

The Food and Shelter Team explores ways to alleviate homelessness and hunger and present meaningful service opportunities and programs toward the goal of further understanding the experience and issues of those who are hungry, homeless and don't have enough. We do this through direct service, donations, and education. ***This year we have added refugee sponsorship to our portfolio of projects.***

We focus our efforts by supporting several organizations and projects. Our activities this year focus on:

- Refugee Sponsorship
- The Fair Trade Cart
- Our Giving House
- Bundled Blessings Diaper Collection
- Fall/Spring Soup Kitchen
- The Mitten Tree
- Our House" (Curt's Café/Connections for the Homeless)
- LBGT Homelessness
- Empty Bowls Soup Lunch

Refugee Sponsorship has been our main project this past year and this fall we will welcome our family from Syria. The team leaders are listed on the back. If you want more information on how to be involved send an email to Jeanne Kerl figkerl@gmail.com or Carol Nielsen carolsnielsen@sbcglobal.net

The Fair Trade Cart sells fairly traded coffees, teas, chocolates and other products every Sunday at UCE. Fairly traded products are produced using no child labor, and Fair Trade standards ensure a living wage, safe working conditions and sustainable production methods to those who make what we sell. Most food products are also certified organic. In addition, all proceeds from the Cart are donated to help families and schools.

Our Giving House provides a place to collect monthly food and clothing donations for Connections for the Homeless. We ask for specific items that are in great need at Connections' Entry Point and Hilda's Place Shelter. Donations are matched by covenant groups, families, and good hearted individuals. Look for the house shaped box in the lobby and little signs of the house around the building to see what is planned for collection each month.

Bundled Blessings Diaper Collection: UCE partners with First United Methodist Church for their Bundled Blessings Diaper Pantry Program. Many low-income families do not have sufficient funds to buy diapers or wipes and these items are not covered by the Illinois LINK card. Bundled Blessings makes monthly distributions of diapers to six social service agencies in the Evanston area to keep babies in clean, dry diapers.

Soup Kitchens: Throughout the year UCE members provide meals to Evanston's homeless. We serve meals on some Wednesdays when our neighbor Beth Emet, cannot do so because of their Holidays.

The Mitten Tree: For over 25 years, we have collected gifts and holiday food for various local groups. The Mitten Tree is a wonderful tradition of sharing and generosity for others who need help during the holiday season. Contributing generously not only helps those in need but helps each of us add to the love in our hearts during the holiday season. Volunteers are always needed.

"Our House" Curt's Café—Connections: "Our House," a new transitional housing project provides living arrangements for at-risk young adults entering the job market including some who work at Curt's Café. We are exploring ways we can support this new venture and hope to engage many UCE members.

LGBTQ Young Adults & Homelessness: The FAST team is focused on increasing awareness about the situation that LGBTQ youth and young adults experience: discrimination in employment, housing, family acceptance or other limitations that inhibit full integration into society. We are partnering with UCE's Rainbow Alliance to support projects that the two teams are working on.

Empty Bowls Soup Lunch provides a hearty lunch and the chance to buy lovely pottery bowls made by members of UCE and others. It is held in early February. Volunteers to help out are always welcome. Proceeds are donated to local food pantries and hunger related efforts.

Food and Shelter Team

Barbara Butz
Sheila Holder
Kay Gibbs-Novy
Kerry Heckman
Carol Nielsen (Convener)
Joan Retzloff
Alice Swan
Johna VanDyke
Betty Walker
Marilyn Wroblewski

**Refugee Sponsorship
Coordinating Team**

Lee Bannor
Ellie Feddersen
Kay Gibbs-Novy
Jane Kenamore
Lynn Kendall
Jeanne Kerl
Gay Menges
Carol Nielsen
Marilyn Wroblewski

**Questions or Further
Information?**

Contact Carol Nielsen
carolsnielsen@sbcglobal.net

2016-2017
OUR GIVING HOUSE
Collection Calendar

*The little pink house in the lobby.
Weekly collections are placed in the
house.*

Sept: Hearty Canned
Soups/Stews
Oct: Razors, Shaving Cream,
Deodorant
Nov: Gift Cards—you don't need
or will not use--please put in
envelope to leave at the office
Dec: No Collection
Jan: Tuna/Salmon/Chicken
Feb: Socks and Long Underwear
March: Adult Diapers
April: Hearty Canned
Soups/Stews
May: Tuna/Salmon/Chicken

We encourage congregants to help with
two Evanston organizations we partner
with—Connections for the Homeless
and Interfaith Action of Evanston.

The Food
And
Shelter
Team (FAST)



A Social Action Program of the
Unitarian Church of Evanston
and member of
UCE's Social Justice Council
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