lbs.

For 2010, the UU Church Bloomington was the top congregation donating food to MCUM's Emergency Food Pantry! This is the first time this has happened. UU's donated 10,055 lbs of food through the Holiday Basket and BountyFull Sunday Food drives combined. This church donated more than twice the amount of non-perishable food than any other church in the Bloomington/Monroe County Area. This is very exciting news for our task force and the church.

affordable for elders?

Bloomington has provided programming for seniors at Twin Lakes Recreation Center. Are the activities that provide recreation, leisure and wellness offered exclusively to seniors? Would there be opportunities to integrate the elders into activities that involve other age groups? Are there planned activities that bring different generations together?

There is talk about creating a gardening program for seniors. Couldn't this be an intergenerational effort with elders who have had much gardening experience serving as leaders?

Will there be a senior activity center downtown? Will younger generations be welcomed?

Wouldn't I.U. students benefit from interactions with elders in the community who could serve as mentors?

Next Steps:

- Distribute report to community members
- Contact other stakeholders in the community such as Middleway House, Stepping Stones, Probation Department.
- Talk to Kerry Conway about possible programs she's considering as part of Area 10 Agency on Aging
- Research what is already being done in the community to provide our elders with the chance to stay in place and the ability to make a contribution and feel needed
- Visit Hope Meadows again and get access to their Wiki site
- Explore cooperative housing in Ann Arbor that involves elders along with other generations
- Visit the neighborhood naturally occurring retirement community in Linton, Indiana - 9 square blocks - to see if they have ideas that would inform our thinking
- Follow the development of Bill 23: Communities for a Lifetime which is being considered in the Indiana legislature

Barb Backler

Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change (GSTF)



The Green Sanctuary Task Force on Global Climate Change (GSTF) promotes mindful,

Earth centered living, working to educate and motivate individuals and institutions to take positive steps toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the understanding that it is our moral imperative to care for the Earth. To this end the GSTF has been active at various levels in the congregation and the wider community.

Activities in the recent fiscal year included:

Holding the weekly fair trade coffee and chocolate and CFL sales which provides an opportunity for all members and friends of the church to support the work of the GSTF and keep informed of its activities.

Implementing the Task of the Month program with over 130 UU households participating and offering promotional giveaways each month.

Holding a fall and spring clothing swap held in Fellowship Hall with both being well attended.

Co-hosting the Earth Fair with the Earth Kin between the Earth Day services, including the purchase and distribution of 240 tree and shrub seedlings.

Sponsoring the UU Retreat with over 60 registered participants.

Hosting a benefit performance with Philip Gulley and Carrie Newcomer with 250 participants. Raising over \$4,000.

Providing financial and promotional support

to the Coal Free IU, Green Spaces Initiative (Market Gift Certificates), insulation project at UU, and UU Ministry for the Earth. In total the GSTF donated \$1,300.

Being an active member of Earth Care, Bloomington's Interfaith Group for the Environment, and actively participating in the March launch of Hoosier – Interfaith Power and Light. Additionally GSTF members were active in the MLK Day events hosted by Earth Care.

Marcia Veldman

Habitat for Humanity Task Force



Task Force members: Barb Berggoetz and Connie Nelson-Laird, co-chairs,

and Nedra Carlson, Peter Garrettson, Lynne Gilliatt, Joan Caulton and Bev Freese.

Meetings: Last Sunday of the month, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Goals/objectives: Address the lack of decent, affordable housing in Monroe County by supporting efforts of Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County; educate the congregation about housing needs, goals and accomplishments of Habitat; raise money for Habitat builds; support Habitat's ReStore with volunteers and funds; support Habitat by providing volunteers and food for builds.

Activities during 2010-2011

Service/fund-raising:

Task force members earned about \$1,200 by parking cars at the UU lot

during six IU football games (worked with International Outreach Task Force members to share income).

Provided several builders for two Habitat builds.

During church Winter Bazaar, we sold holiday cards created by a Habitat homeowner to raise awareness about Habitat and earn money (about \$200).

Sponsored a church breakfast on Feb. 13, with the help of a Chalice Circle, to support goal of sponsoring a day of a build, earning about \$800.

Raised a total of \$3,200 toward sponsoring one day of a Habitat build, which costs \$6,250. We have plans to provide all the builders for the day we sponsor and the food.

Task force recruited UUsers to fill a table for Habitat's More Than Houses breakfast in November 2010, its biggest fund-raiser of the year.

As another fund-raiser, task force members are building children's picnic tables to order for \$100 each.

Education:

Task force co-chairs Barb Berggoetz and Connie Nelson-Laird provided a "social justice" moment in March 2010, focusing on the 10th annual Habitat Women Build and how UUsers can support Habitat in general.

Regularly contribute articles to the Common Ground and Prologue to

keep UUsers abreast of volunteer opportunities involving Habitat and accomplishments of the task force.

The task force set up a movable bulletin board, near the social justice table, for all task forces to use to post notices of events and requests for volunteer help. We also updated our Habitat bookmark and task force page on the UU website.

Participated in the two Getting Involved Fairs at both services and recruited several people who were interested in building and helping the task force.

Involved RE children in making fruit salads for our breakfast, after which teachers educated children about the good work of Habitat.

Witness:

The task force decorated the social justice bulletin board in March with photos of previous Women Builds and statements from builders about the impact and importance of the build.

The task force created a fund-raising "thermometer" that is displayed in the church hallway and sometimes in Fellowship Hall to visibly show our progress toward raising \$6,250 to sponsor one day of a Habitat build in the future.

Volunteer builders worked side by side next to the homeowners, as well as other community members, and