

Faith in Action 2020 – Help Choose Our Community Partners!

At the annual meeting on May 31 First Unitarian will be selecting two community outreach partner organizations for the 2020-21 year. Community Partners will provide multiple volunteer opportunities and will receive a portion of the weekly collections. Information and links for the five applicants can be found below.

Community Outreach Partner Candidates

Organization: Central Iowa Immigrant Community Support Fund - Collaboration of American Friends Service Committee Iowa, Al Éxito, and Proteus.
Al Éxito will serve as lead organization

First Unitarian Sponsor(s): Gene McCracken, Dave Witke, Darcie Vandegrift

Mission: The coalition's mission is to serve marginalized central Iowans who are excluded from government assistance programs due to immigration status. During the COVID-19 crisis and aftermath, these services will include assistance with basic necessities of life, such as food, rent, utilities, transportation, medicine, etc.

The coalition members are AFSC Iowa, Al Éxito, and Proteus. By combining their efforts, they will each bring to the mission their own set of strengths and experiences. This cooperative approach will increase efficiency and offer a wider variety of volunteer opportunities.

Links for more information: alexitoiowa.org <https://www.afsc.org/category/location/des-moines-ia>
www.proteusinc.net

Organization: Central Iowa Shelter and Services

First Unitarian Sponsor(s): Jack Hackett

Mission: Central Iowa Shelter & Services' mission is to provide low-barrier shelter, meals and support services at no cost to adults experiencing homelessness and to facilitate their move toward self-sufficiency.

Links for more information: <https://centraliowashelter.org/>

Organization: Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity

First Unitarian Sponsor(s): Sharon Bandstra

Mission: Seeking to put God's love into action, Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

Links for more information: <https://gdmhabitat.org/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdnCbWbsw7k&t=5s> (video testimonial from recent Habitat homeowner)
<https://gdmhabitat.org/involved/birdland/> (Birdland neighborhood video)

Organization: One Iowa

First Unitarian Sponsor(s): Doug Aupperle

Mission: One Iowa is a statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) organization preserving and advancing equality for LGBTQ individuals in Iowa through grassroots efforts and education.

Links for more information: <https://oneiowa.org/>

Organization: Planned Parenthood of the Heartland

First Unitarian Sponsor(s): Barb Royal, Deidre Fudge

Mission: The mission of Planned Parenthood of the Heartland is to provide, protect and promote reproductive and sexual health through health services, education and advocacy.

Links for more information: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-north-central-states>