

LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Committee Purpose: To distribute funds collected during Sunday morning services to non-profit agencies, religious organizations, charities and groups within Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Kalkaska and Antrim counties that provide charitable services to those in need.

We strive to donate to a wide mix of groups benefitting people of all ages with a variety of needs. We do not give to agencies in Benzie County since the UU Benzie group gave \$5900 last year to Benzie charities.

Current Members: Liz Bruning, chair, Shari Cope, Jane Fochtman, Joan Sheard, Chris Walter

Successes:

Our committee received \$10,258 to distribute to local charities this fiscal year.

Challenges:

We receive very few donation requests from UU members. As a result we are learning about local charities and non-profits by inviting local agency representatives to speak to our group and researching agencies ourselves. Each quarter articles are submitted to the Beacon and Flash summarizing our funding decisions and UU members are encouraged to contact us and fill out donation request forms. Every Flash and Beacon article contains a link to the form.

We occasionally receive donation requests to fund global charities; these are never funded as they are not "local" and thus beyond our scope. It has been suggested to the Board that perhaps a small percentage (e.g., 5%) of the quarterly funds collected at Sunday Services could be withheld before funding Pastoral Care, Community Needs and Community Lunch and this money could be used to respond to global needs (e.g., Syrian refugees). Local Community Needs would not administer these funds.

We would like bulletin board space to provide information to members about the agencies we fund and to display thank you notes. We did have this in the past but it was removed with no explanation.

Funding recipients for fiscal year 2016-2017:

Food and Shelter

Grace Episcopal Food Pantry	\$1000.
Safe Harbor	\$600.
Blessings in a Backpack	\$350.
Food Rescue - Goodwill	\$1000.
Food Rescue Empty Bowls Table Sponsor	\$250.
Jubilee House	\$500.

Health needs

Traverse Health Clinic – Immunization Clinic	\$1000.
Planned Parenthood	\$500.

Miscellaneous

Laundry Project	\$850.
Justice for Our Neighbors	\$1000.
Commission on Aging – heating assistance	\$500.
Northwest Michigan Community Action – heating assistance	\$500.
Northwest Michigan Community Action Financial Management Services Program	\$500.
Grand Traverse Baby Pantry at Bethlehem Lutheran Church	\$125.
West Bay Baby Pantry at West Bay Covenant Church	\$125.
Leelanau Baby Pantry via Leelanau Christian Neighbors	\$250.
Antrim Baby Pantry in Mancelona	\$250.
Kalkaska Baby Pantry	\$250.
Migrant services	\$500.

Benzie UU Group gave to:

Benzie Area Christian Neighbors	\$3000.
Community Spirit Fund	\$1000.
Habit For Humanity	\$400.
Animal Welfare	\$300.
Benzie Human Health Care	\$800.
Saint Andrew’s Presbyterian Church STAMP Program	\$400.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bruning, Chair