

Social Justice Task Forces
Application for Recognition or Renewal
Unitarian Universalist Church Bloomington (UUCB)
Oct. 2021

Name of Task Force: Homelessness Task Force _____
Initial ____ Renewal ___X_

Form submitted by: _Nathan Stonecipher__ Phone: _812-322-4958_ E-mail: nstoneci@outlook.com

Task Force Co- Chair(s):

Name __Alan Backler__ Phone: _812-340-1323_ E-mail: abackler@aol.com

Name __Marlin Howard__ Phone: 812-320-5460 _____ E-mail: howardm@indiana.edu

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?

Goals: To provide service to those within our community suffering from homelessness through volunteerism with local organizations; To educate the congregation and community of the struggles associated with homelessness, and the ways in which we can help; To advocate for policies and initiatives that reduce the issues associated with homelessness, or homelessness itself; To organize collaborative events that aid those experiencing homelessness within our community.

In keeping with the UU First Principle, this task force covenants to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of persons in our community whose merits are often questioned and who are often not treated with respect.

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?

- Organize, advertise, and support benefit concerts and other fund-raising activities for task force activities.
- Continue work with UU Hunger Task force to collect coffee, macaroni, and spaghetti for use at Shalom. Need is advertised in *Prologue* and *Friday Update*. Donations are collected on a weekly basis, from the portico, behind the church.
- Work with Beacon to aid their organizational tasks.
- Volunteer as a group at Wheeler Mission to provide a meal for their guests
- Work with Bloomington churches, other organizations, to organize donation drives and volunteer days.
- Cooperate with RE committee for educational programming concerning homelessness.
- Provide plates/mugs/bowls for use at mealtime at Shalom. This is a constant need.
- Serve on committees of and volunteer at Shalom

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?
Currently, Nathan Stonecipher, Alan Backler, Marlin Howard. The core members meet periodically, when issues arise. We do plan a volunteer recruitment campaign all during the year.

4. A \$300 budget is available to each task force this year – 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 plan to use these funds primarily to provide a hot meal once a month for the guests at Shalom. We will use the funds from the football parking to cover this as well.

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.**

- A weekend group volunteer day at Shalom helping restore the facility.
- Collect used toys and baby items for donation to New Hope Family Center.
- Collect socks and other clothing for people experiencing homelessness

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.

Volunteers Needed: Shalom Community Center and Wheeler Mission need volunteers! If you have the time, please consider signing up! Information on how to sign up for Shalom can be found [HERE](#) and to sign up for Wheeler Mission Here: [Women's Shelter Link](#) and [Men's Shelter Link](#). If you have any questions, contact Nathan Stonecipher at nstoneci@outlook.com or (812) 322 4958.