Empowering Justice: A Hurdis Fund Update

Carolyn Steere Hurdis, a faithful UUCSC member passed away in 2020, but her commitment to creating a more equitable world lives on. Her bequest established the Hurdis Fund, designed to support projects that foster a deeper understanding of history and cultural differences—key factors in combating ignorance and injustice. Through this fund, Carolyn sought to empower citizens to take meaningful action against unfair conditions in our society.

Administered by the UUCSC Hurdis Fund Committee, the Hurdis Fund is available to all individuals and groups in South County with a solid proposal to advance social justice. Thirteen projects to date have been awarded funding, each making a significant impact in our community.

Notable projects include schools partnering with the Tomaquag Museum to educate students and adults about Narragansett culture and indigenous food sovereignty. The women's art gallery HERA was granted funds for their powerful exhibit, "There are no Strangers," which highlights the contributions of immigrants to the U.S. Another grant supported an all-school event in North Kingstown focused on Afro-Asian culture, titled "Silk Road." Additionally, the fund has contributed to the development of a much-needed children's playground and supported programs that promote understanding healthy sexuality. Last spring, the Hurdis Fund sponsored the play "Picking up Stones," which deepened the community's understanding of the complex relationship between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Hurdis Fund is committed to empowering those who wish to make a difference. Individuals or groups in South County with a proposal to promote justice and a plan for implementation are encouraged to apply. Applications can be requested at uusouthcountyri.org or found online HERE.