

Minutes of the Working Group for Sponsoring a Refugee Family
4th Meeting June 23, 2016

1. Update by UU Congregation of Sterling

Roshan Chaddha described the progress that UUCS has made in organizing teams corresponding to those of UUCF. He provided a table that identified the teams, team leaders, and team members. Roshan also described the source and schedule of collecting funds to reach its commitment of \$3,000 for the Refugee Resettlement Project.

2. Review of the presentation to the UUCF Social Justice Committee

Rod Paolini reported the following outcome of a presentation of the proposal for co-sponsoring a refugee family; the presentation was made by Roshan Chaddha and Rod Paolini on June 14, 2016.

- A. The SJC approved the Refugee Resettlement Project.
- B. The SJC awarded the remaining unspent money of it FY2016 to the Project. The money will be transferred to a no-year, custodial account. The amount is not known at this time.
- C. The SJC disclosed that the authority to conduct fundraising is held by the Coordinating Team (CT), and that a formal request must be submitted to the CT.

Rod Paolini contacted Rich Sider, Director of Administration and received a document entitled, "Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax Operational Policy: Subject: Fundraising; Number V.A. effective June 10, 2008; revised October 16, 2012.

Rod Paolini will draft a response that reflects the fundraising approaches as described below.

3. Rod Paolini reviewed the funds that have been suggested as possible sources of funding for the Project.
- A. Social Justice Council
 - B. REACH
 - C. Innovation
 - D. Endowment

It was decided that the working group would raise funds for the Project as described below, providing approval by the CT.

4. Fundraising

Various means of fundraising were discussed: donations from UUCF members; solicitation by fundraising websites (also called "crowdfunding"); solicitation of churches and mosques in the area; performances such as concerts in which donations are requested.

It was decided that the following methods would be successively tried until enough money was raised to meet our budget requirement of \$6,225:

- 1) solicitation of donations from UUCF members: solicitation would be made via SignUpGenius, and would include both solicitation of money and items for the family.

2) solicitation of donations using the fundraising website called Faithify, a project of the Massachusetts Bay District of Unitarian Universalist Congregations, and is supported by the staff of the New England Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. In this manner, funds are solicited by anyone. Persons are notified via social media contacts, starting with members of the project working group.

3) solicitation of churches and mosques in the area (still using the Faithify collection method).

It was decided that, assuming CT approval, the fundraising would begin in September, 2016.

5. Starting the Project without full funding

Given that the project would not be fully funded until October or November of 2016, but that some funds would be available from the unspent funds of 2016 from the Social Justice Council, it was proposed that we start the project, that is, accept co-sponsorship in September before full funding. Whether or not Lutheran Social Services would accept such a situation will be posed to Kiersten Rossetto Nassar of LSS.

The possibility of a co-signer was discussed.

A related issue was when and by which agency would the background investigations be conducted. Background investigation need to be conducted on all congregant members who will “work with the family.” Persons who merely deliver items to the family do not need background investigations.

LSS has the background investigations performed, probably by a contractor, at the cost of \$30 per person; however, UUCF has background investigations for its Religious Exploration program for an even lesser amount. Therefore we will ask both LSS and Linnea Nelson, Director of Religious Exploration, whether or not UUCF can perform the investigations and whether or not the investigations are acceptable by LSS.

The concept of a ‘rollout’ of the Project was discussed. It was defined by an agreement with LSS so UUCF-UUCS would be in-line to sponsor a refugee family. The rollout would be comprised of the following;

- A. Announcement of the start of the project in the Sunday service bulletin and the newsletter.
- B. Announcement of the start of the project by a minister from the pulpit at a service.
- C. A table established in the Commons before and after a service describing the project and soliciting funds.
- D. Establishment of a blog to describe needs, issues, progress, information about the family, etc.
- E. A presentation to the congregation as to the nature of the project and how people may participate.

The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for July 21, 2016.