

**UUFD Basic Needs Team
Fall Quarterly Meeting
September 11, 2018
MEETING NOTES**

Attendees: Marsha Porter-Norton, Betty Schwartz-Bozeman, Peter Tregillus, John Schwob, Rev. Katie, Marilyn Leftwich, Bonnie Miller, Kathy Devine, Tom McCampbell

Reverend Katie opened the meeting with a chalice lighting and reading.

Reverend Katie's Remarks

Reverend Katie then shared some thoughts and reflections about our UU faith and the theology of social justice service. She spoke about the many ways that service manifests itself in the creation of a beloved community. We reviewed the place of the Basic Needs Team as a sub-team of the larger Social Justice & Responsibility Team in the UUFD governance model.

Basic Needs Team Updates

Manna Soup Kitchen

John Schwob and Marilyn Leftwich, leaders of the two Manna teams briefed the group on their work. UUFD is now fielding teams to prepare lunch on the 4th Tuesday and 4th Friday of each month. Each team needs four volunteers and currently there is good support.

We discussed the possibility of helping Manna with food pickup at City Market and Walmart.

Tom will contact Aaron at Manna to learn more about this need and how/if UUFD can help.

Durango Food Bank

Sue Eberhart was out of town, so Bonnie led the Food Bank discussion. UUFD is currently providing a four-person crew every 3rd Friday of the month. Marsha is volunteering there more frequently, and drop-in help is always appreciated. Sarah is the ED and our primary contact. Tom will visit with her about additional needs – especially seasonal help for the holidays.

Days for Girls

Betty and Kathy briefed the group on the work of Days for Girls. The Durango Chapter of DfG is sewing supplies and assembling hygiene kits for distribution overseas. UUFD is providing them workspace. The next work date for DfG is September 26 in Bowman.

Love Out Loud

Kathy updated us on Love Out Loud. LOL is a community-wide service day typically held the 2nd weekend of June. The service projects are varied and benefit many. Communication with organizers has been a challenge. Sheryl Guy will help Kathy with the 2019 event.

Thrive Living Wage Coalition

Things seem to be doing well at Thrive according to Peter. New businesses are being certified Living Wage providers. Some businesses are in the process of being re-certified. Unfortunately, the City of Durango is not there yet ... minimum wage high school students?

Advocacy

Marsha led a brief conversation about the importance of advocacy and showing up at city council and county commission meetings when there are agenda items relevant to our Basic Needs/social justice work. Peter is in a good position to know when these issues are coming before the council/commission. When he learns of important meetings, he will share this with Tom. Tom will take the lead on spreading that word.

Other Items Discussed

- Needham Elementary School support; helping teachers and staff purchase needed supplies
- Voter registration; brief discussion on how UUFD might help this important work
- Trip to Washington DC for older UUFD youth; the many benefits of a visit to our nation's capital.

“No Time for a Casual Faith” - Discussion

We had about 20 minutes to discuss this – barely time to dip our toes into it. I think I can sum up the discussion by saying that everyone understands that UUFD is emerging as a community leader in social justice work; that our challenge is to “up our game” while keeping an eye on our capacity to help. I think we are up to that challenge.