

## ***Board Consent Agenda Report***

**Date:** May 22, 2019

**Name of Committee/Team:** Change for Change

**Name of Person Submitting the Report:** Lisa Fuller

**Change for Change Report with a Call to Action. Feedback is requested**

Rev. Jim McConnell introduced the concept of Change for Change in Fall 2017. RE children earn, save, collect, and donate coins toward a social justice project of their choosing. In 2018 I volunteered to be Change for Change champion. I love doing this but would also like to see a new champion annually.

Last year the RE kids narrowed down their social justice interests to helping animals, nature and other children. After lots of discussion, we chose Sarett Nature Center as the first CFC recipient.

Sarett is well known by area school children for helping animals, nature and delivering environmental education, helpful to all people and our Earth. Further, Sarett and BUUF share a common benefactor: Elizabeth Upton Vawter, a charter member of the Berrien UU Fellowship. In 1963, Mrs. Vawter and her husband donated 130 acres of land toward the creation of a nature sanctuary that eventually became the River Trail of Sarett. In 1968, Mrs. Vawter purchased and helped fund operating expenses for BUUF's first building, 601 Main Street, St. Joseph, (currently the Heritage Center), where the congregation held services until 1979.

Sunday February 10, 2019, RE families and other BUUFers visited Sarett Nature to present a check to sponsor Sarett animals selected by the children, and purchase of brick pavers inscribed with "Childrens RE BUUF 2019" and "Change for Change 2019". Naturalist Rob introduced us to the snakes, owls and a chameleon the children chose to sponsor. The children enjoyed the event almost as much as the adults. The pavers are expected to be installed by Spring 2020.

When the children are not up to the task of explaining CFC before the weekly Story for All Ages, Rev. Jim steps in to help. Hopefully everyone is becoming familiar with CFC. Its benefit is to help the children establish a generosity to others and the environment. We will continue to encourage the children to talk with the congregation about CFC before the Story for All Ages, and interact to collect coins from the congregation. Over the summer the children will determine next year's CFC recipient(s).

### **Call to Action:**

- **RE children, youth and their parents are encouraged to continue activities that will help the children collect and donate CFC coins (helping with chores, returning cans, sharing monetary gifts from family, etc). RE parents, how can the CFC champion help with this?**
- **I recommend a portion of CFC donations be set aside to subsidize youth attendance at UU Youth Con's or Midwest Leadership School. I see that as being part of a bridging ceremony from UU childhood to UU youth. RE parents, do you support this idea? Let me know.**
- **A new CFC champion is recommended annually. Let me know if you're interested!**
- **RE Day Camp planners: I recommend including a Sarett naturalist or another field trip to the Nature Center to round out the CFC year.**

Much Love to All, Lisa Fuller, 269-470-7379 (call or text), lmf Fuller0116@gmail.com