

December 21, 2009



# Common Ground

Social Justice Newsletter for the UU Church of Bloomington Indiana

## MCUM Holiday Food Basket Drive a Success!

– By Anne Graham for the Helping Feed Our Hungry Neighbors Task Force

Thanks to everyone who donated a Holiday Basket to the MCUM Holiday Basket drive. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to help 65 local families have a little easier holiday season.

HFOHN also ran the Fiber Arts booth at the UU Bazaar. We sold almost \$1400 worth of wonderful, handknitted items and donated all of the proceeds to MCUM. Thank you to everyone who knitted or crocheted (or purchased!) these beautiful items.

If you'd like to join HFOHN in fighting local hunger, please consider attending our next meeting: Friday, January 15 at 12:15pm at Rachael's Cafe on 3rd Street. Or if you'd like to find out more about getting involved, please contact Anne Graham at [aegraham@indiana.edu](mailto:aegraham@indiana.edu).



## SIREN Energy Showdown

– By Marcia Veldman for the Green Sanctuary Task Force

You could win the grand prize, a one kilowatt photovoltaic solar panel valued at \$6,000, in the SIREN (Southern Indiana Renewable Energy Network) Energy Showdown.

The intent of the Energy Showdown is to permanently reduce the energy consumption of local residents. The contest that starts January 1, 2010 and is open to Monroe County residents, although anyone is welcome to play along for fun.

The household that shows the biggest decrease in kilowatt hours consumed in 2010 relative to 2009 will win the grand prize. In addition, every three months other valuable prizes geared toward energy efficiency will be awarded. For more information visit [www/sirensolar.org](http://www.sirensolar.org).

The Green Sanctuary Task Force would like to track the households of UU members and friends who participate. At least one UU household, Reverend Mary Ann Macklin and Deborah Phelps', has already entered. Please let a task force member know if you decide to participate.

– Continued on back page

The GSTF wants to help you on your way to increased energy efficiency, whether you enter the contest or not. One way we do that is through the sale of Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFL's). Thanks to all who purchased bulbs during our \$1 sale in honor of 350.org. We met our goal of selling 350 CFL's and more importantly, through the life of those 350 bulbs, we will collectively reduce our carbon emissions by over a quarter of a million pounds.

We're also offering, through Adult RE, the Cut Your CO2ST workshop starting in February. During this same period of time, several other faith communities that are a part of Earth Care will be focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a variety of programs including encouraging cutting carbon emissions for lent. While the countries of world our challenged with agreeing on a framework for addressing climate change, we can act now, one household, one congregation, one community at a time.

## **The Coats “Went Like Crazy!”**

– *By Jennifery Livesay for the Children's Task Force*

The Children's Task Force has concluded its coat drive for HeadStart. Bethany Terry of HeadStart would like to thank members of the congregation who donated coats and boots for children in HeadStart classes and their siblings. Bethany reported that the donated coats and boots “went like crazy.” Although the drive has

ended, HeadStart can always use winter-clothes for children, so keep them in mind for your gently used, outgrown items.

## **Helping Rebuild Damaged New Orleans Homes and Buildings**

– *By the The Katrina Relief Task Force  
Reprint from October 2009*

The Katrina Relief Task Force took 9 volunteers to New Orleans to rebuild damaged buildings for the week of October 3–10, 2009. We removed drywall and gutted two small offices in the large Central Congregational church that had received some flood water during Katrina, and that has not been used since, except for a Child Development Center in one part of the building. The plan is now to convert that church to a community center, and our work will help that plan to progress. A few of us also worked at a home in the Chantilly Woods area, completing the installation of new drywall in nine rooms. This was done in cooperation with a second volunteer group from Portland Maine.

We plan to take another group down at IU's spring vacation next March 13–20, so stay tuned for information about that. We will likely be working to help people get back into their homes, as we did in our two earlier expeditions. If you want to be on the mailing list for information as plans develop, please send email to [nola.dfp@comcast.net](mailto:nola.dfp@comcast.net), or phone David Parkhurst at 333-2945.