

Race Matters Friends

Race Matters Friends (RMF) is a group for public organizing and activism to work for racial equality in Columbia. RMF is engaged in addressing measurable racial disparities wherever we find them in our city and seeking racial equity in all areas of life. RMF regularly attend city council meetings to advocate for community policing. RMF is also raising money for a bail bond fund for Columbia, to enable poor people accused of nonviolent crimes to post bail, so that they can resume their work and lives caring for their children. RMS also supports maintaining public transportation for people with disabilities and poor people who require buses to go to work and to take care of activities of daily living.

Humanity for Children

Humanity for Children (HFC) is a non-profit organization based in Columbia, MO that funds sustainable initiatives in rural Rwanda and Tanzania that empower individuals while improving the health, education, and economic conditions of their communities. These efforts align with the UU mission to help promote a more just and equitable world, and reinforce our interconnectedness with people and communities around the globe.

HFC has been engaged in deep listening and building relationships with people in East Africa for over a decade. Grants are made to community groups and function as seed capital for community development. Project participants are then advanced funds by the community association, and these funds are paid back to the association with interest. A sampling of the community economic empowerment projects funded in the Ngoma District of Rwanda in past several years include the purchase of livestock (typically goats and pigs); sewing and knitting machines for the production of school uniforms; bee hives; and a corn grinder for a community of farmers. HFC has also provided primary school students in this district solar lights, to enable their study for the national exam that determines their eligibility for future schooling; and a football (soccer) academy for youth that also teaches HIV and sex education and promotes safe practices.

In remote NE Tanzania among the Massai, HFC is attempting to reduce maternal-infant mortality by educating traditional birth attendants about safer birth practices and providing safe birthing kits that include a plastic tarp to line the mud and dung floor of the hut, sterile gloves, razor blades, and antiseptic solution that were not previously in use. These efforts are the first stage of a multi-year project, developed in dialogue with the surrounding communities, which will build a modest regional health center equipped with solar panels for electricity, basic laboratory equipment, a transport vehicle, delivery room equipment, and potable water where none now exists. HFC also aims to fund the formal nursing education of a young woman from the community who will return to staff the facility and serve her people.

All of Humanity for Children's US operations are powered by volunteers, i.e., there are no paid staff, but it does fund community members who serve as project liaisons in the communities of interest in both Rwanda and Tanzania.

Hickman High School Amnesty International

Amnesty International works to end human right abuses locally and globally, from human trafficking to torture and the death penalty. We also work with the Black Lives Matters movement. We oppose the militarization of the police and the death penalty.

Minority Men's Network

The Minority Men's Network promotes and facilitates progress among the African-American population of Columbia and Boone County. It especially seeks to promote educational, economic, and civic progress among African Americans. The work of the Network is compatible with the values and goals of our church in that they seek justice, equality, education, civic engagement in democracy, and economic advancement for a seriously and historically oppressed population. With our educational college scholarship, the Network specifically serves selected African American high school seniors -- especially males -- and their families. In general, however, the Network serves the entire Boone County community -- especially its African American citizens. It helps meet the need for encouragement, motivation, examples, and financial support to pursue higher education.

Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (MADP)

The primary goal of MADP is to change Missouri state law to the end that the death penalty is no longer permitted in our state. Secondly, MADP seeks to reduce the frequency of executions within the state. Our work aligns with UU selection criteria in that we seek justice, equality, and compassion for all human beings; we work for a world wherein peace and justice reign, and we respect the web of all existence and life that includes human life.

Centro para el Desarrollo Político, Educativo y Cultural (CDPEC) (Puerto Rico grassroots recovery and development initiative)

In the emergency and crisis situation after hurricane Maria, CDPEC has been deeply involved in the recovery and development tasks. In addition to immediate relief, CDPEC continues the courageous work of organizing lasting solidarity projects and grassroots development projects so that another Puerto Rico, focused on people, can be born of this crisis.

CDPEC serves the low-income populations all over Puerto Rico but their main work is in Caguas, one of the regions hardest hit by Hurricane Maria. They have been building popular, people-run, soup kitchens, urban gardens, health care centers, tutoring and organizing centers, and are playing an important role in educating people about solar power. One of their big projects is to build a micro-grid in Caguas so that the whole neighborhood can tap in and support itself. They are doing this in one other town also, and plan to replicate the projects around the country.

First Chance for Children

First Chance for Children provides early childhood programs and family resources to foster healthy outcomes for children and families in mid-Missouri. We serve all families in Boone county with children five and under with our Lend & Learn Toy Library and Group Connections. We provide targeted services (home visitation, baby bags with safety items & info), safe cribs, tangible items to reduce stress, etc., for families experiencing risk who are often left out and left behind.

Tiger Council of the Blind

Tiger Council of the Blind (TCB) works to improve the lives of people in mid-Missouri with blindness and low-vision through outreach and advocacy, peer support, adaptive technology assistance, and more. Despite civil rights laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with vision loss have the highest unemployment rate of any minority group, at 70%, and regularly face discrimination in other ways as well. We work for greater pedestrian safety

and transportation access through advocating for public transit, more sidewalks, Vision 0, and for Accessible Pedestrian Signals. We conduct outreach to educate local businesses on serving blind customers and service dog etiquette, help local restaurants obtain braille and large print menus, and help those new to vision loss get the support and friendship they need. We also raise money to provide funding for members to attend state and national blind conventions in order to take classes, try out new assistive technology, network and more. In between this work, we hold social gatherings where we play blind accessible games. We serve as a sanctuary for central Missourians facing loneliness and a lack of resources due to vision loss.

Literacy Action Corps

Literacy Action Corps (LAC) is a non-profit volunteer organization founded by three women in 1968 to serve Columbia and the surrounding area. We are affiliated with Pro Literacy America, which was established by the renowned educator Dr. Frank Laubach. LAC matches volunteer tutors with adults who desire to learn English. Literacy Action Corps trains tutors to teach adults one-on-one to learn to read and improve their literacy skills. Learners gain skills they need to complete job applications, to pass a driver's test, to write a letter, to read to their children, and to achieve goals they set for themselves. LAC also tutors internationals to speak and to read English. These skills open the doors for employment and community involvement.

Voluntary Action Center

The Voluntary Action Center (VAC) helps to stabilize low-income families and individuals in Boone County by providing resources for basic and emergency needs in the areas of health, employment, education, and housing, so they can overcome economic hardships and maintain self-sufficiency. This is in alignment with the UU Church's vision as a "community of radical welcome and deep connection that moves us together to heal the world," and the UU Church's mission of "creating intentional welcome, relational solidarity, and compassionate action in response to injustices."

All proceeds from the UU Church Faith To Action collection will go to the VAC's Faith In Service To Humanity (FISH) fund, to be used exclusively for client services; i.e., no administrative overhead costs are paid out of this fund.

City of Refuge

City of Refuge (COR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to help and serve refugees and immigrants in Mid-Missouri. Their vision is to help refugees and immigrants become productive, successful, contributing members of our community. This is in alignment with the UU Church's vision as a "community of radical welcome and deep connection that moves us together to heal the world," and the UU Church's mission of "creating intentional welcome, relational solidarity, and compassionate action in response to injustices."

Each year an average of 200 new refugees come to Columbia, MO. Many of them do not speak English and arrive with only a few pieces of clothing and little money. Staff at City of Refuge evaluate the needs of refugee clients, and provide or arrange for assistance to help meet those needs. Transportation, education, applying for jobs and just learning how to live in an American city are some examples of needs. Volunteers provide tutoring in English. The suggested target of the UU Church Faith To Action donation is COR's Buddy English Program. Funds will be used to purchase textbooks and supplies to support this popular program.

Centro Latino de Salud

The Centro Latino de Salud is an organization seeking to help immigrants from Spanish speaking countries, and immigrants from other countries as well, navigate life in Columbia and mid-Missouri. The Centro helps people access legal and health services and provides translation if needed. They offer an after-school tutoring program for children kindergarten through 12th grade. They offer English and Spanish classes. They offer health classes, and the Comedor Popular serves healthy foods and provides opportunities for people in the Latino community to learn about healthy foods and ways to prevent obesity and diseases related to obesity.

UUCC Honduras Ministry

The Honduras Ministry has organized four service trips to the Rio Cangrejal Valley near La Ceiba, Honduras since 2009. Members of the UUCC team work in partnership with a local cooperative and community center. Each time the projects were requested by the community and included latrine building. Other projects were: painting a school, painting the clinic, offering Pap smears, providing health information and education in remote communities, and providing funding for construction of a canasta to cross the river during the rainy season. The next trip is planned for 2020. Between trips the Ministry continues to raise funds for community needs. Currently the focus is on supplies for the health clinic. Supplies for the health clinic have always been scant but during the political unrest, there were no more supplies at all and clinics around the country had to close down. Thanks to the UUCC Honduras Ministry, the El Pital clinic was able to stay open.

This year we would like to bring our project leader in Honduras, Bertin "Cito" Lobo, to Columbia, MO so that he can get to know our congregation and so that the congregation can learn more about Honduras.

Welcome Home, Inc.

Welcome Home, Inc. is a housing-first shelter in Columbia, MO serving homeless veterans with shelter, food, clothing, transportation, housing and employment assistance.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

UUSC advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. Active in many countries including the US, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC serves UU principles 1,2 and 7: Inherent worth and dignity, Justice, equality and compassion, and Respect for the interdependent web. Principles 5 and 6 could be added.

No More Deaths

No More Deaths provides support for refugees seeking entry to the US along our Southwestern Border, including providing water in the desert, and legal aid for refugees. The organization also investigates and reports on violations of International Humanitarian Law by the Border Patrol and ICE.

Children's Grove Kindness Libraries

Children's Grove, a local all-volunteer organization, was begun after the Sandy Hook tragedy. We promote both kindness and positive youth mental health in Boone County. Our Kindness Libraries of five storybooks in a tote, are given to schools and agencies in the county serving preschoolers and early elementary kids. The storybooks promote goodwill, gentleness and

compassion. \$55 provides a Kindness Library, getting these books into the hands of kids, planting seeds that will blossom when children find themselves in intolerant situations.

The Center Project

The mission of The Center Project (TCP) is to provide resources and a safe space for LGBTQ individuals to meet, engage, and grow. TCP is Mid-Missouri's only community center focused on the needs of LGBTQ individuals and communities. Designed as a safe and open space, TCP supports the under-served gender-based and sexuality groups within the region, including youth, families, and those living in rural communities.