



Greater Good 2017

And The Winners Are...!

What a joy it is to share the news about our congregation's Greater Good Project this holiday season! As you may already know, the Greater Good Project began several years ago as an effort to restore the sense of meaning to the winter holidays. Each year, we invite you to consider your holiday priorities, and make changes in your spending to enable a significant gift to the Greater Good Project—challenging ourselves to give up 50% of what we would have spent on holiday gifts, trips, trimmings. All of the donated money, minus less than 5% for any internal costs, goes directly to projects proposed by organizations vetted by our Greater Good Committee, and approved by the Board before going to our children and youth for the final vote. Last year, we contributed around \$50,000 to change the lives of others. What better way to celebrate the holidays than by sharing what we have and making the world a better place!

This year, our congregation's children and youth voted on October 29 to support **Allendale Columbia Summer LEAP program**, to add restorative practices training to summer instruction for children of School #17, and **Refugees Helping Refugees College Preparatory Program**, to provide mentoring and accessibility support for higher education.

Things were done a little differently this year. As our own Micro Finance Task Force closed, they contributed a significant amount to the 2017 Greater Good Project since they had been winners of Greater Good funding in a prior year. In the vetting of proposals, the Greater Good Committee wanted to honor a request from **University of Rochester's Department of Family Medicine** for a specific amount to cover the cost of stoves and latrines for a village in Honduras. Committee members felt strongly that this international project should be supported, and because we couldn't get the number of other proposals down to only two more, we decided the Honduras project would be granted their request, and the children and youth would vote on three other local organizations. The Board approved using the funds from the Micro Finance donation for this purpose, with leftovers being split, along with the congregation's donations this year, to go between the two winners named above.

Representatives from all three organizations will present at our annual celebration of the Greater Good Project during both services on **Sunday, December 10**. Please look for more information at the Greater Good table from **Sunday, November 19 through Sunday, January 7, 2018**, and consider making a donation in lieu of a gift for families and friends!

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