

Unitarian Universalist Funding Program  
ANNUAL REPORT 2007  
Grants made by the Fund for a Just Society

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**Total Number of Grants Made: 52**  
**Grants Made: \$263,500**  
*Challenge Grants Made (Italics): \$24,500*  
**Total Grants Made: \$288,000**

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**9to5 Los Angeles - Los Angeles, CA**  
***Winning Policy Change in California***

**\$3,000 Grant**

To organize low-wage working women in a statewide campaign for paid sick days. 47% of full-time, private sector workers have no paid sick days, and only one in six part-time workers has paid sick days. The campaign is designed to build visibility, support and momentum for allies in other states, as well as a federal effort.

**Austin Film Society - Austin, TX**  
***“Location, Location”***

**\$8,000 Grant**

A documentary film covering the eight-year struggle of the Allen Parkway Village public housing project to preserve affordable housing in the face of redevelopment. The documentary is intended for use as an education tool for policy makers and an organizing tool for community organizing.

**Boston Workers Alliance - Roxbury, MA**  
***Boston Workers Alliance***

**\$5,000 Grant, \$1,000 Challenge**

A second grant for organizing to eliminate existing barriers to employment enforced against ex-offenders and to mobilize to win government commitments to a fair and full-employment economy.

**Brazilian Immigrant Center - Allston, MA**  
***Workers’ Rights Project***

**\$5,000 Challenge**

For organizing to address the exploitation of Brazillian workers with a focus on wage recovery and workplace safety. The goal is to challenge employer practices so that all immigrant workers are treated fairly and according to existing labor law.

**Central Illinois Organizing Project - Bloomington, IL**  
***Stop Payday Lending***

**\$5,000 Grant, \$2,000 Challenge**

For an ecumenical organizing campaign against payday lending that includes working with the financial and non-profit sectors to provide affordable alternatives to payday loans. Payday loan stores now outnumber McDonalds franchises and current loan rates are 500%.

- Champaign County Health Care Consumers - Champaign, IL** **\$5,000 Grant**  
***Medical Debt Justice and Health Care Access Project***  
 For a campaign by the local community to improve hospitals policies and practices in areas of pricing, charity care, debt collection and community benefits, to improve access for low-income citizens and to expand health care coverage for all.
- Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues - Chicago, IL** **\$1,000 Grant**  
***Interfaith Worker Rights Center***  
 To support a worker rights center and to pressure employers and state-level policy makers to end the exploitation of immigrant workers.
- Citizens of Louisville Organized & United Together - Louisville, KY** **\$5,000 Grant, \$2,500 Challenge**  
***Stop the Revolving Door***  
 To address the problems of drug-related crime and violence by organizing to create systemic changes in the criminal justice system to more effectively address the needs of offenders with drug and alcohol addictions and to minimize the revolving door effect.
- City Life / Vida Urbana - Jamaica Plain, MA** **\$1,000 Grant**  
***Tenant Organizing Program***  
 A second grant for low income tenants to organize and bargain collectively to preserve their homes. The citywide tenant campaign is holding bankers, speculators and public officials who are complicit in evictions for profit publicly and legally accountable.
- Clinch Coalition - Dungannon, VA** **\$4,000 Grant**  
***Uniting Around High Knob***  
 To organize local communities to address the threats of logging in the National Forest and High Knob, and to develop sustainable alternative economics for the region.
- Community Organizing and Family Issues - Chicago, IL** **10,000 Grant**  
***Elementary Justice Campaign***  
 For a campaign by low-income parents of color to transform elementary school discipline policies in Chicago away from punitive zero tolerance policies and towards preventive and restorative justice approaches. The campaign also seeks to restore recess - currently 82% of the public elementary schools do not have recess.
- Cook Inlet Keeper - Homer, Alaska** **\$8,000 Grant**  
***Clearing the Path: Stop Chuitna Coal Mine***  
 To organize citizens and groups to protect salmon habitat by stopping the Chuitna and related coal mine projects, protect beluga whale and salmon habitat from coal strip mine impacts, and elevate the importance of climate change science for salmon protection in statewide and national policy decisions.
- Disabled Rights Action Committee - Salt Lake City, UT** **\$7,000 Grant**  
***Social Justice for People with Disabilities***  
 For organizing on the Community Choices Act that will provide funding for attendant care, and for the state to incorporate personal attendant care into the core Medicaid plan so that persons who need assistance can live in their own homes.

**Economic Justice Coalition - Athens, GA** **\$2,000 Grant, \$1,000 Challenge**  
***Economic Justice in Rural South Georgia***

For organizing economic justice activities in Dooly County with a focus on the working conditions of poultry and agricultural workers. The campaigns include advocating for living wages, benefits and improved working conditions.

**EPOCA - Worcester, MA** **\$5,000 Grant**  
**Public Safety Campaign 2007**

A second grant to win passage of the Public Safety Act in Massachusetts, reforming the reporting of and access to Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI), and to work with employment training agencies and large employers to place persons with criminal records into the workforce and reduce chances of recidivism.

**Equality Maryland Foundation - Silver Spring, MD** **\$1,000 Grant**

***From the Pulpit to the Community***

A second grant for religious outreach and dialogue to secure marriage equality for same-sex couples in Maryland.

**Greater Four Corners Action Coalition - Dorchester, MA** **\$5,000 Grant**  
***Commuter Rail***

For organizing residents and neighborhood groups to pressure the MBTA to provide adequate and equitable transportation for Boston's largely Black and Latino communities by adding stops and service upgrades in the affected neighborhoods and consequently encourage economic development.

**Hope Street Youth Development - Wichita, KS** **\$5,000 Grant**  
***Tasers in School Regulation***

For a school-based student organizing project to protect students against the recent introduction of tasers carried by resource officers in schools, either by removing them from schools altogether or by instituting a number of reforms to ensure student safety.

**Idaho Community Action Network - Boise, ID** **\$3,000 Grant**  
***Racial Justice Initiative***

For a campaign for living wage and work support, public health coverage programs and comprehensive immigration reform and other immigrant rights including increased access to higher education, a path to citizenship and family reunification.

**Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice - San Diego, CA** **\$15,000 Grant**  
***ICWJ Immigration Program***

To influence and shape the debate and create conditions for comprehensive immigration reform, working toward ensuring humane treatment of immigrant workers and families with three initiatives: New Sanctuary Movement, Immigrant Worker Campaigns and Immigration Policy advocacy.

**Ionia Inc. - Kasilof, AK** **\$5,000 Grant**  
***Strengthening Mental Health***

A second grant to support several initiatives related to mental health consumer groups (the Consumer Consortium) to create broad public policy changes and organize a grass roots campaign to convince legislators to support consumer operated programs as part of a comprehensive behavioral health system.

- Jackson Hamlet Community Action - Pinehurst, NC** **\$5,000 Grant**  
***Southern Moore Alliance for Excluded Communities***  
 For organizing in African American communities to combat the practice of municipal underbounding - a modern day form of racial segregation - and to restore access to public water, sewer, streetlights, and trash disposal.
- Karuk Tribe of California, Dept. Natural Resources - Happy Camp, CA** **\$1,000 Grant**  
***Karuk Environmental Justice System***  
 To develop a cultural and environmental resource management voice in federal and state policy forums and maintain the survival of the Karuk Tribe, California's second largest indigenous tribe.
- Latino Union of Chicago - Chicago, IL** **\$6,000 Grant**  
***Immigrant Worker Action Project***  
 For a campaign organizing day laborers in Chicago's Northwest side to assert their first amendment rights, to establish a federally mandated police protocol that will end the unconstitutional arrest of workers, and to ensure the right of workers to seek employment in public spaces.
- Love Makes a Family - Hartford, CT** **\$3,000 Grant, \$2,000 Challenge**  
***Our Stories, Our Lives: Winning Hearts and Minds for Marriage Equality***  
 For a campaign to expand Connecticut's marriage laws to include same-sex couples. Actions include an earned media campaign, canvassing door to door, a speakers bureau, television advertising and using educational resources on the internet.
- Merrimack Valley Project - Lawrence, MA** **\$10,000 Grant**  
***Immigrant Worker Organizing Campaign***  
 A second grant to build upon a successful campaign that targeted the Gillette Company to advance the rights of low-wage immigrant workers in the Merrimack Valley. One goal is to secure the participation of 500 workers in the ESOL/Career Ladder program.
- Mid-Missouri Center Project - Columbia, MO** **\$1,000 Grant**  
***Promoting Leadership and Activism in Rural LGBTQ***  
 To organize and prepare LGBTQ youth to address legislation and policies that are oppressive, through providing meeting space, outreach, mentoring and training, and to work to improve the political climate in mid-Missouri.
- Mid-Tennessee Jobs with Justice - Nashville, TN** **\$4,000 Grant, \$2,000 Challenge**  
***Living Wage Campaign of Mid Tennessee***  
 For a municipal living wage campaign to promote economic and racial justice in Nashville while laying the groundwork for a Nashville Workers' Center.
- Minnesota Citizens' Federation - Northeast - Duluth, MN** **\$7,000 Grant**  
***Advancing a Progressive Health Care Agenda***  
 A second grant to organize for a single payer health care system, establishing an alternative county government model to the for-profit health care that is currently offered.

- Missouri Citizen Education Fund - St. Louis, MO \$3,000 Grant**  
***Campaign to Stop School Vouchers in Missouri***  
 A campaign urging state legislators to support the right of all children to a quality public education by opposing the diversion of tax dollars to private or religious schools through tuition tax credit vouchers.
- Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty - Jefferson City, MO \$1,000 Grant, \$1,000 Challenge**  
***Campaign for Co-Sponsors***  
 A campaign to increase legislative support for a bill to implement a moratorium on executions and to establish a Study Commission to make recommendations regarding the fairness and accuracy of death penalty policy in the state.
- Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty - Lincoln, NE \$3,000 Grant, \$1,000 Challenge**  
***Faith-Based Organizing Project***  
 To build and mobilize a faith-based movement to pass legislation outlawing the death penalty.
- New Economy, Working Solutions (NEWS) - Santa Rosa, CA \$7,500 Grant**  
***Living Wage Coalition***  
 To pass a living wage ordinance in Sonoma county, implement the use of community impact reports to analyze the social, economic and environmental impact of any proposed development, and support living wages within the immigrant communities of the Northern Bay Area.
- Ohio Fair Schools Campaign - Athens, OH \$6,000 Grant**  
***Ohio Youth Agenda***  
 A youth organizing campaign in Ohio to win policy changes on the state and local level that are the result of a comprehensive Youth Agenda addressing school inequalities and advocating for increased counseling and college preparatory support.
- Oregon Fair Trade Campaign - Portland, OR \$5,000 Grant**  
***Oregon Stories Project***  
 To organize workers, farmers and small business owners who have lost work because of NAFTA-style trade agreements to become effective fair trade advocates, participating in trade policy-making.
- People Organized for Westside Renewal - Santa Monica, CA \$6,000 Grant**  
***Justice Organizing: Winning Affordable Housing & Education Reform***  
 For organizing to enforce the provisions of the Mello Act in West Los Angeles, advocating for local ordinances that ensure development of affordable housing and inclusionary zoning; and working with parents and teachers to promote educational equity and educational excellence in the LA Unified School District.
- Providence Youth Student Movement - Providence, RI \$8,000 Grant**  
***The Organizing Circle***  
 To win institutional and policy change through youth organizing, advocating for inclusive and progressive policies in Providence schools; youth opportunities for Southeast Asian youth with the Department of Recreation, and protecting Southeast Asian youth from racial and gang profiling by the police.

- Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry - Boston, MA** **\$2,000 Grant**  
*Preserving Marriage Equality in Massachusetts*  
 For a campaign by the progressive religious community to preserve the freedom of people, regardless of sexual orientation, to marry in Massachusetts.
- SAGE Council - Albuquerque, NM** **\$8,000 Grant**  
*Native American Voters Alliance Program*  
 A campaign to register Native American voters, a largely invisible constituency prior to the 2007 municipal elections, to continue a Get-Out-the-Vote campaign into the 2008 general elections; and to promote public financing of state legislative elections and educating the constituency about water issues.
- South Dakota Peace and Justice Center - Sioux Falls, SD** **\$1000 Grant**  
*Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty in South Dakota*  
 For a campaign to abolish the death penalty in South Dakota.
- South Florida Interfaith Worker Justice - Miami, FL** **\$4,000 Grant**  
*Prophetic Voice for Organizing Workers*  
 A campaign to support worker justice by drawing publicity to union-busting and giving an interfaith voice to the concerns of the working poor.
- St. Mary's Center - Oakland, CA** **\$10,000 Grant**  
*Senior Advocates for Hope and Justice*  
 A campaign to increase health care, food security and affordable housing to extremely low-income seniors. Oakland has the highest percentage of seniors in poverty among all large California cities."
- Strategic Actions for a Just Economy - Los Angeles, CA** **\$4,000 Grant**  
*Frank McHugh Slum Housing Campaign*  
 For a community organizing campaign to abate slum-housing conditions by targeting one of Los Angeles' most notorious slumlords and to dislodge the profitability of slum-housing by substantially increasing penalties and sanctions."
- Street Vendor Project - New York, NY** **\$5,000 Grant, \$4000 Challenge**  
*Street Vendor Project 2007 Campaign*  
 To hire an organizer to grow the base of street vendors to give this community a united voice to address problems faced by vendors whose livelihood is threatened by more powerful corporate and real estate interests."
- Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc. - New York, NY** **\$2,000 Grant**  
*Transgender Health Initiative of New York*  
 A second grant to organize the transgender and gender variant community to advocate for access to safe, respectful, non-discriminatory health care."
- Transnational Institute for Grassroots Research & Action - Oakland, CA** **\$5,000 Grant**  
*TIGRA - Movement Center*  
 For a movement that organizes remitters to use their collective economic leverage to encourage corporate accountability and community reinvestment. The focus of the campaign is to get Western Union - a company which made close to \$4 billion from 118 million financial transactions in 2005 - to adopt a Community Benefits Agreement."

**Union of Minority Neighborhoods - Roxbury, MA**

**\$5,000 Grant**

***Mass. Alliance to Reform CORI***

A second grant to mobilize and organize people with criminal records and their allies to reform the Criminal Offender Record Information System.

**Wingspan - Tucson, AZ**

**\$6,000 Grant**

***Rainbow Families: Social Justice for LGBT Families in Arizona***

For a campaign to mobilize LGBT and allied communities to confront the social justice issues of civil and human rights of LGBT families and to legalize second parent adoption in Arizona.

**Witness for Peace - Washington, DC**

**\$7,000 Grant**

***Mexico Program: Roots of Migration Project***

For an education/action campaign that exposes the root causes of migration and their relationship to fair-trade policies. The campaign will advocate for policies that respect the human dignity of all people and promote sustainable development in Latin America.

**Witness to Innocence - Philadelphia, PA**

**\$15,000 Grant**

***Witness to Innocence***

A second grant for a campaign to abolish the death penalty by organizing ex-death row prisoners and their families to speak out against the death penalty and to support the mental and social health needs of exonerated former prisoners.

**Working for Equality and Economic Liberation - Helena, MT**

**\$5,000 Grant, \$2000 Challenge**

***Economic Justice is a Human Right***

A second grant to address poverty and mobilize non-traditional allies to create a state economic development policy related issues: the regulation of predatory lending institutions, creating alternative loan products, and promoting asset development programs."

**Youth Education Alliance - Washington, DC**

**\$5,000 Grant, \$1000 Challenge**

***Public Education Improvement in DC***

A second grant to support student-led campaigns to establish minimum levels of guidance counselor staffing and to restore funding for junior high and high schools in the District of Columbia.