

## **Social Justice Ministry Report (Bruce Christenson)**

UniLu's Social Justice ministry represents our congregation's response to social issues and concerns at local, national, and global levels. During the past fiscal year, we used our finances, facilities, time, and talent in support of a number of efforts:

Temporary shelter for homeless women - One of our major efforts in the last year was to host a temporary shelter for homeless women for a five week period from late February to early April 2014. UniLu partnered with Heart & Home Collaborative, a non-profit organization that ran the shelter. The shelter served 15 women, a number of who held jobs that did not pay enough for them to afford a place to live. UniLu members and many of our neighbors volunteered by providing and serving meals, offering transportation, washing laundry, and assisting with staffing the shelter. Although some of our neighbors were opposed to the shelter, we were pleased to see that most of the neighbors were supportive of this effort as evidenced in their presence at one of our neighborhood meetings and their providing meals and volunteering other help with the shelter.

San Francisco (SF) Night Ministry - Last November, we worked with the San Francisco Night Ministry to provide bag lunches to those in need. The SF Night Ministry brings compassionate presence, crisis intervention, counseling, referrals, and pastoral care to street residents living in or near the Tenderloin area of San Francisco. Following one of our Sunday morning worship services, UniLu members prepared sandwiches and then took them up to SF where they were served following an outdoor worship service that the night ministry holds on Sunday afternoons. More information on the SF Night Ministry can be found on-line at: <http://www.sfnightministry.org/>

Lutheran World Relief response to Typhoon in the Phillippines - UniLu's choir held a concert to raise funds to benefit residents of the Phillippines who were injured and displaced by Typhoon Haiyan that struck that country last November. The typhoon had displaced an estimated 4 million people, more than the number displaced by Hurricane Katrina in the U.S., and the great 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami combined. UniLu contributed a total of \$800 to Lutheran World Relief.

Support for Inter-denominational CROP Hunger fund - The CROP Hunger Fund is a program of the Church World Service (CWS) organization, a collaborative of 17 denominations born in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II, with a mission of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, and sheltering the homeless. In 1969, CWS initiated an annual CROP walk, which became the original charitable walking event in the U.S. ; its goal is to end hunger locally and abroad. Last year UniLu members provided \$274 in support of the annual CROP fund drive. More information can be found on-line at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org) or [www.crophungerwalk.org](http://www.crophungerwalk.org).

ELCA Anti-Malaria Campaign - During the past year, the Children's Ministry at UniLu has kept the ELCA's anti-malaria campaign in front of the congregation. The campaign was an educational focus at the children's Vacation Bible School last summer. The focus has continued this fall with the Sunday School raising funds by asking members of the congregation to donate their loose change to the ELCA's campaign.

South Bay Sanctuary Covenant (SBSC) - SBSC is an interfaith, non-partisan organization of churches and individuals in the Bay Area from San Francisco to Santa Cruz concerned with peace, justice and liberation for the people of Central America and for the refugees who have fled from these areas. UniLu was one of the original four Sanctuary congregations that in 1983 offered to protect Central American refugees who had fled danger in their homelands. Today SBSC continues to advocate for refugees in local and national policies. UniLu serves as the mailing address for SBSC and helps SBSC maintain a mailing permit so that it can continue its programs. More information about SBSC can be found on-line at: <http://fprespa.org/elsalvador/>