

10. Ukraine

Support for Youth in Rural Communities in the Chernobyl Affected Region of Ukraine

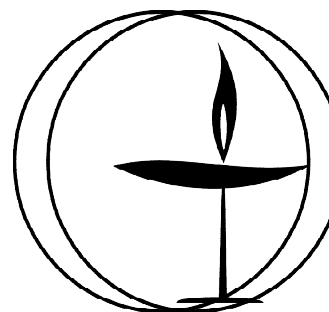
Thousands of adults and children in Ukraine are struggling to overcome the devastating psychological, social, medical, economic and environmental consequences from the Chernobyl disaster, but little public or private professional support is available. Networks of five centers for psycho-social rehabilitation, initially established by the United Nations, constitute the core of support for this population. Friends of Chernobyl Center, U.S., Inc. (FOCCUS) is a partner of these centers by providing financial and professional support.

Your financial support will go to youth-centered projects at the centers. These projects include (1) strengthening youth leadership and the decision making capacity of high school students; (2) teaching teens about healthy lifestyles and how to resist temptations to dangerous behaviors; (3) orientation and training for youth from troubled families to develop basic skills for self-sufficiency; (4) assisting high school students in evaluating interests and abilities to foster self-determination in planning their future careers; and (5) involving young people in activities with older citizens to promote intergenerational understanding and reduce the social isolation of the elderly.

FOCCUS is recognized by the Ukraine Ministry of Emergency Services and Population Protection and by the United Nations Development Program–Chernobyl Recovery and Development Program as a partner in developing programs to support recovery of the Chernobyl-affected areas of Ukraine. Among the many awards received by FOCCUS was a U.S. “Congressional Recognition” of outstanding humanitarian work to aid the children affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe.

A \$10 donation will cover the yearly cost of an additional youth at existing sites.

A \$100 donation will provide the basis for expanding a program into surrounding village.



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**UNITARIAN
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Alternative Giving List of Program Choices 2011 – 2012



**Opportunities
For
Giving**

1. Afghanistan

Couples Literacy: Enable enthusiastic adult Afghan couples to attend literacy classes together and develop the liberating skill of reading and writing.

The estimated national adult literacy rate in Afghanistan is 12 percent for women and 39 percent for men. The problem of adult literacy is not addressed adequately.

Since the summer of 2002, **Kabultec, Inc.**, has been supporting adult literacy programs in and around Kabul, the nation's capital. Working with a local NGO, the Roquia Center for Women's Rights, Studies, and Education—operated by Nasrine Gross, president of Kabultec—classes are funded in the poorest neighborhoods and are designed to bring adult learners up to a fourth-grade level in twelve months. Due to student demand, there is now a second year of study. Classes are for couples only, and husband and wife must attend together. For every student, all expenses are paid, including transportation to and from the rented classroom. Kabultec also provides a salary to the qualified local teacher hired to teach the course as well as the teaching materials and overall management of the program.

The ability to fund classes comes mostly from donors, including Cedar Laners. This year's Afghan dinner and silent auction will be held at Cedar Lane on Friday evening, January 6.

\$20 pays for one student to study for two weeks

\$40 pays for one student to study for one month

\$120 pays for transportation for 20 students to reach class for one month

10 . Transylvania (Romania)

Support for the elderly in our Partner Church community in Dicsöszentmárten

Members of our partner church community in Dicsöszentmárten, located in the part of Romania known as Transylvania, have a strong sense of family, community, and connection to the Unitarian faith. Unfortunately, the city of Dicsöszentmárten, a former industrial center, is in decline. Factories that had employed members of the community have closed, unemployment is high, and the young people are moving elsewhere in Romania or in European Union to find jobs.

Our partner church community is rapidly aging, and many of the elderly now have only the church to provide the support that in previous generations would have come from an extended family network. The global economic crisis has made their lives even harder over the past year: severe budget cuts in Romania have frozen state-provided pensions, raised taxes, and reduced subsidies the elderly previously relied on for transportation and medical care.

\$25 helps an elderly member of the Dicsö congregation compensate for the reduction in transportation and medical subsidies.

\$50 additionally helps provide groceries and other basic necessities.

Gifts of any amount are gladly welcomed.

9. Southeast Asia

Rescue Girls from Sexual Slavery

More than 2.3 million girls and women in India are believed to be working in the sex industry against their wills. In Cambodia alone, as many as one-third of an estimated 50,000 sex workers are children under age 18. Sex traffickers kidnap, coerce, or promise well-paying jobs to deceive girls, then force them into brothels.

The **INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION (IJM)** works undercover to rescue victims of forced prostitution in India and Southeast Asia by gathering evidence of trafficking and sexual exploitation and collaborating with local authorities to bring perpetrators to justice. Social workers then place victims in aftercare homes where they receive rehabilitation services and begin to restore their lives. IJM investigations have resulted in convictions for traffickers and freedom for hundreds of girls and women.

\$44 provides 1 day of aftercare

\$77 provides legal representation from IJM lawyers in court

2. Democratic Republic of Congo

AMCAV: Educating Children in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The children born of violated women in the volatile eastern region of DRC are considered outcasts, living in shame and extreme poverty. As a rule, they do not attend school. If the mother is married, the husband does not acknowledge the child as his own and refuses to pay for his or her school fees. Sometimes the mother and child(ren) are left to fend for themselves, and other times the outcast children are even abandoned by their mothers.

The Association des Mamans Chrétiennes pour l'Assistance aux Vulnérables (AMCAV, or Association of Christian Mothers for Assistance to the Vulnerable – working with people of all faiths) has arranged for 150 of these children from three small towns (Kiliba, Luberizi, and Rwenena) to attend school, with teachers making sure that they are treated fairly by others.

This project has been selected by the 7th grade, session 2 RE classes for the past 3 years. Through one of our teachers, we now have a personal connection with AMCAV.

\$5 pays school fee for 1 child (this giving amount is geared toward Cedar Lane youth)

\$10 buys one pair of shoes for a school child

\$20 provides 2 sets of shirts and pants to 2 boys to attend school

\$24 provides 2 sets of skirts and blouses to 2 girls to attend school in Uvira, Kimanga District, South Kivu, eastern DRC

\$50 provides a complete education package for 1 child to attend school

\$100 provides a complete education package for 2 children to attend school

3. Global

Anti-Parasite Treatments for Children

During the most critical stages of a child's growth, between 6 and 24 months, a parasitic worm infestation can begin attacking the internal organs resulting in severe physical and mental damage which often leads to death if left untreated. Parasitic worm infestation causes life-threatening infections and stems from unsanitary drinking water and living conditions.

As a result, malnutrition, anemia, stunted physical growth, and delayed mental development are prevalent among children in the world's poorest regions. To address this problem **LEGACY OF HEALING** provides anti-parasite treatments for children and families during mass treatment campaigns through partner clinics in targeted populations of the world's poorest regions.

\$6 Provides anti-parasite treatment for a family of 5

\$30 Provides anti-parasite treatment for 5 families

8. Philippines

Safe Water for Better Health

Unsafe drinking water is the main cause of life-threatening ailments in children and adults of Villa Corazon, Philippines. A shortage of water also contributes to unsanitary conditions as the inability to maintain toilets or bathe creates an unhealthy living environment. Without an adequate water supply, opportunities to plant vegetables and raise animals for a living are also limited. Additionally, children face daily threats of injury when fetching potable water from sources over long distances or across busy streets.

OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL's *Water For Health* project is aiming to install five water pumps for public use. This will give the community of 96 families (450 people) sufficient clean water for domestic use. Four complete units will be installed in strategic locations, and one will be placed inside the elementary school. Each pump, which can be utilized by 12-15 families, will counteract health threats and improve their overall quality of life.

\$23 1 share of water pipes

\$54 Provides safe drinking water for 1 family

7. Kenya

Kakenya Center for Excellence School for Girls

Education for girls in Kakenya's Maasai culture in Kenya is not a priority. Most families consider a daughter's education to be unnecessary and a poor investment. For those lucky enough to finish primary education, only a handful of girls ever make it to secondary school. Tradition dictates that they undergo female genital cutting (FGC), followed by marriage, when they reach puberty. At that time, they drop out of school. Some 100 million young girls worldwide are expected to marry in the next decade.

Dr. Kakenya Ntaiya—the first woman to leave her village to attend a U.S. college—is changing those norms and sees a brighter future for Kenyan girls. In 2009 she opened the first primary girls' school in her home village. Now 94 students—3 classes, serving grades 4-6—are happy to be attending what is now a boarding school and are eager to learn. In January 2012, as the other students matriculate, a new class of 4th-grade girls will be welcomed. Parents and community leaders are leading a growing movement to stop FGC and early marriage.

For the past 2 years, Cedar Lane has provided the majority of funds needed to purchase textbooks for the new grade in the school. Let's keep the tradition going!

\$25 buys one share of textbooks for one girl for one year

\$50 buys one girl a complete set of textbooks for one year

\$100 buys two girls two sets of textbooks for one year

Any contribution is welcome.

4. Guatemala

Help Fight Malnutrition in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala

Pueblo a Pueblo helps build sustainable, viable, and healthy indigenous communities in Guatemala. Pueblo a Pueblo works closely with local partners to build capacity in the community to thrive on its own while achieving health, nutrition, and educational opportunities for the children and their families. Pueblo a Pueblo provides the tools so that children and their families can work their way out of poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition.

Guatemala suffers the highest malnutrition in Latin America (Unicef 2008). Sixty-seven percent (67%) of indigenous Guatemalan children suffer from chronic malnutrition. Chronic malnutrition in mothers means low birth weight children, putting them at an early disadvantage. For 3 years, Pueblo a Pueblo has supported a school lunch program for all the primary school children attending the Panabaj community school — often their only nutritious meal of the day. Better nutrition has resulted in improved health and a better attitude towards learning. It has kept the children in school, reduced their visits to the hospital, and increased their well being. Pueblo a Pueblo has expanded the program and is helping bring school lunches to two additional nearby communities.

30¢ buys a lunch

\$54 feeds a child for an entire school year

5. Haiti

Wholesome Meals for Haiti's Children

In Haiti many children under age five are suffering from malnutrition, especially since the earthquake of January 2010. While school-aged children in Haiti receive one meal each day, there are no supplemental meals for children who are not in school. To meet this urgent need, **PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT** has initiated a *Children's Feeding Program*.

With the help of local medical staff, malnourished children can begin receiving their first supply of nutritional supplements. They then attend the food program Monday through Friday where they receive a well-balanced meal with protein. After only one month in the program, nearly 100% of children are no longer in danger of being malnourished.

\$6 provides meals for one child for 1 week

\$28 dollars provides meals and nutritional supplements for one child for 1 week

6. India

Self-Employment for Women

Much of the labor force in India is made up of poor, self-employed women who earn a living through their own labors or by operating a small business. However, these workers are largely unorganized, unprotected, and unrecognized, leading to many constraints and limitations imposed upon them by society and the economy. The **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)** seeks to improve the status of these women by organizing them to achieve their goals of full employment and self-reliance. SEWA strives to ensure that its members obtain work security, income security, food security, and social security, including health care, child care, and shelter. It works through a strategy of struggle and development—struggle against the restraints encountered by the women workers, and development activities to strengthen their bargaining power and to offer new alternatives. In practical terms, the strategy is carried out through the joint action of unions and cooperatives. Gandhian thinking is the guiding force for SEWA's members in organizing for social change.

SEWA's supportive services, many organized and carried out by the women themselves as a source of self-employment, include savings and credit accounts, health care, child care, insurance, legal aid, capacity building, and communication services.

SEWA is supported by the **Unitarian Universalist Holdeen India Program**.

\$7.50 will educate one child for one year

\$20 will buy one share of SEWA's membership and supportive services.

\$45 will buy a complete set of books for a child care center.

\$65 will pay a teacher's salary for a month at a SEWA child care center.