

July 2019

Social Responsibility and Justice special feature: Disaster Relief and Development

Reflecting our commitment to compassionate assistance to people locally and around the world facing desperate situations, UUFD budgets \$5000 each year for Disaster Relief and Development. We have sent financial help to organizations in Durango as well as many states and countries. This year we donated funds to two organizations, one local and one international.

Locally we donated \$2000 to Compañeros, the Four Corners Immigrant Resource Center, the only organization in the area with its primary focus on serving immigrants. Many of you are aware of the increased activity by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) targeting immigrants in La Plata County. ICE has significantly increased its staff and its actions to detain and deport immigrants. People have been arrested and removed from their work or their homes, leaving remaining family members in crisis. One UUFD member described an immigrant friend and father who was recently abruptly arrested and detained, leaving behind a wife and children with no means of support. Compañeros is setting up a special account using UUFD donated funds to provide support to families in critical need as the result of situations like this.

Internationally, the humanitarian crisis described as the worst in the world is in Yemen. The war there has led to the collapse of many systems, including health care, with more than half of the country's medical facilities closed and many others too damaged or lacking in personnel or supplies to provide care. In addition, checkpoints, land mines, or snipers en route to care facilities make seeking care very difficult and dangerous. Cholera has resurged, as well as diphtheria and measles. Malnutrition, war wounds, intentional physical violence and mental health problems have escalated. UUFD donated \$3000 to Doctors Without Borders, to assist them as they significantly expand their work in Yemen.

When you make your pledge each year, know that some of your dollars are going to help others in desperate need. Thank you for your generosity which allows us to reach out with compassion to those who are suffering.