

ANNUAL UUFS SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT
2005 – 2006

ACTION ALERTS: Maryland UU Legislative Watch Network (Keith Smith), UUA, UUSC and other alerts were e-mailed, included in the newsletter and announced to UUFS members and Friends.

DEER'S HEAD HOSPITAL CENTER: Limited support was given to cooperating with Temple Bat Yam (Myra and Marvin Novick), in a donation program to help meet the needs of Deer's Head patients. The need continues for the list of items on the SAC Board.

SAC SUNDAY PROGRAMS: SAC secured programs for 4 Sundays. Rebecca Harshbarger, a UU-UNO Intern spoke on UN SUNDAY. Jason Newton, WBOC Anchor/Reporter, was our Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday speaker, on "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR." In observance of Black History Month, Attorney Kimberley Dumpson spoke on "THE BRIDGE THAT BROUGHT US OVER: The Impact of the Voting Rights Act of 1965." Rev. Terry Provance's subject was "THE MICROCREDIT REVOLUTION." He addressed microloans for the poor, around the world. SAC recommends that the UUFS invest in this program.

WICOMICO COUNTY BRANCH NAACP: Jackie Fritch is liaison to the Branch, serving as Communications Committee Chair and on the Executive Committee. SAC contributed to the 9th ANNUAL BLACK HERITAGE CELEBRATION and UUFS was listed as a Patron, in the program. SAC hosted the 3/2006 Branch Meeting, at the UUFS. SAC member Joan Smith, LCSW, Child and Adolescent Coordinator for the Maryland Mental Health Administration, spoke on "THE EFFECTS OF DEPRESSION ON YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES." As a result of that, the continuation of a joint effort to promote mental health was agreed upon. Also, George Wooley, Branch member and a member of the Sub-Committee on Out of School Youth of the Wicomico County Partnership for Parents and Children (the Local Management Board/ LMB), attended a SAC meeting and invited SAC to partner with 2 other churches in a proposed mentoring project. His Sub-Committee will apply for a grant to fund the project. SAC is a partner.

HOMELESS SHELTER VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE: Ian Finlayson was liaison to this project, mobilizing the UUFS to assist. He reported, "The Homeless Shelter Program operated from mid-December 2005 and stopped the end of March. It provided a bed, dinner, breakfast, brown bag lunch and a safe environment to from 35 – 45 homeless men in Salisbury each night. Nine churches opened their facilities on a one week rotation basis and staffed the shelters from 5:00 P.M. – 8:00 A.M., the following morning. One church said that they had used about 150 church members! Our Fellowship assisted by providing volunteers where needed (a total of over 130 hours) and, from the feedback, all found it very rewarding. Ten UUFS members offered their time – a practical application of our principles."

HOLIDAY PROJECTS: SAC supported the Mitten Tree and "All Out for the Food Bank." Ashley Thomas-Mason located a family and mobilized the UUFS to meet a broad range of their holiday and other needs.

UUSC GUEST AT YOUR TABLE PROJECT: Bert Brun led this annual holiday project, securing the educational materials, presenting the information to the UUFS and sending the money collected to the UUSC for world-wide assistance.

RIO BENI HEALTH PROJECT: Following UUFS members Katherine Layton's and Brett Hofmann's presentation on their Concern America medical mission, in Bolivia, SAC contributed \$200 for the purchase of much needed medications. (Our Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday speaker, Jason Newton, added his \$60 honorarium.)

SAC BULLETIN BOARD: Maintained to inform the UUFS congregation on social concerns, events and actions to be taken.

SOCIAL ACTION RELATED MAIL: Reviewed and discussed for disposition.

MEMBERSHIPS: Amnesty International USA, the Interfaith Alliance and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Please see attached. Ian Finlayson has facilitated these and memberships.

SAC MEETINGS: 9 meetings through 5/14/06. Presently, the SAC Chairmanship rotates monthly among the members. The member chairing the monthly meeting is responsible for the minutes of that meeting, the Agenda for the next and for reviewing the SAC mail (SAC tray) for that month.

SUB-COMMITTEES: No SAC report would be complete without reporting the outstanding success of **THE SOUP KITCHEN**, Chaired by Pat Hollinger; **THE FOOD BUCKET** and **THE FREE TRADED COFFEE PROJECT**, Chaired by Ellen and Luther Shultz. SAC salutes your hard work and initiative in facilitating these important projects!

Peace,

Merrill Burhans	Cori Meek
Heather Collins	Don Singleton
Ian Finlayson	Joan Smith
Jackie Fritch	Ashley Thomas-Mason

UUFS SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE 5/14/06