

Social Justice Task Forces
Application for Recognition or Renewal
Unitarian Universalist Church Bloomington (UUCB)
Sept 2022

Name of Task Force: Habitat Task Force Initial _____ Renewal X

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Task Force Chair if different than above:

Name: same _____ Phone: same E-mail: same

Please answer these questions:

1. What are the goals of the task force, and how do they reflect UUCB principles and enhance the life of our congregation?

The task force's goals are: Help Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County provide safe, decent housing for county residents by volunteering at builds, at the ReStore and for Habitat activities; financially support Habitat builds, including the Women Build, and other Habitat community events, such as its More Than Houses fundraiser breakfast; raise awareness among church members about the problem of a lack of affordable housing in the county; educate RE youth about this housing issue by making class presentations and inviting them to participate in fundraising events at UU. These goals help support the major community need of increasing affordable housing and give the congregation many opportunities to volunteer and contribute financially to support Habitat and other housing-related agencies, such as the Area 9 Council on Aging.

2. What are your planned activities this year (especially thinking of families, children, chalice circles, and connections), including fundraising and educational meetings, and how do you plan to accomplish them?

We are in the process of planning activities for the rest of 2022 and for all of 2023, some of which depend on whether UU will approve a breakfast or other events at church that would require not wearing masks. Here are several activities planned for the rest of 2022:

- **Women Build team with UU members**, along with others from the Bloomington Creative Glass Center, will build on Sept. 20 at the Trail View neighborhood. We have a 38-member team and have raised about \$18,000, including contributions from each member of at least \$300 and \$950 in donations from UU members and the UU Women's Alliance.
- **Sales at the UU Holiday Bazaar**. We are gathering mostly handmade items to sell at our table, including pottery, jewelry, Christmas pumpkins, knitted hats, soups-in-a-jar and other items.
- **Habitat's More Than Houses fundraiser**. We are hosting a table of at least 8 UUs to attend this annual event on Nov. 1, which is a community-wide event and fundraiser for Habitat.
- **IU football parking**. We will provide 4 UUs to handle parking for the IU football game on Oct. 20.
- **Food sale or take-home event**. We may have a bake sale or a chili/soup take-home event in the fall or early winter. Still being considered and may be done in 2023, too.

Here are some tentative plans for 2023:

- **Teach RE class**. We are planning to make a presentation about Habitat to elementary-aged youth in RE about Habitat's role in providing affordable housing and the broader problem of the lack of affordable housing in Bloomington.
- **Provide volunteers for Habitat build days**. We plan to organize volunteers from UU who want to participate in builds throughout the year when Habitat has a need for workers.

- **Contribute funds to Habitat builds.** We will consider donating our funds (now \$6,100) to support Habitat builds, including the Women Build and regular builds that need support. We also will ask Habitat if it needs funds to buy specific equipment, tools or materials.
- **Host a breakfast between services at UU.** We want to provide a breakfast when allowed at UU between services.
- **Recruit a Women Build team.** We will organize another Women Build team in the fall of 2023.
- **IU football parking in the fall of 2023.**

3. Who are the members of this task force, and what is the normal schedule of your meetings? Do you have plans to expand within the congregation and to the larger community?

Our regular meeting time is the first Sunday of the month between services from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. We meet most months, although not as often during the last 2-3 years due to the pandemic. We encourage new UUs who express an interest in our task force by adding their names to our email task force list; contacting them right away with information about the task force and giving them immediate small volunteer opportunities and inviting them to meetings. I keep in close contact with task force members and those who just want to build by emailing updates, financial information, and volunteer opportunities.

Our current members who attend meetings are: Kathleen Chmelewski, Dian Robbins, Laura Mattingly, Sandy Davoren, Richard and Licia Stumpner, Mary Blizzard, Jackie Hall, Pearl and Brian Springfield, Kathy Sideli. Several other UUs, including Christine Banister, Jacki Surma, James Samuels, Rich Slabach, Crystal Baker, and others, have voiced an interest in the last year to join in our activities and/or participate in builds. We always are trying to expand our membership and engage more people at UU in our activities by contacting them by email or in person. We have voiced our intention to make a presentation to an RE class early next year. We also hope to connect with IU Habitat and the BHSN and BHSS Habitat groups to work on builds together and perhaps raise funds for builds together.

4. If a \$300 budget were available, How would your task force use it this year? Be specific. What other resources (financial and otherwise) will you need to meet your goals and how will these be met?

We would use \$300 to help cover costs of materials for crafts to be sold at the UU Holiday Bazaar; buy some of the breakfast food at an upcoming Habitat fundraiser breakfast (when approved); pay expenses for publicity, including posters, photocopying and supplies; and perhaps purchase construction equipment and tools Habitat needs.

We have about \$6,100 in our T-account and can use these funds as seed money to support fundraisers and to directly give funds to Habitat to support construction costs for builds or other needed items. We have lost about five of our regular volunteers due to people moving or not being able to help any longer within the last couple years. We need to make a more concerted effort to bring into the fold several new people who are interested in building and, hopefully, in helping the overall task force and participating in meetings.

5. List at least 3 small bites - short-term or one-time volunteer opportunities (especially thinking of families, children, chalice circles, college students) that might be used to invite new members to your task force.

1. Volunteer for one day or a half-day at a Habitat construction site this fall in the new Osage Place neighborhood (for those over 16 years old).
2. Work a 2-hour shift at our table at the UU Holiday Bazaar and/or make a handmade craft, holiday decoration, pottery or other items to sell at the bazaar.
3. Help prepare breakfast and/or provide food or work a shift at an upcoming fundraiser breakfast at UU (when approved). Chalice Circles have worked a shift as a group at these breakfasts.
4. Donate homemade baked goods, such as breads, cookies, muffins, pies, for an upcoming bake sale, or work a shift at the bake sale; contribute chili or homemade soup for a chili take-home fundraiser at UU. College-aged youth or younger could contribute baked goods or we could invite them to bake with task force members at the UU kitchen, with or without parents.

6. What other information and resources would you like listed on your task force web page? See current SJ task force web pages for format and ideas.

I would like to list Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County's website and volunteer registration platform, so people can read more about Habitat's mission and sign up for builds as individuals.

This could read:

To learn more about Habitat's mission, activities and leaders, visit its website at:

<https://monroecountyhabitat.org/>.

To sign up to build or work at Habitat's ReStore, donate food for builds or act as a site host, plan events, write homeowner families' stories, visit its volunteer platform, check the calendar of activities and register at: <https://monroecountyhabitat.org/volunteer/>.

Submit this application electronically to Jackie Hall at jmhall@indiana.edu. Please be specific and accurate. Your information will be used in creating social justice web pages and other church documents.