

Boone County Community Bail Fund

We are a group of volunteers who raise community donations to bail people out of the Boone County Jail who cannot afford to pay. We answer calls from the jail, screen for a match with our criteria (Boone County resident, Boone County or municipal charges, \$3000 or less total bail). We receive partial refunds if someone completes their court appearances. We also do community education on bail and incarceration.

Caring Hearts and Hands of Columbia

Caring Hearts and Hands (CHHC) is a charitable organization that provides an alternative in Columbia and central Missouri for end-of-life care for those who choose not to or are unable to remain in their own home or a care facility until they die. CHHC provides a comfortable home where the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the dying person and their family are met with compassion, love and respect 24/7. These services are provided at no cost and thus the organization relies on fundraising and volunteer help.

Through this work CHHC aligns with UUCC's mission and values. While providing compassionate care at the end of life, the staff and volunteers at CHHC respect and nurture the unique personal, cultural and religious values of the residents and their families. They promote honesty, acceptance and discovery as they help guide the end-of-life journey. This work is consistent with UUCC's vision of being a community of radical welcome and deep connection that moves us together to heal the world. In caring for those who are dying, CHHC could easily repeat our UU principles: inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth, free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Children's Grove Kindness Libraries

The mission of Children's Grove is to inspire a culture of kindness and to support the mental and emotional well-being of our youth. Our Kindness Library program works to get storybooks featuring kindness and empathy into the hands of our community's children.

CoMo Bike Co-Op

To support the community's transportation needs, the CoMo Bike Co-op offers free bicycle repair and refurbished, low-cost bicycles for a suggested donation. Our target demographic is underserved adults with transportation needs for work, school, and basic activities of daily living.

First Chance for Children

First Chance for Children is a local non-profit; we are a team of 9 women with an additional social work intern. We have grown since 1998/2001 into First Chance for Children and have continued to utilize braided funding (Children's Services Fund/Boone County, United Way, Boone Electric Community Trust, donations, and lots of grant writing), to support early childhood initiatives. We have expanded into 13 counties across mid-Missouri contracting with school districts, health departments, and community agencies to provide additional services for at-risk families including cribs and diapers through our CRIBS and Baby Bags Diaper Bank. We utilize the Parents as Teachers and Nurturing Parenting models of home visitation along with the Strengthening Families Framework to best support families with their specific needs. We advocate at the state and local level for quality early childhood experiences so that all children can be ready for school, ready for life.

Heart of Missouri Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

The mission at Heart of Missouri CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is to train and support volunteers to be exceptional voices for every abused and neglected child in the Boone and Callaway County family courts. We believe that all children have the right to safe, healthy, stable homes, free from abuse and neglect. Volunteers complete an intensive screening process, including an interview, 3 reference checks, and a comprehensive background screening. Following completion of the 30-hour pre-service training, volunteers are sworn-in as officers of the court and are appointed to a case with one or multiple children. CASA volunteers stay with that case until it closes (average of 2 years), visiting the child(ren) two times per month, attending all the professional team meetings and court hearings, and speaking up for the children's needs with the Team and Family Court Judge. Through the volunteers' fact-gathering efforts, training, and relationship-building, they can adequately assess the child's needs and advocate for unmet needs to be addressed. CASA volunteers are uniquely poised to make recommendations regarding the placement of the child and the permanency plan due to their objectivity and extensive knowledge of the case/child. Professional staff members provide ongoing supervision and assistance to ensure volunteers have needed information, skills, and resources.

MICA Project (Migrant and Immigrant Community Action)

MICA is a group of remarkable immigration lawyers and other support staff who help migrants and immigrants who otherwise can't afford the legal representation necessary by representing them pro bono or at very reduced cost. Our UUCC Guatemalan family is being represented by MICA pro bono.

MICA forges a community of radical welcome to those who have suffered greatly in their countries of origin, helping them to find a place of peace, and frankly to save their lives. As they say on their home page: "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor."

Minority Men's Network Educational Foundation

The Network seeks to promote educational, economic, social, civic, and legal progress on the part of African Americans of Columbia and Boone county. The African American population continues to be marginalized and disadvantaged in practically all of these categories, and the Network works to change that reality. Financial aid from the UU church will be used exclusively to enhance the Network's educational fund from which scholarships are given annually to help current local African American high school graduates attend college.

Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty (MADP)

MADP works to stop executions by working with legal teams to advocate for justice for those condemned to death and uplift the humanity of those on death row. UUCC Social Action Team member Wiley Miller is on the Board. SAT has a long-term relationship with and commitment to MADP.

Pink Haven Coalition

Pink Haven is a collaboration between national trans organizers, the UUA, the UUSC and other people of faith help provide many forms of assistance including help in relocating trans and queer people who, due to the current political climate, are finding it impossible to remain in the states they reside. From the PHC website: "We are a collective of organizations and individuals

who are committed to trans liberation and joy and to growing community defense, mutual-aid, and alternative systems of care for gender diverse people." This work is quite literally life-saving and fully in line with the values of our church. See the Spring Summer article in the UU World and also my article in the upcoming July 2024 Searchlight.

UUCC Honduras Team

The Honduras team has gone on 5 service trips to a rural area in Honduras and is currently planning the 6th trip for March 2025. Each time we go, we build latrines. Latrines are very important for public health and environmental reasons, and they are what people tell us they need every time. Materials to build latrines are costly, and the people living in this rural area are not able to afford them. The Honduras Team raises money to pay for the materials as well as for other needs the community identifies and that we can help with. One such longstanding help is sending \$400 to the health clinic in El Pital every month for them to be able to purchase their most basic supplies.

As the Honduras Team, we nurture spirit and service, and we forge deep connections with our siblings in Honduras, so that together we can move forward to heal the world.

UUCC Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team

The Sanctuary and Immigrant Justice Team has been sponsoring a Guatemalan asylum-seeking family. The process of seeking asylum is a long and complicated process that's hard to navigate, and every asylum seeking family needs to have an official sponsor. The Guatemalan family is just on the brink of being fully independent of the SIJT, though of course we will still be there to support them if needed. The Team supported a Honduran family prior to this Guatemalan family, and we are still there to support them as well. This next year the Team will be looking to sponsor the next asylum-seeking person or family.

The Team's work (supporting families who have fled their countries for fear of their lives and liberty) aligns with the UUCC values that every person deserves to live in dignity, free of fear and persecution.