

A Look Into Our Social Justice Activities

by Dana Donovan and Joanne Orlando

The Social Justice Council has been a part of The Unitarian Society of Hartford for many years. At one time it was known as the Social Activities Council. The Social Justice Council strives to reflect the 6th principle of Unitarian Universalism: The goal of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

The SJ Council is made up of several sub-councils, reflecting a wide range of efforts to effect social change and improvement. These sub-councils include: The Village for Families and Children, The Noah Webster Partnership that is a tutoring program with Noah Webster school, Food Pantry donations, relations with the Upper Albany NRZ (Neighborhood Revitalization Zone), Race Matters programs and activities, Refugee Resettlement programs, Knox Inc. (the community gardens and improvement programs), GHIAA (The Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance), Green Sanctuary dealing with climate change and sustainability etc., and the EqUUal Access Program which seeks to improve accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities.

Perhaps the best known of the SJ activities is The Good Neighbor Offering (GNO). The GNO is a monthly donation from USH to a specific charity. Historically, there have been various ways to choose the recipients of the GNO. For the last year the Social Justice Council has been nominating organizations reflecting our commitment to Greater Hartford and pressing global needs in Ukraine. It is the belief of the current Social Justice Council that the entire congregation should be involved in the selection of the GNO recipients. At this year's annual congregational meeting, we will present an opportunity for congregants to be involved in the GNO selection process. We also will present a new way of donating to GNOs.

For several years now, The GNO funds donated during the months of July and August have been contributed to the Village for Families and Children Uniform Fundraiser. As the Village is our closest neighbor and we want to support the vital work that they do, The SJ Council recommends that we continue this annual collection each summer.

Please continue to donate to our Good Neighbor Offerings. You can donate in person at the plate offering during service. Or, you can mail a check to USH at 50 Bloomfield Ave., Hartford, CT 06105. Please write GNO or the name of the organization in the memo line. You can also donate on-line at the USH website: On the home page, click on Give Online. On the next page click on USH Online Giving Portal. On that page you will see the button for the Good Neighbor Offering. When filling out your donation please include the name of the organization that you want your donation applied to (i.e. The Village). That can be typed in the box marked Give To.

Anyone is welcome to attend the Social Justice Council's monthly meeting held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. We gladly welcome anyone interested in any aspect of social justice.
