

## Social Justice Committee 2019 Report & 2019/2020 Proposal

The Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Social Justice Committee (formerly the Community Outreach/Social Action Committee) will fulfill by July 1, 2019 the previous proposed donations to selected agencies during the past year. We fulfilled the project approved for the 2018/2019 fiscal year by spending \$ 310 on a public social justice event “SAVE YOUR VOTE” October 20, 2018. The forum was to inform the electorate on the November 6, 2018 election ballot proposals. The event was held at the Benton Harbor Arts & Education Center and approx. 25 people attended. The event was considered a success. Other event sponsors included League of Women Voters (Cass & Berrien), Voters Not Politicians, Delta, Sigma Theta Sorority, and the OutCenter.

The funds available from the BUUF Restricted Endowment accounts for the upcoming FY 2019/2020 Social Justice projects are **\$2552**. The Committee met 5/29/19 via e-mail communications and recommends the following:

- Renewal of membership in the [Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network](#). The network informs BUUF of important issues and events in Michigan via newsletter — \$100
- Donation to the [CARES](#) Program in Benton Harbor. CARES provides links and services to HIV positive individuals who are currently out of the medical care network in Berrien County. The mission of CARES is to maximize the quality of life for those affected with HIV/AIDS and to minimize the spread of the disease. CARES provides testing, comprehensive care plans and routine medical services for the 330 plus Berrien County residents who are living with HIV — \$250.
- Continued support of the [OutCenter](#). The funds will be used to support the OutCenter’s valuable LGBTQ advocacy programs — \$350.
- Continued support of the [All God’s Children Youth Choir](#) to assist with transportation and meals to facilitate the choir’s participation in concerts and events — \$200.
- Contribution to the [Safe Shelter](#) for Domestic Violence in Benton Harbor. The shelter provides a secure, violence-free environment for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and their dependent children. Survivors are offered a protective, warm and violence-free place to stay, support groups and other resources to develop safe, healthy and meaningful lives for themselves and their children- \$300.200
- Purchase of food to be prepared at the Benton Harbor [Soup Kitchen](#) during BUUF’s assigned dates. — ~~\$-600~~. **\$700**
- Contribution to [Saint Augustine’s Episcopal Church’s Neighborhood Food Pantry](#), located in Benton Harbor - \$100.
- Contribution of time and money to the [Fresh Start Children’s Garden](#) in Benton Harbor. The volunteer community garden is at the corner of May and Pearl Streets and seeks to educate and involve the children of Benton Harbor through gardening as food production. The garden project is directed by Emma Kinnard. The BUUF Green Sanctuary team has decided to partner with the 11-year-old project as a demonstration of environmental justice in action - \$100.
- Contribution to [Calling All Colors](#) program in Benton Harbor. The program aims to bring together children for educational and multicultural experiences - ~~\$200~~-300.
- Provide funds to the BUUF Welcoming Committee to hold a workshop to educate and recertify our UUA Welcoming Congregation status - \$200.

The above Social Justice program donations will total \$ 2500. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,  
BUUF Social Justice Committee  
Harvey Johnson                      Ellen Higdon  
Gloria Weberg                      Keely Adams  
Dave Sarra