

Bears Ears Coalition

The Bears Ears Coalition is an Inter-Tribal Coalition united in their effort to work collaboratively to protect and promote sacred, spiritual, historical, natural, scientific and cultural resources on lands within the Bears Ears landscape (southeastern Utah). Formed in July of 2015, the Coalition includes leaders from the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Pueblo of Zuni, and Ute Indian Tribe.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

The Coalition represents a historic consortium of sovereign tribal nations committed to working together in the development of a collaborative land management plan to protect sacred lands and our environment. Their work is critical to the protection of the environment and these sacred lands. Supporting this work would reinforce our commitment to the environment, show respect for the sacred, and center the work of the Indigenous peoples most affected by the current attack on these precious lands.

Background: Bears Ears National Monument was established by President Obama by presidential proclamation on December 28, 2016. The monument's original size was 1,351,849 acres (2,112.264 mi; 5,470.74 km²), which was controversially reduced 85% by President Trump on December 4, 2017. Litigation is pending over whether the reduction was lawful. The Administration now plans to open up over one million acres of this sacred landscape in the interests of increased energy exploration, off-road vehicle use and grazing.

Our support of the Coalition provides us the opportunity to help in this fight and learn about the important need to protect our natural and sacred resources

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

This work promotes: respect for sacred traditions and spiritual growth beyond our walls, environmental justice for Indigenous peoples and all citizens of planet earth; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic and judicial process, the goal of protecting the peace of these sacred lands and providing justice for the sovereign tribes, and respect for the interdependent web of all existence. Equally importantly, this work promotes the proposed Eight Principle by centering the work of Indigenous people: "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

Students and Leaders in our RE program are prepared to lead the congregation in learning opportunities connected with this organization. These can include educating ourselves about the sacred, spiritual, historical, natural, scientific and cultural resources

on these lands as well as the democratic process being used to try to protect them. Our children will have a hands-on opportunity to engage in the democratic process and shared ministry of nominating a shared offering organization and sharing information with the congregation. We will also lead the congregation in making very cool Bear Ears bookmarks! If this group is selected and scheduled for April, we will promote Earth Day activities that connect with this work. This nomination arose from the student's celebration of Indigenous People's Day this year and could be used as part of next October's celebration.

Champaign County Bailout Coalition

CCBC believes that no one should be in jail because they can't pay their bond. They are a volunteer-run and nonprofit organization that relies on grassroots fundraising to pay the bail amount of \$500 or less for people unable to afford it.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

The criminal justice system unfairly harms the poor. A judge makes a determination whether it is safe to release a person to the community. Then a separate decision is made about bail amount. Champaign County Bailout Coalition believes that the practice of money bail should end. If the person is determined to be safe for release pre-trial, there should be no monetary bail required. It discriminates against poor people without the resources to pay their bail. Unaffordable bail disregards the legal right of the presumption of innocence and condemns individuals to jail before trial. Moreover, decades of research show that the risks of an individual committing a punishable offense during pretrial release or missing their court dates are unaffected by payment of bond. We believe that justice will be done only when this criminal practice is replaced by mandatory non-monetary release for as many people as possible and support for those awaiting trial.

We believe that jail is the worst place that a person can be. Studies show that holding people in pretrial detention increases the likelihood of conviction, recidivism, and suicide, and leads to longer, harsher sentences. Any time behind bars can cause extreme personal, social, and financial hardship, including the loss of employment, housing, and child custody. CCBC's efforts to liberate our neighbors from pretrial detention and to abolish the practice of money bail does not simply undermine these harmful effects but also contributes to a healthier and safer community through fostering direct community support and mutual aid.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

UUs 2nd Principle - Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations - the justice system unfairly harms people who cannot afford the bail set by a Judge, even though they've been deemed safe to release. Money bond leaves a person who is "presumed innocent" by our justice system sitting in jail because they are poor. Champaign County Bailout Coalition pays bail of lower amounts so that they can remain free while

preparing for their defense, and reminds their clients of their court dates, supporting people rather than the current system that sets them up for failure and all but assuring their conviction.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

Individuals can attend the monthly meetings at IMC and participate in the process of bailing out people and reminding them of their court dates. There are also ways to help raise the funds that the bailout coalition depends upon. Several other organizations in Champaign County work on issues of criminal justice - Court Watch is a program to include public oversight of individual cases. They always need more volunteers. Books to Prisoners has several weekly volunteer sessions where you can read a letter from someone currently incarcerated and choose books to send to them. First Followers are peer mentors for people leaving incarceration and they are opening a re-entry house in 2019 to help people transition. They will prioritize people who would otherwise be homeless. FirstFollowers may be able to use volunteers at the FirstSteps house once the program is launched, and they will need community partners in business. Congregants could get involved in any of these organizations to learn more specifically about Champaign County's criminal justice system.

Community Choices

The mission of Community Choices is to partner with people with developmental disabilities in Champaign County in their pursuit of independence, opportunity, and choice by offering quality, self-directed supports and services.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

This organization is a local cooperative that works really hard to change the way we include people in our society. Contemporary society does not currently put equal value on the lives of adults with disabilities and while many organizations that "serve" this population, this group works with adults to help them achieve personal vs societal goals. We all depend on one another and this group does really unique and important work in reframing the way we view social services.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

We as a congregation believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Community choices exists to affirm and make this possible. The second principle is justice, equity and compassion- currently adults with disabilities aren't afforded this and Community choices is involved in direct service and policy that move the world that way. Community choices also forwards more of the 7 principles but it is those first two that are most closely woven into the basic fabric of the organization.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

There are lots of ways to partner with Community choices. You do not have to be an adult with a disability nor a family member to join the cooperative. People are welcome

to join the group and come to membership meetings. While the group will continue to prioritize the voices of the members with disabilities all people who attend have the chance to learn and effect positive change moving forward. When more people participate and become familiar with the current challenges for adults with disabilities the society as a whole becomes stronger. There are also plenty of community events that you can check out on the community choices website.

CU Trauma and Resiliency Initiative

The Trauma & Resilience Initiative Inc. is a not for profit whose goal is to engender resilient communities through the adoption of trauma informed practices at all levels of our community. Goals include: 1) Increase Champaign County,Äôs understanding of trauma, trauma-informed care, and resiliency through education, information sharing, and social marketing. 2. Improve our community,Äôs ability to respond to individuals and families who have been affected by community violence (family-to-family or neighbor-to-neighbor). As a part of this effort, we mobilize and support volunteer ,Äúchampion responder care teams.,Äù 3. Advocate for Champaign County to become a trauma-informed community where local government, community and civic organizations, businesses, human-services providers, educators, and others who serve children, families, and seniors have policies, procedures, and practices that help people build resilience.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

This group is working on recognizing trauma from violence, racism, and poverty, and developing community support to help affected people be resilient

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

inherent worth and dignity of all people,; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

Recruiting and organizing volunteers who can provide emotional and other forums on support at Community Violence Messaging forums and community events. Organizing and coordinating ,ÄúCU Responder,Äù care teams of 3 to 4 people who are available to respond to families affected by community violence.

Cunningham Township Angel Donor Fund

"The Township's Angel Donor Fund was launched in 2018 to provide life-saving support for township general or rental assistance program participants who have one-time needs that fall outside our programs. 100% of ALL donated funds go directly to secure food, clothing, housing, power, transportation or other tangible needs on behalf of residents." (<https://www.toi.org/township/champaign-county-cunningham-township/769bab7a-ba0b-4aec-91e8-28167c9ee776>)

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

I'm new to learning about the work of the township, but I think what they do is very important. The office as a whole connects low-income Urbana residents with local resources. People literally walk in off the street asking for all sorts of help and the office steps in. This specific fund, the Angel Fund provides emergency services to residents. Their website gives several examples of how they have used the funds:

Utilities

A homeless household was ready to move into housing, but an old utility bill kept them from moving in. Using Angel donor funds, we paid a portion of the bill and negotiated a payment plan with Ameren for the rest.

Food

A family fleeing domestic violence came to our office with children who had not eaten since the day before. While we worked to get them into the domestic violence shelter, we provided a healthy lunch with Angel Donor funds.

Clothing

A man sleeping on the streets came to his appointment with boots that were split open. Since his feet were oversized, we could not locate boots at any of the free or resale places in town. We ordered replacement boots online with Angel Donor funds.

Housing

We helped one of our General Assistance recipients who had been homeless for two years apply for a housing subsidy. He was awarded the subsidy, but needed \$375 for a deposit, which we paid for with Angel funds.

Transportation

We helped a young homeless mother reunite with her mother by helping her make arrangements to return to her home and purchasing a bus ticket with Angel funds."

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

By helping people with their basic needs the organization affirms this principle.

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

By helping people with their basic needs and showing compassion to the most vulnerable the organization affirms this principle.

6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

By helping people with their basic needs the organization affirms this principle - especially liberty. Helping people with transportation, rent, clothes, etc, allows people

to live their lives more freely. The township, in small, but important ways, lightens the burdens the most needy in our society carry with them every day.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

I'm not sure because I'm just nominating them because I think they are a wonderful organization and fill an important need in our community. However, two church members, Jen Straub and Emily McKown, work there and they could elaborate. The township office is also our neighbor (205 W. Green) and I know they do things like a coat drive in the winter and a community garden in the summer. I'm sure there are ways we can get involved beyond giving money.

Greater Community AIDS Project of East Central Illinois

To improve the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS and to help decrease the spread of the disease, GCAP collaborates with local resources and organizations to serve its community by providing educational outreach to the public and by providing support to those who are living with HIV/AIDS in the form of transitional housing, emergency financial assistance and other services.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

GCAP provides many different kinds of services to those affected with HIV, and also does education to prevent new infections.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

GCAP's work can fit under each principle, except maybe for #5 which has to do more with our internal organization and operational principles.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

Assisting with the education efforts. Offering availability to the director, Mike Benner, to be available when someone living in Champaign House (temporary housing for those living with HIV) needs a ride, or maybe help with some other challenge of daily living. Helping to serve on their board or other committees to help direct the future of the organization since the nature of the work is changing. Providing education to the over 600 students that receive education from GCAP every year (students that take a human sexuality course).

Illinois Radio Reader

Illinois Radio Reader (IRR) provides a 24/7 free radio reading service for the print-impaired community of east Central Illinois. Qualified listeners are kept abreast on local news of interest, read by local volunteers, along with books in their entirety, popular magazines, senior citizen features, informational programming, and much else, along with daily grocery and drugstore ads. IRR helps keep the visually-impaired of Urbana-Champaign in touch with the wider world we all experience on a regular basis.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

IRR's coverage area includes all of Central Illinois plus numerous other geographic locales within the state. It offers the visually-impaired population the richness of the printed word and helps break down barriers that threaten to segregate and isolate disabled citizens from their sighted peers. I have volunteered with three different radio reading services over the last 40 years,, and never cease to be moved and gratified by the impact such organizations' have on the daily lives of our print-impaired neighbors, friends and family, and so many others we will likely never know. Radio reading services are "little engines that can," enriching lives beyond measure.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

The inherent worth and dignity of every person. I.e., all persons deserve to be served by the written word, regardless of physical ability or lack thereof.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

Radio reading organizations always need volunteers. Also, eligible family and friends of congregational members can apply to receive their services at no charge. Outreach and word of mouth are key.

Mahomet Area Youth Club

Mission: Develop, support and encourage youth in the community for lifelong success. We provide low cost programming for youth ages 6-16 after school and during out-of-school days.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

The Mahomet Area Youth Club (MAYC) is a not-for-profit youth club that serves members ages 6-18 and their families. MAYC supports afterschool programming through scholarships for B.L.A.S.T. and Kid,Äôs Club for elementary age students, a free afterschool club for Jr. High students, an all-day program at the clubhouse during winter, spring, and summer breaks, a high school building club called Bulldog Makers, a work study program that partners with local businesses to provide on the job training, and space for the A.T.L.A.S program for young adults with disabilities during the school year.

Although Mahomet is mostly made up of families in higher income brackets, 25% of the families in the school district qualify for free or reduced lunch. MAYC focuses on the families who need us most and provide free or low cost programs that give students a safe, warm and caring environment with an emphasis on positive youth development through education, recreation and service to the community. We started 25 years ago as a satellite of the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club and are the only community organization of this kind in Mahomet.

Through all of these programs, we serve over 1,000 youth each year. Our program goals and outcomes are to improve attendance, grades, behavior, school engagement, social and emotional skills and connection to the community. These indicators have been proven to enhance high school graduation rates, improve engagement in the community, decrease interactions with law enforcement, and generate long term successes. We are teaching and supporting youth to develop to their fullest potential to become responsible, respectful, caring, and productive citizens.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

MAYC's work relates to many of the UU Principles, but most closely to the first one: The inherent worth and dignity of every person. MAYC strives to engage and encourage all youth to have self-respect, respect for others, respect for their community and civility through all of our programming. We demonstrate values that honor and encourage differences and support and love for our peers and community. Many kids who attend MAYC programs struggle with the differences between their families and other families in the community, so MAYC strives to provide a safe, no-judgement space where money, privilege and status are irrelevant.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

Volunteers for our after school and out of school programming
Volunteers to help with facilities projects (minor upkeep and maintenance)
Connections that can enhance programs

Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense

The Illinois chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America is a non-partisan movement to advocate for stronger gun laws. 36,000+ people per year die from gun deaths through mass shootings, suicide, domestic abuse, and accidental shootings.

Solutions to gun violence are straightforward: stronger background checks, holding the gun industry accountable, removing guns from domestic abusers and suicidal people, and stopping gun trafficking and the sale of military grade weapons.

Central Illinois Moms Demand Action chapter organizes events such as an Advocacy Days at the capitol, outreach to survivors of gun violence in Illinois communities, and work on legislation specific to Illinois.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

Gun violence results in thousands of needless deaths each year, including many in the Champaign-Urbana area. Our church has participated in protests and vigils to end gun violence and promote more sensible gun ownership laws, and supporting Mom's Demand Action is a concrete means of continuing this effort to change our society.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

Principle 2: Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; Principle 6: World community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

participate in anti-gun rallies, petition the legislature for gun control laws

Partner for People and Place

Transforming land and livelihoods in Haiti. When people in poverty can tap into their talents and wisely use the land they live on, they can shape their lives for a better tomorrow. Helping them make this journey is what we do.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

An opportunity to live out our 1st and 7th Principles.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

In 1804, Haiti was the 2nd European colony to win their independence from their European colonizer, the US being the first. But because it was a slave rebellion, the US didn't recognize their legitimacy until Emancipation Proclamation. Partner for People and Place (PPP) works to address the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the interdependent web of life

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

PPP works in conjunction with a 1200 student school and clinic that both need support also.

RACES – Rape Advocacy Counseling and Education Services

RACES is the only agency dedicated to serving the needs of survivors of sexual violence in Champaign, Ford, Piatt, and Douglas Counties. RACES provides counseling, court advocacy, medical advocacy, and runs a 24 hour Rape Crisis Hotline. The agency provides counseling and advocacy services to more than 225 survivors of sexual assault each year, including supporting more than 75 people annually during the hospital medical exam and evidence collection process.

Sexual Assault Prevention Education is an important part of a vision to end sexual violence in our lifetime: educators reach thousands of children, youth and adults each year through age-appropriate prevention programs.

RACES is an agency that people don't like to think about until a loved one needs us; at that time, RACES will listen, believe and support.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

RACES is coming back from nearly closing its doors and needs community support to thrive. As many know, during the two-year (2015-2017) state budget impasse, RACES was severely impacted by a lack of promised state funding. All of the staff but one were laid off, and services were cut to the bone. The Hotline remained running through heroic efforts of the remaining part-time staffer and the Board of Directors. Over the past two years state funding has resumed, other funding amounts have increased, and the agency has grown from 6 to 17 staff, providing opportunities to serve more sexual assault survivors each year.

Support from, faith communities, individuals and households, businesses, and service organizations is crucial to the continued health of the organization. The agency must raise at least \$80,000 per year in local funds as part of the required local match for federal dollars; the UU shared offering would play a significant part of meeting the local match and would have a great impact on sustaining the services RACES provides.

Private dollars donated to RACES are used to supplement grant funding by supporting activities such as: additional training for Hotline advocates; increasing the number of sexual assault prevention education presentations; and establishing innovative adjunct treatments such as “yoga for sexual violence survivors” therapy group.

How Does This Organization’s Work Relate to UU Principles?

RACES Mission and Vision Promote Three of the Seven Principles:

For the first principle, RACE’s attention to the needs of all survivors of sexual violence serves to promote the inherent worth of dignity of every person, including people of every race, ethnicity, sexual and gender identity, and of those whom contemporary society may marginalize such as incarcerated individuals and those who are struggling with mental illness or homelessness. Support groups for sexual violence victims are held at the juvenile detention center to assure that even those in trouble with the law will get the help they need.

The second principle – justice, equity and compassion in human relations – is at the core of RACE’s work. For millennia, victims of sexual assault and harassment have been either actively silenced or feared the consequences of speaking out about their victimization. Rape crisis centers across the nation, and here in East Central Illinois, help empower our victims to find their own voice, and to make informed decisions about whether or when to tell about the incident. The agency also works to make systems and institutions more responsive and supportive to the needs of sexual violence survivors.

Finally, the sixth principle of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all, is one step closer when all victims feel supported and are free to seek justice against their

abusers, when all those in power refrain from using their position to coerce sexual favors, and when all people respectfully honor consent in all personal relations. RACES is working towards all of these goals.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

- Volunteer on our crisis line
- Work on fund raising campaign

Randolph Street Community Garden

The Randolph Street Community Garden is a volunteer run project committed to providing an opportunity for the residents of the North-end of Champaign to grow their own fresh organic produce. We believe that community gardening makes our neighborhood more cohesive and improves the quality of our lives. In addition to the intrinsic experience of harvesting the fruits of one's labor, community gardening is an inexpensive source of fresh fruits and vegetables! RSCG is much more than a place to garden -- it is a community gathering place, a place to honor people and mourn the loss of people in our community, a teaching garden for all ages, and a place to hear the magical stories of Rev. Blackman.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

The Praise, Honor, and Memorial was conceived the year before Kiwane Carrington was killed as a way to honor community members whom have served the community but have not come to the notice of the big organizations or lack the required C.V. for "accurate comparison", and to remember those who have passed on. We are building a wall. A wall of praise, honor, and remembrance. It is a wall to bring us together, a wall to help heal our community.

The Praise, Honor, and Remembrance wall is to be built in the Randolph Street Community Garden. Individuals may have a tile which they have decorated, affixed to the wall to praise, honor, and remember their loved one, friend, or other community member.

Here too, we can remember those in our community whom have fallen to gun violence. As we work to close the hole that their loss has left in our hearts we also work to make our community whole again.

There is an African Proverb that says, "As long as a person's name is called out they will always be remembered." This wall is our visual call, a reminder of their lives and contributions.

To build this wall a concrete footer must be poured, cement blocks purchased and installed. These are the major cost of this project for which we are fundraising.

Community members, for a small fee, will be able to purchase and decorate individual tiles at a local pottery shop.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

Our 6th principle, the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all is clearly a shared goal of the Randolph Street Community Garden. Neighbors come together to garden in a shared space, to celebrate special events, send their children to summer camps where they learn about growing and eating healthy food in a food desert, hear the stories of storyteller Rev. Blackman and take cooking classes from local experts. The RSCG has a goal of building a Praise, Honor and Memorial Wall as a visual reminder of the power and pain we hold as a community, reflecting the goal of building a more peaceful, free and just world.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

There are always opportunities for participation on multiple levels. We have a 1920's Themed Garden Party each year on the Sunday after Labor Day. It is a lot of fun and you are all invited. There are regular work days, and a slate of garden activities which include a half day Garden Camp, Parent and Toddler gardening group, Monday Story time, in Summer.

Salt and Light Ministries

Salt & Light strives to EMPOWER individuals towards lasting change by AFFIRMING their DIGNITY. Most one-way giving models unconsciously communicate the person has nothing of value to contribute to the transaction. We create opportunities for individuals to utilize their talents in productive and meaningful ways. This reinforces their competence and confidence to acquire resources while gaining a sense of pride that comes from providing for themselves and their families.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

Salt and Light should be chosen for our 2020 Shared Offering because it is a positive force in our local community. It provides a multitude of resources for people in need, including job training and access to affordable, donated materials such as food and clothing. This addresses issues of poverty and other needs of our neighbors.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

Salt and Light's mission is related to our first UU Principle: the inherent worth and dignity of every person. It also relates to our second principle: justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. For people who are food- and housing-unstable, the model of being able to give of your time in exchange for food and clothing is revolutionary. This demonstrates our principles in action.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

The congregation could volunteer their time with Salt and Light. The youth could get their friends/class members to volunteer their time as well. Congregants could donate goods to this organization as well.

SisteringCU

Locally organized and run by mothers aware of critical need for help after birth or adoption. Trained volunteers make visits to new families 12 times to do whatever is needed most.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

They offer a unique service for a very under- resourced group. A supported start to new life has long term, tangible benefits.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

Number 1. Respecting and supporting the worth and dignity of all people. Many folks don't have local support or resources to maintain balance and decrease stress inherent in caring for a newborn and the changes a new family member creates. There is also a lack of awareness of this critical time in parenting for both baby and care givers.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

Volunteer. Support financially.

Three Spinners

Three Spinners is dedicated to welcoming refugees, immigrants, and all newcomers to our community with support and advocacy services when they are faced with the difficult task of starting their lives over in a new country and culture.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

Three Spinners helps immigrants and refugees who make their way to Champaign-Urbana to find shelter and meet basic needs. They are part of the YMCA's New American Welcome Center's effort to build a more inclusive and welcoming community that welcomes ALL people without regard to nationality, religion, or legal status.

In 2018, their programs consisted of the following:

- (1) Fundraising for, and setting up a fully endowed \$25,000 scholarship program for two students to attend Parkland College.
- (2) Awarding 2 scholarships, each for 2 semesters of study:
 - o Maria, studying nursing
 - o Lidia, studying childhood development and education

(3) Assisting three families with housing costs and logistics (moving, furniture, setup). This included:

- A refugee family of 6 from Afghanistan
- A family of 4 from Kazakh seeking asylum
- A family from Guatemala seeking asylum

(4) Organizing a month-long meal train service for incoming families.

According to their 2018 Annual Report, Three Spinners spent just 7% of their total budget on administrative costs. The vast majority of funds they raise are used for programs that help refugees and immigrants in our community.

Their six-member board includes co-founder Alex Van Doren. Alex helps immigrants in various stages of seeking political asylum by holding pro bono legal clinics every 2-3 months. This process can be daunting when rules are changed, there is a lack of financial resources to complete the process, and one's native language is not English.

Currently, Three Spinners and UUCUC's Immigration Justice Task Force are collaborating to provide emergency refuge and hospitality for up to five days when the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is in town. This partnership will support those in various stages of seeking political asylum, and includes families with children ranging in age from 2 to 9, some of whom have spent time in detention camps at the border.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

Three Spinners acts because our humanity urges us to reach out to people living in fear. No one deserves to know the violence of war or poverty, or the pangs of hunger. Their work and commitment to refugees and immigrants who find their way to Champaign-Urbana embody our 1st, 2nd, and 6th principles:

1. [1st Principle](#): The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. [2nd Principle](#): Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. [6th Principle](#): The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

The Immigration Justice Task Force (IJTF) is working with Three Spinners to complete details for providing temporary hospitality and emergency refuge. Anyone can join IJTF now, and contribute to the planning required to carry out this initiative.

In the next few months we will be asking members and friends to volunteer for specific tasks associated with welcoming our neighbors and friends to UUCUC when ICE is in town. This includes welcoming our guests when they arrive; helping set up the space to accommodate families and individuals; preparing and/or delivering food; cleaning up after meals; providing translation and accompaniment during their stay; being on call

for medical or other emergency assistance; cleaning up our space after they leave; and much more.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonprofit, nonsectarian international organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. Striving to center the voices of people most affected by injustice, UUSC creates eye-to-eye relationships with frontline grassroots movements across the world that support marginalized communities in determining their steps for the future.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

UUSC does amazing work. They have the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator of nonprofit organizations. Yet, many UU folks are not fully aware of this work. They focus their work on the intersecting roots of injustice to defend rights at risk due to criminalization and systemic oppression of people based on their identity. They support self-determination and defend the rights of people displaced due to climate, conflict or economic hardships; and they respond to humanitarian crises as partners with people whose access to aid is most limited. UUSC's work began in 1939 when Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp took an extraordinary risk, helping refugees escape Nazi persecution in Europe. They continue this legacy today.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

UUSC does amazing work grounded in all 8 UU principles. They work differently than many International groups. UUSC centers the voices of affected communities and strengthens grassroots movements (principles 1, 2, 6 & 8), focusing their human rights work in three distinct ways: A) They collaborate with grassroots organizations and movements who are advancing our shared human rights goals on the ground; B) They inspire, equip, and sustain spiritually grounded activism for justice, offering a continuum of educational, skill-building, and experiential opportunities (2,3, &4); and C) They offer meaningful opportunities for taking action together to advance human rights (3 &4).

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

One of UUSC's main mission is to offer meaningful opportunities for taking action together to advance human rights. They share a wealth of educational materials and easy to follow engagement opportunities. This nomination is being made on behalf of the Children and Youth RE program, but the opportunities span all ages. UUSC provides resources from the Guest at Your table program to tips on how to write to your representatives. If selected, the RE program is committed to connecting this shared offering with education and opportunities to take direct action. If UUSC is selected and scheduled for November we will use Guest at Your Table as one way to get involved.

UP Center of Champaign County

Since 2009, the UP Center has been a volunteer-led organization that provides support services to promote the health, well-being, and sense of belonging to LGBTQ+ persons. Weekly support groups for youth and Trans persons are led by paid professionals. A part-time, paid youth coordinator (Zev Alexander) works with many schools in Champaign County and their Gay/Straight Alliance groups. We've partnered with UP Center on many initiatives- and they've come to UUCUC to lead both workshops and a worship service on terminology/pronoun use, as well as projects with our RE classes. Jerry Carden is currently volunteering with UPC as their leader for development/community engagement.

Why Should This Organization Be Chosen?

UUCUC has utilized many services from UP Center over the years. I don't think we had them as a shared offering for two or more years? They provided a Sunday afternoon workshop on LGBTQ+ Terminology & Pronoun Use; and a worship service on the same topic. Several of our youth at UUCUC have been attending the youth support groups and report that involvement as being very valuable to them.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

Each and every one of the seven principles, except maybe for #5 which is more about internal church governance.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

We've participated in the UP Center Pride Parade for many years, and this last year Jerry Carden organized the first annual Pride month picnic to help serve as a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. Jerry is also serving as the first chair of their development and community engagement team. We can continue to help support these and other activities.

Wesley Food Pantry

To alleviate food insecurity one family at a time by providing them with 1 week of nutritious groceries.

How Does This Organization's Work Relate to UU Principles?

Wesley Pantry believes in the worth and dignity of all their clients, and that they should be treated justly, equitably, and with compassion. 1st and 2^d principles; also 6th principle for world community and justice.

They also align with our mission. Building a community with fewer food in securities, promoting justice. And I and many volunteers find peace and joy in helping the clients.

How Could the Congregation Get More Involved?

Volunteer opportunities to assist in food distribution

- Thursday evening – Wesley Center
- Wednesday – Parkland College Pantry (I volunteer here)

Our church volunteers frequently enough that we have our own checkbox on the volunteer website.