

BUUF Social Justice Committee
Recommendations for Support of Social Justice Initiatives
Fiscal Year 2021-2022

The Social Justice Committee, at its meeting on April 28, 2021, reviewed nineteen social service programs and organizations for financial support from the Berrien Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, during BUUF's 2021-2022 fiscal year. Glen Smith has advised the committee that it can anticipate receiving between \$2,500 and \$3,000 from the BUUF Restricted Endowment, and the committee has also received a gift of \$850 designated for social justice initiatives. The committee decided to plan conservatively around our budgeted donations, in order to reserve some money for new educational and service programs that might arise during 2021-2022. Accordingly, the committee set a budget of \$3000 and recommends that the following committees and organizations receive BUUF's financial support to pursue their missions.

Very brief descriptions have been added for organizations that are new to the list of programs that BUUF supports.

Social Justice Organizations Recommended for Support During 2021 – 2022

Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network: \$100

BUUF Welcoming Congregation program initiatives: \$150

BUUF Green Sanctuary Committee, supporting environmental justice: \$150

The CARES Program, Benton Harbor, provides services for those affected by HIV/AIDS: \$250

The OutCenter, Benton Harbor, provides support and advocacy for LGBTQ+ persons: \$400

All God's Children Youth Choir: \$200

Calling All Colors, providing educational, multicultural experiences for children: \$250

The Race Relations Council: \$100

- The council awards scholarships to residents of Berrien, Cass, or Van Buren Counties who are applying to or attending a college or university and who have demonstrated a commitment to "building positive race relations in their community."
- All God's Children, Calling All Colors, and the Race Relations Council are currently chaired by Larry and Sandy Feldman, but they will be stepping down on August 1 with new leadership from Charmae Sanders and Jacquie Johnson. Please note that the three organizations have separate bank accounts for receiving donations to their respective programs.

Saint Augustine's Episcopal Church Neighborhood Food Pantry: \$100

The Fresh Start Children's Garden, Benton Harbor: \$200

Interfaith Action of Southwest Michigan: \$100

- Interfaith Action (volunteer director Sid Mohn) encourages interfaith cooperation to address social concerns ranging from environmental stewardship and actively collaborates with Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust (ALPACT).

Neighbors Organizing Against Racism (NOAR): \$500

- NOAR (volunteer director Trenton Bowens) initiates educational programs and public events that bring together residents of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor and social programs such as a bail bond fund for deserving citizens in need of financial assistance.

Carol's Hope, St. Joseph, provides support for individuals with substance use disorders: \$200

- Carol's Hope is a 24-hour crisis intervention facility that provides a supervised, supportive setting for individuals with substance use disorders. Carol's Hope needs both financial support and volunteers.

The Cora Lamping Center for Survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence: \$300

- The Lamping Center, Benton Harbor, is one of five divisions of The Avenue Family Network, a non-profit organization that provides family services in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. The Avenue Family Network originated in 1891 as the National Children's Home Society for Michigan. Cora Lamping was the Children's Home superintendent from 1906 to 1913 and was a pioneer of foster care in Michigan.

Submitted by Clark and Nancy Gilpin (co-chairs), Ellen Higdon, Harvey Johnson, Katharine Lion, Bridget Lorenz, Gloria Weberg, and Julie Williams