



YOU AND UUSC:

ACTION AND PROGRESS



Annual Report 2017

Challenging Injustice, Advancing Human Rights

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian human rights organization powered by grassroots collaboration. We work anywhere rights are threatened – by natural disasters, armed conflicts, genocide, forced migration, and systematic injustice.

Our work is grounded in the moral belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights. Our vision is a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights.

Global Reach: 78 partner organizations in 32 countries

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Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
689 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
uusdc.org • 617-868-6600 • info@uusdc.org

Dear Friends,

This year opened with a new urgency in our long struggle for human rights and social, environmental, and economic justice.

In the United States, some of the ugliest political rhetoric in our memory demonizing entire communities – Muslims, immigrants, Mexicans, refugees – has transitioned seamlessly into dangerous policies targeting, among others, the most oppressed among us. Meanwhile, people of color are threatened by a resurgent white supremacist movement that marches under the swastika and the Confederate flag.



Of course, communities are vulnerable to discrimination not just in the United States but all around the world – in Europe, where Syrian refugees are denied sanctuary from horrific violence ... in Africa, where the LGBTQI community is far too often denied the right to love whom they choose ... in the Pacific, where people are being forcibly displaced from their homes due to the cascading effects of climate-induced rising sea waters ... in Burma, where the brutal and longstanding persecution of the Rohingya, an ethnic Muslim minority, has led to a campaign of ethnic cleansing and the displacement of more than half a million people into neighboring Bangladesh ...

It's a long and tragic list. And it's a list that offers vivid evidence, once again, that the long arc of the moral universe may indeed bend toward justice, but its movement can be halting and uneven. So much depends on people of good will leaning their shoulders into it and fighting for values that are under siege.

That's why we are so profoundly grateful for your commitment to those values and for the trust you place in UUSC to put them into action in support of communities in need, here at home and all around the world. Thank you for standing with us through difficult times.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lyssa Jenkins".

Rev. Lyssa Jenkins, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees



UUSC Receives Highest Distinction from Charity Navigator

For the sixth consecutive year, UUSC has earned the highest possible rating – four out of four stars – from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest independent evaluator of nonprofit organizations. The four-star "exceptional" rating is given to nonprofits that demonstrate exemplary fiscal responsibility and a commitment to accountability and transparency.

NEVER AGAIN – FIGHTING ETHNIC CLEANSING IN BURMA

For years, the Rohingya, a Muslim minority population who live near the coastline of Burma (Myanmar), have been one of the most persecuted groups on earth. After the Rohingya became the target in October 2016 of a brutal military assault that the UN called a “calculated campaign of terror,” UUSC mobilized to support our grassroots partners in the country and appealed to the U.S. Congress to support a UN Fact-Finding Mission to look into the abuses against the Rohingya and other persecuted ethnic groups within Burma. Since then, we have been working with both grassroots groups and allied international organizations on a campaign to stop the brutal violence and to provide life-saving humanitarian aid to the Rohingya fleeing the Burmese military.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Supported the Burma Human Rights Network, the Sentinel Project, and other partners after the eruption of violence in October 2016 to document human rights violations and develop a “rapid response system” to counter rumors and misinformation that feed tensions and contribute to violence.
- Partnered with local grassroots organizations to advance the rights of ethnic and religious minorities in Burma, through projects to build social cohesion and strengthen civic and peace education.
- Facilitated a strategy convening in Malaysia in February 2017 with Rohingya leaders and a broad coalition of human rights organizations to map out a joint international strategy pressing the government of Burma to end human rights abuses and de-escalate tensions.
- Visited the refugee camps at Cox’s Bazar in Bangladesh to document the abuses of those who fled across the border from Burma.
- Mobilized UUSC supporters to call on their members of Congress to demand that the United Nations Human Rights Council establish a fact-finding mission to investigate the abuses.
- In late August of 2017 violence again erupted as the Burmese military swept into Rohingya villages, burning homes, killing innocent men, women, and children, and raping women. More than half a million Rohingya have since fled for their lives across the border into Bangladesh. UUSC is responding with life-saving humanitarian aid and by joining with partners and allies to bring an end to the violence.

“The military’s actions are driven by xenophobia, unsubstantiated fear, and absolute cowardice, further stoked and allowed by the rhetoric of politicians in the United States. The indiscriminate brutality and complete disregard for human life was stunning in the accounts we’ve heard from our partners and reminds me of previous human rights struggles that have inevitably led to war crimes prosecution for the perpetrators.”

— Rachel Gore Freed, Vice President and Chief Program Officer

FEATURED PROJECT

CARRYING THE PLIGHT OF THE ROHINGYA TO CONGRESS

In February 2017, UUSC facilitated a conference in Malaysia with Rohingya leaders and a broad coalition of human rights organizations to map out a joint international strategy to end the human rights abuses in Burma. UUSC was tasked with engaging the U.S. government to demand that the United Nations Human Rights Council establish a fact-finding mission to investigate human rights abuses against the Rohingya and other ethnic and religious minorities.

To engage American leadership in this crucial goal, UUSC's leadership met personally with the Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and other Congressional leaders, and also joined Mohamed Naeem, an ethnic Rohingya human rights leader, and allied organizations in testifying before the U.S. Congress at the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. This testimony prompted the Commission co-chairs to send a letter to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson expressing concern about the Rohingya and urging support for a UN investigation. UUSC also mobilized thousands of advocates to sign a petition to Secretary Tillerson urging him to actively support a UN investigation.

After several weeks of intense negotiations in Geneva, the UN Human Rights Council agreed to urgently dispatch an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate possible atrocities "with a view to ensuring full accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims."



"Through the awareness we have raised, pressure has significantly increased on the Burmese Government and Military to change their restrictive and discriminatory policies."

— Kyaw Win, Executive Director at Burma Human Rights Network

DEFENDING REFUGEES FLEEING THE MIDDLE EAST

War and persecution in Syria, Iraq, and other parts of the Middle East continue to drive a surge of refugees into Europe. With most countries in western Europe now placing tight restrictions on entry, “transit countries” like Serbia, Macedonia, Croatia, and Hungary have instead become countries of permanent stay for refugees. UUSC is working with grassroots partners in those countries to provide critically-needed humanitarian assistance, protect against human rights abuses, and provide social and economic integration services, all against the backdrop of widespread xenophobic nationalism.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Combatted gender-based violence and human trafficking by partnering with ATINA, a Serbian women’s rights organization, to create a mobile team that increased the organization’s presence in asylum centers throughout Serbia. As a result of UUSC’s partnership with ATINA, 1,163 women, girls, and boys were empowered through workshops conducted in reception centers in Presevo, Bujanovac, and Krnjaca, as well as in ATINA’s Reintegration Center, which contributed to reducing the risks of human trafficking and gender-based violence.
- Raised public consciousness and advocated for improvements in Serbia’s asylum system by working with ATINA on a publication to highlight individual refugee stories.
- Partnered with the Cordelia Foundation to bring psychosocial rehabilitation services to refugees in Hungary who have survived torture and other war-related trauma. Cordelia identified nearly 300 vulnerable asylum-seekers, almost 100 of whom had survived torture or other extreme forms of trauma. All of these individuals received some form of treatment and therapy from Cordelia and, according to Cordelia’s analysis, at least 210 of them improved their conditions.
- Worked with the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) on a project to provide legal assistance and other support to help reunite refugee families in Hungary. With UUSC’s support, HHC was able to reunite ten families after a lengthy procedure and many years spent apart.

“We listen to these women because nobody else does.”

— Marijana Savic, Founder of ATINA

FEATURED PROJECT

PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE



Refugees applying for asylum in a strange country face incredibly disorienting challenges. They usually don't speak the language, they don't understand their legal rights, and they don't know local customs or even how to seek assistance.



That's why we partnered with the Asylum Protection Center (APC), a non-governmental organization based in Belgrade, on a holistic approach that delivers psychosocial, integration, and advocacy support to asylum seekers in Serbia through mobile teams that travel along the migration route. Each team – which includes a legal professional, a psychologist, a social worker, and an interpreter – provides pro bono legal services, “know your rights” trainings and other workshops, individual and group-based psychosocial support, and other services to refugees throughout Serbia. These mobile teams ensure that APC can maintain its presence at asylum centers while continuing their advocacy work to improve regulatory and legal protections for refugees in Serbia. Over the course of its first project cycle, APC used its mobile teams to provide 25,595 refugees with critical information about their legal rights, 1,117 with free legal aid, 874 with psychosocial support, and 4,560 with humanitarian aid.



“To classify a whole nation as economic migrants is not a principle recognized in international law.”

— Rados Djurovic, Founder of APC

ENDING THE CRIMINALIZATION OF REFUGEES IN THE U.S.

Pervasive, unchecked violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras is forcing a wave of vulnerable people — from families to single mothers to unaccompanied minors — to flee their homes and undertake a perilous journey through Mexico in hope of receiving asylum in the United States. Yet, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is more likely to treat them as criminals than as people in desperate need of our support. UUSC is working with partners along the migration route to defend the refugees' rights, protect them against exploitation and abuse, and advocate for more compassionate policies in the United States.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided legal services to asylum-seeking mothers and children released from detention through our partnership with the Refugee and Immigration Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES). Based in Texas, RAICES' Family Advocate Program has already been able to provide long distance support and orientation to over a thousand women and children.
- Partnered with Justice in Motion, an organization that protects migrants through "portable justice," on an innovative, transnational Defender Network, which fights for the legal rights of migrants as they cross borders.
- Helped CIVIC expand a national hotline that provides immigrant detainees free phone calls to their loved ones, receive attorney referrals, and build their case for release. This is the first national immigration detention hotline to connect people in immigration detention to their families, while also documenting human and civil rights abuses. In the first year after the hotline was established, hotline advocates answered nearly 14,000 calls.
- Earned international media attention with an in-depth analysis we completed with our partner No More Deaths on the U.S. Border Control's "chase and scatter" tactic, which pursues migrants in Arizona into remote terrain causing them to scatter, become lost, and often die or disappear.
- Enabled Scalabrini Mision con Migrantes y Refugiados (Scalabrini) to provide comprehensive support to migrants in Mexico who are refugees, migrant laborers, and other vulnerable populations in transit. Last year, Scalabrini accompanied 220 migrants/asylum seekers with enormous success. Of those 220 migrants, 171 received humanitarian visas, 8 received asylum, 2 received new documentation; 14 received exit passes; and 23 are waiting for their immigration process to be resolved.

"It would be cheaper and more effective if the government spent money on providing legal assistance to refugees instead of spending money on enforcement and deporting them back to hell."

— Jonathan Ryan, Executive Director of RAICES

FEATURED PROJECT

SAFETY — AND COMPASSION — FOR MIGRANTS IN MEXICO

Migrants from Central America in search of asylum in the United States face treacherous dangers on their journey through Mexico. Many ride on top of a notorious freight train called La Bestia, at constant risk of death or injury if they fall or are thrown off for not paying criminal gangs a “protection” fee. Others put their lives in the hands of human smugglers, who sometimes force them into prostitution or sweatshops.

To help migrants escape these threats, UUSC partnered with an organization called FM4Paso Libre on outreach activities that educate the local community about the human rights of migrants and a program that uses volunteers to patrol the dangerous rail tracks of La Bestia. UUSC also helped FM4Paso Libre provide a safe place for more than 6,200 migrants at a shelter operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week in Guadalajara.



"I thank God for the help I have received from FM4 Paso Libre. It has given me the opportunity to create a new life. I don't know in what situation I would be now if I hadn't found this organization. In my whole journey since leaving my country, no one offered me such help as the help they gave me."

— Migrant staying at FM4Paso Libre shelter

DEFENDING COMMUNITIES ON THE FRONT LINES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

One of the ugly tragedies of climate change is that the communities who are least responsible for it will suffer its worst consequences. Already, a warming climate is forcing vulnerable communities to abandon their homes. In Alaska, the homes of Indigenous Peoples living along the coast are sinking into the melting permafrost and washing away into the water. In low-lying islands in the Pacific, residents wait for the rising sea level to swallow their homes. In a new focus of our Environmental Justice & Climate Action Program, UUSC is leading the fight for the rights of these vulnerable communities at risk of being forcibly displaced by a warming planet.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Empowered 15 Alaska Native Tribes to enhance their ability to adapt to a radically changing environment and to ensure their human rights are protected if they are forced to relocate by climate change.
- Supported climate forced displaced communities in Papua New Guinea (PNG) to relocate their households, secure land in Bougainville and to advocate for the recognition of their rights.
- Provided basic water and housing assistance to climate forced displaced communities in the Solomon Islands and engaged national and regional governments around providing additional support.
- Prepared threatened communities in Kiribati to assert their rights as the government of Kiribati addresses strategies and policies to address climate forced displacement.
- Convened a meeting among philanthropic organizations in Washington to advocate for greater philanthropic investment to protect the rights of marginalized communities displaced by climate change.

“What we’re seeing in Alaska – the multiple climate risks that are affecting communities and the inadequacy of government response – is a harbinger for other communities in the United States. A governance framework that doesn’t center human rights and human dignities in protecting people from climate forced displacement is unacceptable. We have the opportunity now to address this.”

— Salote Soqo, UUSC Senior Program Leader
Environmental Justice & Climate Action

FEATURED PROJECT

ALASKA ON THE FRONT LINES



The 1,200 Cup'ik villagers who live near the Bering Sea in the community of Chevak have seen their homes and their way of life threatened by a changing climate. The bluffs that overlook the Ninglikfak River and form the southwest border of their community are eroding away at an alarming rate, far outpacing the current rate of response. The permafrost that used to let them travel over the marshlands is melting.

UUSC has partnered with the Alaska Institute for Justice to ensure that the rights of the residents of Chevak and other communities threatened by climate change are recognized and protected. In June, we joined our partner and the State of Alaska's Coastal Hazards Program to install shoreline erosion monitoring equipment and lead a community teach-in to show villagers how to collect and analyze the data. Quantifying in real time the impact of a changing climate will give the community the evidence they need to access support from national and state agencies, especially if they are forced to relocate.



FIGHTING EXPLOITATION OF LOW-WAGE WORKERS

With income inequality in the United States spiraling higher and the Trump administration attacking and undermining the relatively few remaining federal protections for unions and low-wage workers, UUSC is partnering with worker-led groups that fight across industries for worker rights, including the right to organize and advocate for economic justice, especially in rural communities and among immigrants, Muslims, and people of color who often experience the greatest discrimination.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Won concessions from Tyson Foods for better pay, benefits, and working conditions at the company's poultry processing plants in Arkansas after a report we issued in 2016 with our partner, the Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center, exposed appalling practices at the plants.
- Partnered with the Rural Community Workers Alliance to fight exploitation of immigrant workers in the meat industry through trainings about health, safety, immigration, and labor rights, and through an advocacy campaign urging local police departments not to cooperate with the Trump administration's aggressive immigration enforcement actions.
- Helped a new partner, Make the Road Pennsylvania, establish "comités de defensa" in Reading, Pennsylvania, to respond in real time to anti-worker and anti-immigrant incidents, Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids, and abuses in the workplace.

"Every day we hear horrible stories of what happens inside poultry plants, and [Tyson's] commitments give poultry workers hope for the future of their campaign to continue pushing other poultry companies to follow.... Definitely, this is a new phase of the campaign. It is not the end, but the continuation of the fight to ensure these changes are real for all Tyson's processing workers."

— Magaly Licolli, Executive Director
Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center

FEATURED PROJECT

TAKING THE FIGHT FOR FARMWORKERS' RIGHTS TO WENDY'S SHAREHOLDERS

In May, UUSC joined a longtime partner, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), at the annual Wendy's shareholder meeting to press our demand that the company join CIW's Fair Food Program, which ensures humane wages and working conditions for farmworkers and which has already been joined by McDonalds, Burger King, Taco Bell, and other Wendy's competitors.

Along with allied organizations, we made up more than half of the shareholders in the room and peppered Wendy's executives with questions about their failure to join the Fair Food Program. Unable to defend their decision, the clearly flustered executives cut off questions and ended the meeting. UUSC encourages members and supporters to continue to boycott Wendy's until the company reverses its decision and agrees to join the Fair Food Program.



"The dream for us is to create a new agricultural industry in this country, with proud farmers and proud buyers who receive the same treatment as an office worker for an honest, hard job."

— Lucas Benitez, Co-Founder
Coalition of Immokalee Workers

THE UU COLLEGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE – INSPIRING AND SUSTAINING FAITH-BASED ACTION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

This summer, the UU College of Social Justice (UUCSJ) celebrated its fifth anniversary! That's five full years of creating dynamic experiential learning programs and leadership training, grounded in UU values and contemplative practices. Our programs include short-term immersion journeys – within the United States and abroad – justice trainings, summer internships, and skilled volunteer opportunities. Several of our programs are tailored specifically for religious professionals, young adults (18-35), or youth (14-18).

All of our efforts have been impacted by the 2016 election, which has demanded new strategies to meet the needs of unprecedented attacks on basic human rights. We have found ourselves well positioned to respond because of our already robust racial justice framework, the deep diversity and talent of our leadership, and our expertise in immigration and racial justice. UUCSJ staff have helped to lead the joint UUA/UUSC response, Love Resists, and we continue in this collaboration to shape and deliver new elements and resources for all of our programs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Five organizing workshops in congregational, state action networks, and/or UUA District settings focused on how to respond in effective ways to the political challenges of the Trump era.
- A complete revision of the Sanctuary Toolkit as an immediate response to the 2016 election and the surge in congregations interested in offering sanctuary to undocumented people.
- Three Border Witness journeys for congregational groups now with additional elements such as expanded sanctuary, ICE accompaniment, and joining rapid response networks.
- Two GROW Racial Justice Trainings for Young Adults one of which was held just before General Assembly (GA) 2017 and led to participants taking leadership roles in a GROW track throughout GA.
- Three journeys to Nicaragua, one of which was specifically for religious leaders (ministers, seminarians, and religious educators).
- Two Activate Youth Justice trainings over the summer that were open enrollment – one in Boston focused on Climate Justice and one in New Orleans focused on Racial Justice.
- Three Activate Tucson: Immigration Justice programs for congregational youth groups.
- Our first Activate Florida: Farmworker Justice journey with Old Ship Church in Hingham's youth group.
- Activate @ GA which started with the training of youth leaders, then welcomed 30 youth participants from around the country the day before GA.
- Finally, we partnered with the UUA's Youth and Young Adult (YAYA) office to provide an Activate Track throughout GA in the YAYA space.

FEATURED PROJECT

UUCSJ'S BORDER WITNESS WITH MARYLAND'S CEDAR LANE CONGREGATION

In October 2014, Rev. Abhi Janamanchi from the Cedar Lane congregation in Kensington, Maryland participated in our first journey to the border specifically for religious professionals. After returning from the journey Rev. Abhi preached on his experience and started to engage his congregation on the issue of immigration. Within a year, two of his congregants began working with us to plan a congregational journey for their region. In October 2016, this resulted in a joint delegation from Cedar Lane, the UU Congregation of Rockville and the UU Church of Silver Springs, including two ministers. One of the most transformational pieces of the journey was when the group visited with LGBTQI immigrants held in the Florence detention center outside of Phoenix, heard their stories, and provided a valuable service to Mariposas sin Fronteras by recording their needs.

After the journey, participants held themed worship services and made presentations to all three congregations. The program was so impactful that they have sent another group of members this October (2017). Also in the wake of the journey, Cedar Lane declared itself a Sanctuary Congregation and delegation participants have joined protests and actions for immigration justice connected to Love Resists, committed financial resources to the cause, and continue to share their experience as widely as possible.



“UUCSJ programs are all built around experiential learning: the kind of direct encounter that sometimes literally changes our lives. Participants hear stories told in other voices, catch a glimpse of reality as it is seen through other lives, and return home profoundly inspired for the work of justice.”

— Kathleen McTigue, Director of the UU College of Social Justice

RIGHTS-BASED DISASTER RESPONSE

UUSC's disaster response work focuses on communities most at risk of being exploited in the wake of a disaster and the protection of their rights and access to aid. In contrast to the majority of aid raised in the wake of a disaster that is directed to large international NGOs or government agencies that have a one-size-fits-all approach, UUSC supports local organizations that are well-positioned to serve their own community in a culturally appropriate, cost effective, and sustainable way. Our disaster response work begins with an understanding that how people are oppressed before a disaster will affect their access to relief after a disaster. In 2017, we continued to support grassroots partners' responses to the 2010 earthquake and 2016 hurricane in Haiti, the 2013 typhoon in the Philippines, and the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, as well as the ongoing famine in East Africa, cyclone Mora that hit Burma and Bangladesh in May 2017, and Hurricane Harvey that devastated parts of Texas in September.

HIGHLIGHTS

- With UUSC's ongoing support, a school in Haiti's Central Plateau now serves more than 160 students, from pre-school through the sixth grade, most of whom were displaced by the 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince.
- After Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in October 2016, UUSC partnered with Groupe d'Appui aux Rapatriés et Réfugiés (GARR), a Haitian-led organization with a long history of supporting displaced persons in Haiti, to help protect families forcibly removed from the Dominican Republic and now living in temporary shelters at the Anse-a-Pitres border, which were devastated in the storm. With UUSC's support, GARR was able to reach 1,045 people, including the 105 families living in camps at Anse-a-Pitre, with humanitarian aid such as food, clothing, and hygiene kits immediately following the hurricane.
- In February, UUSC conducted an impact assessment of our response to the 2013 typhoon in the Philippines. We found that, by engaging with local government, utilizing sustainable approaches, building relationships, and strengthening internal capacity, our grassroots partners in the Philippines were able to benefit more than 52,000 individuals through their disaster response projects.
- Following the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, UUSC partnered with the Lawyers' Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP) to ensure that communities impacted by the accelerated investment in the hydropower sector understand and are able to advocate for their rights. With LAHURNIP's assistance, affected community members have received compensation for land acquisitions by hydro-development projects in Rasuwa and Panchthar districts. (UUSC plans to conduct an impact assessment of the entire 2015 Nepal earthquake response in 2018.)

"[The Eco Village School] is surely a beacon. The community and its partners are committed to its future, and to the parents, children, and others in the Central Plateau, it represents hope."

—Michael Kourabas, Associate Director for Program and Partner Support

LOVE RESISTS

Hate-filled rhetoric is dominating our political discourse, driving policy, and demonizing entire groups as criminals. Muslims face invasive surveillance without due process, undocumented immigrants are threatened with deportation, Black neighborhoods endure over-policing and mass incarceration, Trans individuals are targeted by ugly “bathroom bills.”

In collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Association and the College of Social Justice, UUSC has launched a new campaign to help people of good will fight back and support communities at risk.

Our Love Resists campaign aims to protect those most at risk and transform the politics of hate to create safer, more just, welcoming, and sustainable communities for all. It provides financing, organizing support, and technical assistance to bolster grassroots resistance led by vulnerable populations, and it provides a framework for individuals to take action:

Raise Your Voice. Sign our Declaration of Conscience by visiting www.loveresists.org and pledge to stand on the side of love to protect the most vulnerable, defend bedrock values that are under attack, and commit yourself to speak out, and act out, in support of basic human rights.

Grow Solidarity. Nurture relationships with targeted communities and their allies. Solidarity is most effective when we listen to and make central the leadership, insights, and experiences of people who are most threatened by a history of injustice and the current political climate.

Expand Sanctuary. Advocate for “sanctuary” in its broadest sense, through such creative non-violent resistance efforts as rapid response networks and “sanctuary in the streets” actions, and through advocating for more enlightened policing, school, and community policies.

To learn more or to get started, please visit www.loveresists.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Helped the Muslim Anti-Racism Collaborative (MuslimARC) organize and host a convening of leaders from Black Muslim immigrant/refugee communities to discuss shared threats of criminalization and strategies for resistance.
- Supported the Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP) in its fight for expanded sanctuary policies in New York City that will end criminalization and win freedom and respect for marginalized communities.

In August, QDEP met 16 members of the Trans Gay Migrant Caravan (the “Rainbow 16”), who crossed the border in an effort to challenge narrow interpretations of asylum law and to offer themselves as test cases to expand asylum protections for LGBTQI people fleeing violence and persecution. When members of the Rainbow 16 were released from detention, UUSC worked with QDEP and the UU congregation in Staten Island to provide housing for some of the migrants.

- Partnered with Grassroots Leadership in Austin, Texas, on “Sanctuary in the Streets” and “ICE Out of Austin” campaigns, and in organized opposition to Texas’ notorious SB4 anti-sanctuary bill.
- Helped the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights create “ICE-Free zones” throughout Georgia, in which immigrants and their families will know their Constitutional rights and be empowered to resist deportation raids.

“Nearly half of the LGBTQI folks QDEP works with in immigrant prisons are Muslim. They are Black Muslims, that are seeking asylum and safety for being LGBTQI in their home countries. When the administration tries to ban Muslims, they are literally banning folks just like us.”

—Jamila Hammami, Executive Director of the Queer Detainee Empowerment Project

Honor Roll of Annual Fund Major Donors

UUSC recognizes and thanks those who have contributed unrestricted and restricted support during the fiscal year July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017.

Martha and Waitstill Sharp Society (\$50,000 and over)

UUSC founders Martha and Waitstill Sharp led the first Unitarian relief efforts, aimed at helping victims of persecution and genocide in WWII Europe.

Anonymous (2)
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Martha Easter-Wells
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Bruce Field

Eleanor Clark French Society (\$25,000–\$49,000)

Eleanor Clark French was director of the Unitarian Service Committee's post-WWII refugee rest home at Monnetier, France, which served refugees as a place for comradeship, food, and rest to help in their recovery.

Anonymous (1)
Rebecca and
Timothy Blodgett
William N. Butler and
Maida Wright
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Carleton Fisher served as the first executive director of the Unitarian Service Committee and supervised post-WWII relief efforts in the Netherlands. He was instrumental in coordinating early cooperation between the Universalist Service Committee and the Unitarian Service Committee.

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For more than a decade, Ary Bordes worked with UUSC to establish progressive health-care programs for the people of Haiti. His vision helped thousands of children with food and medical services.

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Hans Deutsch Society (\$1,000–\$4,999)

When the Nazis invaded Paris, Austrian artist Hans Deutsch abandoned all he had there and fled to Portugal, where he was assisted by the Unitarian Service Committee's early relief efforts. He later became an agent of the USC and designed its logo, the flaming chalice.

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Estate of Rachael Balyeat
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Alice Rowan Swanson
Foundation

UUSC membership awards are calculated by church size, as reported by the UUA for that fiscal year. The compilers have carefully reviewed the names that are included. However, errors and omissions may have occurred. If your congregation has been omitted, misspelled, or listed incorrectly, accept our apologies and bring the mistake to our attention. Contact Volunteer Services, UUSC, 689 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-3302; e-mail volunteerservices@uuscc.org; or call 800-766-5236.

For more information on how your congregation can play a critical role in supporting UUSC, call 800-766-5236, e-mail volunteerservices@uuscc.org, or visit our website at uuscc.org.



Thank You to the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock

UUSC is especially grateful for one steadfast partner that has done so much to fuel our mission over the decades: the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock (UUCSR) in Manhasset, N.Y.

Through natural disasters, sudden humanitarian crises, and ongoing day-to-day operations, UUSC has been able to count on our friends at UUCSR for extraordinary generosity and commitment to our mission.

Quite simply, UUSC would not be the same organization without their support, and we are enormously thankful.

Congregational Membership Support

These awards recognize congregations whose members support human rights and social justice through exemplary levels of UUSC membership.

**Beacon of Justice
Banner Societies**
*Celebrates congregations
with 75–99% UUSC
membership.*

Arkansas
UU Fellowship of
Jonesboro

California
UU Fellowship of
Sunnyvale

Massachusetts
First Parish of
Westwood, United
Church

Ohio
First Universalist Church
of New Madison

Pennsylvania
UU Church of Athens &
Sheshequin

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Banner Societies**
*Celebrates congregations
with 50–74% UUSC
membership.*

France
UU Fellowship of Paris

United States

Alaska
Juneau UU Fellowship

Arkansas
Eureka UU Fellowship

California
UU Congregation
of Whittier

Connecticut
UU Church in Meriden

Florida
UU Congregation
of Cocoa
UU United Fellowship

Georgia
UU Church of Valdosta

Illinois
UU Fellowship
Eastern Illinois

Indiana
UU Congregation
of Columbus

Maryland
UU Congregation of
the Chesapeake
UU Fellowship of
Southern Maryland

Massachusetts
First Universalist
Church of Orange

Michigan
Ann Arbor Unitarian
Fellowship
UU Fellowship of
Central Michigan

Montana
UU Fellowship of Rolla

New Hampshire
Kearsarge UU Fellowship

New Jersey
UU Fellowship of
Sussex County

Ohio
Delaware UU Fellowship

Oregon
South Park UU
Fellowship

Pennsylvania
Unitarian Congregation
of West Chester

Texas
San Marcos UU
Fellowship
UU Church of the Hill
Country

Washington
San Juan UU Fellowship

Wisconsin
Blue Hills UU Fellowship

**Creating Justice
Banner Societies**
*Celebrates congregations
with 25–49% UUSC
membership.*

Arkansas
UU Church of Hot Springs
UU Village Church

Arizona
Prescott UU Fellowship
Sky Island UU Church

California
Humboldt UU
Fellowship
Mission Peak UU
Congregation
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Fellowship
The UU Church in
Fullerton
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of Chico
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Mountains
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Marin
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UU Church of Greeley

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Congregation of New
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UU Congregation of
Danbury
UU Society in Brooklyn

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of Wilmington

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First UU Church of West
Volusia
First UU Congregation
of the Palm Beaches
River of Grass UU
Congregation
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Petersburg
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Venice
UU Fellowship of

Charlotte County
UU Fellowship of Marion
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UU Fellowship of St.
Augustine
UU Fellowship of Vero
Beach

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Church
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UU Church of Augusta
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Illinois
UU Fellowship of DeKalb

Indiana
UU Fellowship of
Kokomo

Kentucky
Thomas Jefferson
Unitarian Church
UU Church of Bowling
Green

Massachusetts
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First Church Unitarian in
Littleton
First Congregational
Parish in Kingston
First Parish Church UU in
Bridgewater
First Parish Church UU in
Duxbury
First Parish of Watertown
UU Church
Harvard UU Church
Melrose UU Church
Old Ship Church First
Parish in Hingham
Theodore Parker
Unitarian Church
United First Parish
Church in Quincy

Maine
UU Church of Brunswick
UU Congregation of
Castine
UU Society of Bangor

Maryland
The First Unitarian
Church of Baltimore
Towson UU Church
UU Congregation of
Columbia

UU Fellowship Greater
Cumberland
Michigan
New Hope UU
Congregation
UU Congregation of
Petoskey

Minnesota
Northwoods UU
Fellowship
Pilgrim House UU
Fellowship
St. Cloud UU Fellowship
UU Church of
Minnetonka
UU Fellowship of
Northfield

Montana
Glacier UU Fellowship

North Carolina
UU Fellowship of
Hendersonville
UU of Transylvania
County

North Dakota
Grand Forks UU
Fellowship

New Hampshire
Durham UU Fellowship
Keene UU Church

New Jersey
UU Ocean County
Congregation at Murray
Grove

New Mexico
Albuquerque UU
Fellowship
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New York
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Cincinnati
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Southwest UU Church
UU Church of the Ohio
Valley
UU Fellowship of Athens

Oklahoma
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UU of Tulsa

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Menomonee
UU Fellowship of Door
County
Wyoming
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Sheridan

Congregation Institutional Giving Awards

**Helen Fogg
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*Honors congregations for
their generous gift from
their annual budget of
at least \$25 per church
member.*

Massachusetts
First Church in Sterling
First Parish Church of
Berlin
Pennsylvania
Upper Delaware UU
Fellowship

**James Luther
Adams Award**
*Honors congregations for
their generous gift from*

*their annual budget of
at least \$1 per church
member*

California
UU Church of Palo Alto
UU Congregation of
Marin
UU Fellowship Hemet &
San Jacinto Valley

Connecticut
UU Church of Norwich

Florida
Manatee UU Fellowship
River of Grass UU
Congregation
UU Congregation of
Lakeland
UU Fellowship of Vero
Beach
UU United Fellowship
UUs of Clearwater

Iowa
First Unitarian Church of
Des Moines

Illinois
Countryside Church UU
UU Church of
Bloomington Normal

Kansas
UU Fellowship of
Manhattan

Kentucky
Thomas Jefferson
Unitarian Church

Massachusetts

First Parish in Brookline
UU Society of Martha's
Vineyard
Winchester Unitarian
Society

Minnesota
Northwoods UU
Fellowship
UU Fellowship of
Mankato

New York
All Souls Bethlehem
Church
Community Church of
New York UU
UU Congregation of
Northern Chautauqua

North Carolina
UU Fellowship of
Franklin

Ohio
UU Fellowship of Wayne
County

Oklahoma
First Unitarian Church of
Oklahoma City

Oregon
Central Coast UU
Fellowship

Tennessee
UU Church of Tullahoma
First UU Church of
Nashville

Texas
Community UU Church
of Plano
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Antonio
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Fellowship
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Houston
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Church
Westside UU
Congregation
Woodinville UU Church
Wisconsin
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Fellowship

**Guest at Your
Table Special
Recognition**
*Honors members of
these congregations who
contributed a total of
\$5,000 or more to UUSC's
work for justice.*

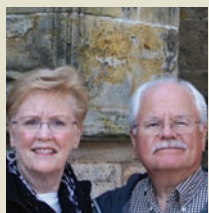
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Unitarian Universalist
Church of Ventura

UU Fellowship of
Sunnyvale
Minnesota
White Bear UU Church
Texas
Unitarian Fellowship of
Houston



"We were looking for a way to reach beyond our incredibly fortunate local community and UUSC provides a way to do that with confidence. Their focus on the most marginalized, normally the women and children, by working with local partners in a sustainable and lasting way makes sense."

—Glen and Pam Frederick



"We are so happy to support UUSC because of its effectiveness in bringing hope for a better life to marginalized people all over the world. UUSC and its partners on the ground help give people a voice and a means to address deep systemic issues."

—Jim and Linda Bodycomb

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Financial Statements

For the year ended June 30, 2017
(with comparative totals for June 30, 2016)

Statement of financial position for the years ended June 30

	2017	2016
Assets		
Cash and equivalents		
Cash	\$ 1,464,189	\$ 1,065,445
Money market funds and CDs	5,008,377	4,747,640
	6,472,566	5,813,085
Investments	14,287,201	13,618,747
Accounts and interest receivable	201,486	305,745
Mission related loan receivable	157,605	266,623
Pledges receivable, net	2,791,831	4,247,583
Prepaid expenses and other assets	235,325	213,780
Debt Service Reserve Fund	119,340	119,218
Property and equipment, net	5,849,996	5,826,826
Total Assets	\$ 30,115,350	\$ 30,411,607
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 483,271	\$ 407,279
Accrued compensation	384,690	586,763
Pooled income deferred revenue	77,181	94,054
Bond payable	2,669,424	2,760,313
Donor advance — promissory notes	125,000	125,000
Planned giving obligations:		
Gift annuities	692,006	712,885
Trust agreements	2,881	5,497
	4,434,453	4,691,791
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	13,683,840	12,754,130
Temporarily restricted	6,936,923	7,931,561
Permanently restricted	5,060,134	5,034,125
	25,680,897	25,719,816
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 30,115,350	\$ 30,411,607

Total expenses by three major areas: \$9,534,499



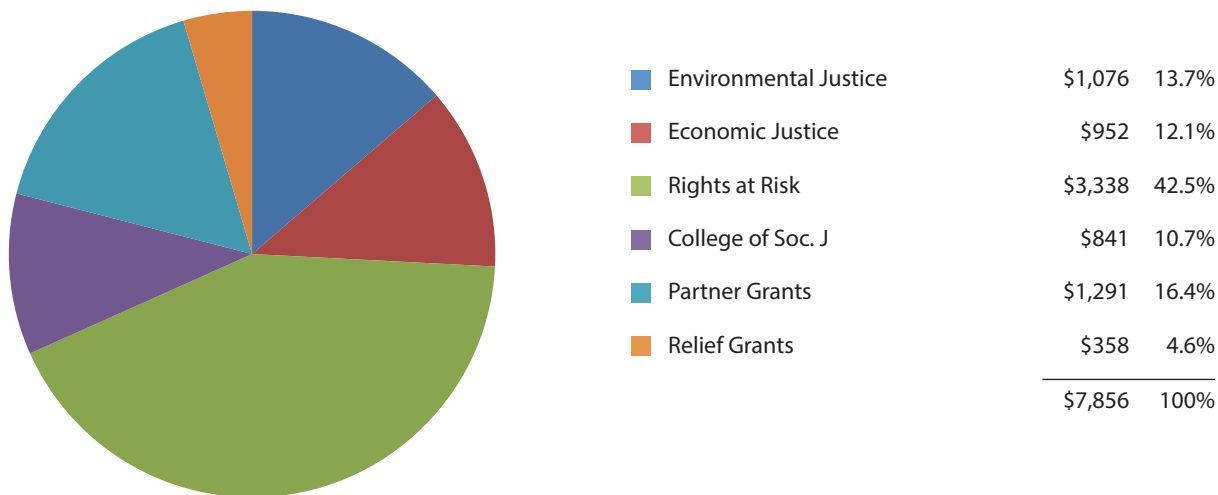
Program Services	\$7,856,342	82.4%
Fundraising	\$779,572	8.2%
Management	\$898,585	9.4%
	\$9,534,499	100%

Statement of activities for the years ended June 30

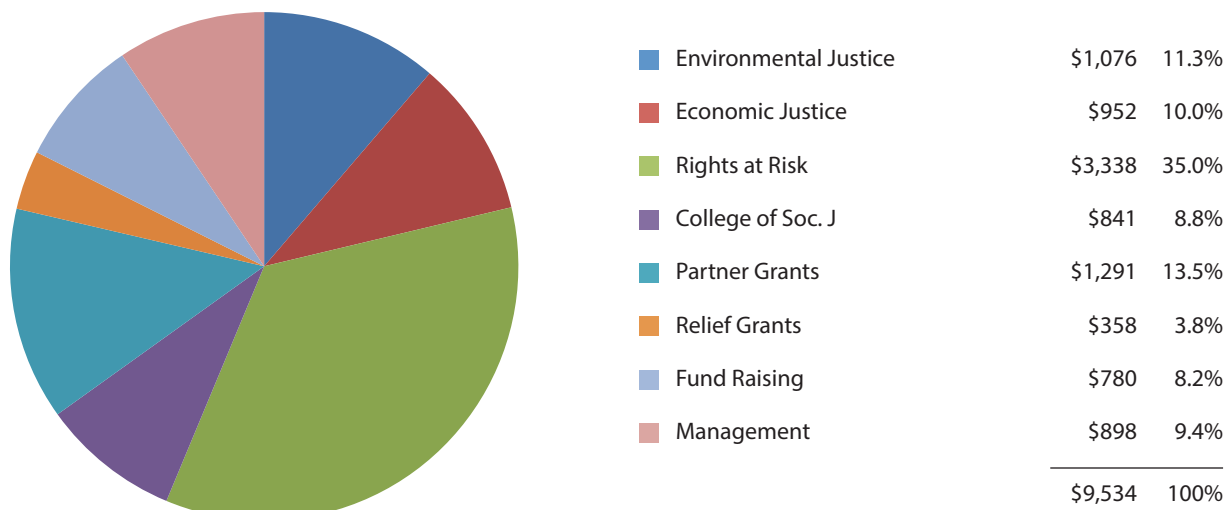
	2017				2016
	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Permanently restricted	Total	Total
Total public support and revenue and net assets released from restriction	\$ 10,204,119	\$ (2,018,488)	\$ 6,143	\$ 8,191,774	\$ 8,165,422
Expenses					
Program services	7,856,342			7,856,342	8,133,079
Office space rental	347,210			347,210	350,359
Fundraising	779,572			779,572	737,173
Management	898,585			898,585	1,026,320
Total expenses	9,881,709			9,881,709	10,246,931
Income/(loss) from operations (a)	322,410	(2,018,488)	6,143	(1,689,935)	(2,081,509)
Net nonoperating activities (b)	607,300	1,023,850	19,866	1,651,016	643,386
Net assets					
Change in net assets (a+b)	929,710	(994,638)	26,009	(38,919)	(1,438,123)
Beginning of the year	12,754,130	7,931,561	5,034,125	25,719,816	27,157,939
End of year	\$ 13,683,840	\$ 6,936,923	\$ 5,060,134	\$ 25,680,897	\$ 25,719,816

Management note on restricted revenue. The 2017 net loss from operations shown above simply reflects that we satisfied more restrictions on previously donated net assets than we received in new restricted net assets during the year. Excluding this accounting of restricted revenue timing, UUSC generated net income from operations of \$322,410 for the year.

Allocation of program services \$7,856* (in thousands)



Total expenses \$9,534* (in thousands)



* Net of Cambridge office space rental expenses offset by rental income

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For more than 75 years, UUSC has helped Unitarian Universalists and like-minded supporters put their values into action in the fight for human rights and justice.

With every generation UUSC has confronted tremendous challenges, beginning with Waitstill and Martha's Sharp's founding mission to save refugees fleeing the Nazis during World War II.

With hate once again on the march, here at home and around the world, our generation's challenge is upon us, and we need your support now more than ever. Please make a gift online today at uus.org/donate. Or contact development@uus.org.



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