

Unitarian Universalist Funding Program

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Post Grant XFinal / Interim Report Form (Circle one)

Please send two copies by the due date listed in your award letter or, if you are applying for new funding, send along with your new application. Please limit your narrative report to two pages, and your financial report to one page. Feel free to attach any brochure, newspaper clippings, or other relevant materials. Please do not send audio- or videotapes unless the grant was for their production. Thank you!

Date of Report: 4/17/2013 _____

Grant awarded Fall 2011

Fund for (check one): A Just Society X UU Social Responsibility UUism
 International UUism

Organization: Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice in the National Capital Region

Address: 7750 16th St. NW

City, State, Zip: Washington, DC, 20012

Contact Person: Rev. Cyn Snively, Administrator Phone Number 202-600-9132

Email address/website for your project/organization? info@uusj.org / <http://uusj.net>

Project Title: Transforming Concern for Immigrants into Action for Justice

Grant Amount: \$5000 challenge grant plus \$2000 technical assistance grant

Final Project Income/Expense Total: \$12,121.29

Final Organization/ Church Annual Budget : \$35,000 excluding the above grant income/expenses

1. Please describe the major activities of the project. If there were significant changes in your activities, please share with us the reasons you needed to make changes.

This grant, with its added time extensions, enabled us to present a number of events giving area UU congregations varied opportunities to learn about immigration policy and the realities of immigrant experience and then to advocate for changes in those policies, all the while forming ties with immigrant communities and organizations to deepen connections for future work. These events led up to Justice G.A. and then continued the impetus of that first-ever gathering.

- We held two fund-raising Galas to honor outstanding congregational work on immigration, to raise matching funds for the grant and also raise funds to support four immigration cooperative activities by congregations.
- We presented three half-day gatherings with speakers and action-oriented breakout workshops: “The Road to Justice G.A.” (11/19/2011); “Immigration Issues: Arrest, Detention, and Deportation” (1/28/2012); and “Immigration: Issues for Muslims and Asylum Seekers” (3/17/2012).
- We sponsored two trips: one to an ICE detention facility in York, PA in conjunction with the Arlington congregation (10/10/2012) to see conditions and talk with staff; one to the Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church, VA, to hear from members there about their experiences with immigration policy (12/16/2012).
- We sponsored other venues for people to be informed on immigration issues and action possibilities: a presentation at the Joseph Priestley District (JPD) Annual Meeting on these issues (4/14/2012); a round-table gathering after the 2012 election to access next steps to be taken (11/10/2012); a conference call with an immigration lawyer about biggest needs of immigrants and most effective actions to be taken on their behalf (12/12/2012).
- With the supplemental grant for internet and social media capabilities and their potential for fundraising, we hired two experts to help us accomplish a much-needed updating of our website, making it more attractive, easier to use, and more informative; establish a Facebook page and Twitter account; coordinate all three venues; and train our staff in most effective usage of these capabilities. We also created a YouTube channel for videos of our events to increase their usefulness and exposure.
- With these existing and new venues, as well as our E-News, we encouraged UU turnout at immigration advocacy events, such as the Dream Act referendum in MD and the Supreme Court immigration decision (4/24/2012).
- We sent our two staff members to Justice G.A. to learn about immigration resources and best practices in order to guide our subsequent work.

Some of our initial thinking changed as we proceeded. The interactive blog we initially proposed was replaced by the natural communications ties that developed between people at our various events. Afterwards, we always sent out contact information on those who had attended to facilitate continuing this kind of communication. This face-to-face contact lessened the need for blogging. We did, however, greatly enhance the calendar of events on our website making it much easier for people to post events at their congregations, etc.

Also, we did not develop the clearing-house for UUs coming to Washington to lobby Congress on immigration issues. We did do something like this for the recent .350.org pipeline event and the upcoming April 10 immigration rally, but usually requests for housing go directly to area congregations. We are currently heading in this direction in our strategic planning, but we will need to do much more to get the word out to the wider UU world.

The gathering of information on model communities initially proposed was also changed as we made

greater contacts with area immigrant organizations, which already had such information gathered. Increasingly, we relied more on the resources of such organizations instead of replicating our own. It saved us reinventing the wheel and strengthened our ties with them.

2. What were the project's major accomplishments? In what ways, if any, did you feel you didn't meet your goals?

The increased familiarity with local immigration-issue groups and the trust built up between us was a major accomplishment that went beyond our expectations when we began. We made friends and were welcomed as allies. Prime examples are the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations, the Capital Area Immigrant Rights Coalition, and Casa de Maryland, as well as Immigrants First, whose director is now on our Board. In addition, this work brought us into even better working relationship with the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM) on the Dreamers; our regional UU growth group, CHUUG, on an area rapid-response network to counter hate groups; and Witness Ministries and Standing on the Side of Love to tie our work in with the wider UUA.

A second somewhat unexpected accomplishment of this project was the rapport that developed on our Immigration Steering Committee as we assembled a talented group of UUs from a number of congregations to guide and coordinate our work. These personal relationships are naturally tying our congregations together for more cooperative work. The same goes for the car rides up to York and back, the workshops and all: personal ties have been woven with promise for the future.

While UUSJ takes a back seat to UULM-MD on Maryland-specific issues, we do take pride in our work with them and Casa de Maryland in helping pass the Dreamer referendum in the past election.

Our two events focusing on the experience of Muslims, as well as a workshop on the experience of Filipino teachers in Maryland, helped our congregations broaden their understanding of immigrant populations.

Bringing together UUs from over twenty congregations to hear Kat Liu of Witness Ministries talk about how to utilize the Study Action Guide on the G.A. resolution, immigration lawyer Lisa Johnson-Firth talk about immigrant workplace issues and removal law procedures, Maryland and Virginia activists to talk about Secure Communities, and the star of the documentary *9500 Liberty Street*, Gaudencio Fernandez (and his family), talk about how to help immigrant populations, among other workshops, are all major accomplishments. We bring a critical mass together for such speakers, and then we provide opportunity to strategize afterwards on effective response.

Our four immigration grants enabled the Joseph Priestley Racial Justice Conference to give scholarships for the Dreamer youth and other youth or adults without access to UU congregational support to be able to attend, to provide 15 youth scholarships, and to provide the Friday evening meal for free to all who attended; enabled the UU Church of Arlington to host an Organize Your Documents workshop to provide a practical service to immigrant neighbors; enabled the UU Church of Annapolis to build a collaborative relationship with Centro de Ayuda (Center of Help), a community nonprofit that serves the immigrant population in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County; and enabled Action in Montgomery (AIM) and Cedar Lane UU Church to provide an "Affirmation of the MD Dream Act" workshop where Rev. Louise Green presented Maryland IAF's way of supporting the Maryland Dream Act.

As was said above, the interactive blog and gathering of information on model communities did not proceed as planned, but both were accomplished in more face-to-face ways. We fell short on the advocacy-clearing house, but will be developing this aspect as we move more into advocacy and witness and focus less on education. We are in the midst of developing a strategic plan for this shift. Nor did we facilitate a lot of direct advocacy on Capitol Hill. But we will be moving in that direction next year.

3. Please fill out the attached Final Project Financial Statement. (Please be sure to include all actual income and expenses, and distinguish "in-kind" contributions from cash).

Final Project Financial Statement (This information is mandatory for all grantees. If you use your own budget forms, they must include the information requested below).

Organization UUSJ Date 4/17/2013 Grant Made: Fall 2011

Expense Category	Organizational Budget (if applicable)	Final Project Budget	Use of UU Funds
Social Media/Web consulting	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Staff hours all projects	\$2,229.51	\$4,429.51	\$2,200.00
GA travel-presentation	\$1,417.62	\$3,217.62	\$1,800.00
Collaboration grants/scholarships	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Workshop hosting fees	\$186.00	\$386.00	\$200.00
Detention facility site visit	\$128.21	\$253.21	\$125.00
Immig. Lending Library material	\$159.95	\$334.95	\$175.00
TOTAL	\$5,121.29	\$12,121.29	\$7,000.00

Income Source	Source Total	Amount Applied to Project
UUA Technical/Planning Grant	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
UUA Challenge Grant Funds	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
UUSJ matching funds for Challenge Grant	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
UUSJ General Funds	\$121.29	\$121.29
TOTAL	\$12,121.29	\$12,121.29

Please use this space to explain any vague expense categories, plans to spend money that has not been spent yet, and in-kind contributions.

Note: all income listed above was cash – no in-kind contributions.