

First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati's Social Justice Directory

Repairing the Universe

Support for Immigrants

Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center (CIWC): www.cworkers.org; 513-621-5991

- The CIWC provides **worker safety training** in English and Spanish and advocates for workers who experience **wage theft**. The CIWC spearheaded passage of a City of Cincinnati wage theft ordinance and is working toward adoption of a **Good Food Purchasing Program** by the Cincinnati Public Schools and other organizations that purchase food.

Santa Maria Community Services. www.santamaria-cincy.org; 513-557-2700

Contact: Dan & Janet Schneider

- Teaching English as a second language to adults.
- Volunteer teachers and assistants needed.

RefugeeConnect: www.refugeeconnect.org; Contact Person: Jan Connelly

- Volunteer Needs: Transportation, English Tutors, etc.
- Program director: Robyn Lamont.
- Information sessions are held periodically at Xavier University at which they explain volunteer opportunities to all individuals who have indicated through their website or phone calls that they want to learn more about how they can help.

Transformations: <http://diosohio.org/ministerio/transformations-transformaciones/>; Contact: Don Sherman.

- Transformations provides educational and family support to the immigrant community in and around Price Hill.
- To get involved, contact Nancy Sullivan: (859)240-6140

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Cincinnati: <http://lulac-cincinnati.com/>

Contact: Don Sherman, Chair of Civil Rights Committee

- LULAC is the oldest Latino Civil Rights Organization in the United States and was modeled after NAACP when it was formed in 1929.
- To get involved, contact Lourdes Ribera, President: (513)300-5061

Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC): www.ijpccincinnati.org; 513-579-8547

Contact: Don Sherman

- IJPC works to end the **death penalty** in Ohio, provides education about **human trafficking**, advocates for **immigrant rights** and works toward **peace and nonviolence**.
- Volunteer Needs: transport immigrants to and from court and appointments with ICE at their Blue Ash office, Spanish speakers to work as interpreters, and as outreach workers for our immigrant coalition groups as they attempt to organize cooperatives, child care, know your rights training events in the immigrant communities in greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Finally, those with legal advocacy skills and those who have funds to support such skills are in great demand.

Elections & Voter Registration

Fair Vote: www.fairvote.org; Contact Person: Dan Zavon

Fair Vote is a national non-profit organization, but there is opportunity to be active at a local level. Locally, volunteers represent the organization by explaining how Ranked Choice Voting and Proportional Representation would improve the fairness of our electoral systems at the local, state and national levels.

- What We Do: FairVote has a proven record since 1992 as a nonpartisan trailblazer that advances and wins electoral reforms at the local, state, and national level through strategic research, communications and collaboration. Today we are the driving force behind advancing ranked choice voting and fair representation in multi-winner legislative districts that will open up our elections to better choices, fairer representation and more civil campaigns.
- Contact: info@fairvote.org

League of Women Voters: lwvcincinnati.org; Contacts: Patricia Rohrer, Rebecca Algenio

- Volunteers welcome and register new citizens to vote at the District Court House downtown and other locations after their naturalization ceremony. Occasionally Voter Registration Training classes are held.
- To get involved, contact: Janice Alvarado - alvaradojga@gmail.com

Affordable, Safe Housing

Housing Opportunities Made Equal (HOME): www.homecincy.org; Contact: Dot Christenson

- HOME uses trained volunteers as 'checkers', to represent minority families who face discriminatory practices in rentals, home buying, refusal to rent to families with children, etc.
- To get involved, visit website or call 513-721-4663

Habitat for Humanity: www.habitatcincinnati.org; Contact: Dot Christenson

- volunteer to help construct houses for lower income families (actively building in Avondale) or help in Habitat Resale stores
- To get involved, visit website or call 513-621-0061

Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition: www.Cintihomeless.org; Contact: Dot Christenson

- wide variety of volunteer opportunities
- To get involved, visit website

Advocates for Affordable Housing: www.affordablehousingcincinnati.org; Contact: Dot Christenson

- This is a coalition of over 25 housing agencies. Monthly meetings are open to the public, you can hear and learn about a wide variety of housing organizations and learn where volunteers are needed. Meets the 4th Tuesday at noon, 411 Gest Street (the Men's shelter in Queensgate)
- To get involved, visit website or attend a meeting

Gun Violence

Ohioans for Gun Safety: www.ohioansforgunsafety.com; Contact: Anne Wallace

- Grassroots, non-partisan advocacy group working to pass a state ballot initiative for commonsense background checks. Closing the legal loopholes that allow for gun sales without background checks is the next best step for a safer Ohio.
- To get involved, visit website

Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence: www.ohioceasefire.org; Contact: Amanda Lynch

- Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, working to prevent gun violence through education, advocacy and public awareness
- Tracks proposed legislation that has the potential to increase or decrease gun violence in Ohio and mobilizes supporters by educating them about the bills and how to contact legislators
- Connect with the organization on Facebook or by visiting the website

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America: www.momsdemandaction.org;

Contact: Martha Walker & Anne Wallace

- Political organization working to reduce gun violence in the USA
- Open to all adults (not just moms!)
- Join via website or text JOIN to 64433

Other Important Causes & Issues That Need Your Help!

Cincinnati-Based:

PROKIDS: www.Prokids.org; Contact Person: Jane Hopson

- ProKids speaks for a growing number of children who have been removed from their homes because of child abuse or neglect and are in the custody of the Hamilton County child protection system.
- With trained, volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) and a dedicated team of ProKids staff members, these children and hundreds like them all have a chance at something different: A safe, permanent and nurturing home.
- To get involved, visit website or call 513-281-2000

The Amos Project: www.theamosproject.org; Contact Person: Dan Schneider

- Amos is a federation of congregations in Greater Cincinnati, including First Unitarian Church, dedicated to promoting justice and improving the quality of life for all residents. The focus is on racial and economic justice. AMOS will take a leading role in getting out the vote for the **Ohio Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation amendment** that is designed to significantly reduce incarceration in Ohio.

GLSEN (previously known for Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network): www.glsencincinnati.org

- We are a well established group dedicated to the efforts of safe schools for ALL. We work with education of the public, schools, private schools, parents and such about keeping schools safe for kids K-12.
- Volunteer Activities: Tabling at events, participating in PRIDE, mentoring in schools with Gay, Straight Alliances, hosting events for children and their parents, Monday night groups for youth (safe place for LGBTQ youth to be together).
- If there are members who like working with LGBTQ youth, tabling at various events either in the day or at night, enjoy planning large programs & events as a team, or mentoring with youth after school in their neighborhood we would love to speak with them.
- How to Get Involved: A background check is necessary and interview. Just go to the website and fill out the volunteer interest page and you will be contacted.
- Contact: Jennifer Bobbit, Volunteer Coordinator; 859-466-6481

Northern Kentucky Area Development District: <http://www.nkadd.org/> Contact Person: Joyce Ravenscraft

- Volunteers visit with patients in nursing and rehabilitation homes who often have no family or friends in the area to visit with them.
- Visit website or contact Joyce for information about volunteering

BYO Bag: *no website*; Contact Person: Denise Olden – denise@cinci.rr.com

- Coalition of people and representatives of groups with a common purpose:
- Objectives/Vision for BYO Bag
 - 1. Pursuance of ban on use of single-use plastic bags in Cincinnati
 - 2. Education about plastic pollution
 - 3. Encourage recycling and reuse of plastic products
 - 4. Expand efforts to include all of Hamilton County, other communities

The Green City plan for Cincinnati includes a desire to move ahead with a ban or fee to restrict single-use bags. A grassroots group is needed to keep the idea moving forward.

Exodus: *no website*; Contact Person: Joyce Ravenscraft - jravenscraft1983@yahoo.com

- Volunteers go in pairs to visit and listen to inmates at the Boone County jail who wish to talk to them.
- Contact Joyce for more information about volunteering

Martha Stephens has been involved in anti-war activities for some years and has had great influence through her published writing, including:

- U. S. military experiments in Cincinnati's public hospital first became known through her book *The Treatment: the story of those who died in the Cincinnati radiation tests*
- She writes for various local publications, including the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. Since the eighties, she has been close to Cincinnati's Homeless Coalition, and has written about war and social justice for a succession of editors at *Streetvibes*, the paper brought out by the Coalition.
- She'd welcome the chance to acquaint younger writers in First Church with editors and publications they might want to work with. She feels we need everybody's input on the social problems we face — especially, perhaps, the travails today of our immigrant friends and other people of color in Cincinnati.
- Contact: stephem@ucmail.uc.edu

Statewide Organizations:

Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio (UUJO): www.uujo.org; Contact Person: Dan Schneider

- UUJO organizes justice seekers statewide to promote education, service and advocacy consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles and to witness with and on behalf of marginalized groups and individuals. UUJO is a statewide social action network for the 38 UU congregations in Ohio. First Unitarian Church is a member.

Ohioans to Stop Executions: www.otse.org

- OTSE provides opportunities to advocate for **clemency** in death penalty cases and advocates for an **end to the death penalty** in Ohio.

On-Going First Church Social Justice Committee Efforts:

Interfaith Hospitality Network

- IHN is our largest volunteer project. Since 2006, we have housed homeless families at the church three to four weeks of each year. About 70 volunteers from First and other churches provide meals, a clean bed, fellowship, and safe harbor for homeless families.

Contact: Faith Maynard, faithmaynard344@gmail.com; phone 513.305.6703

South Avondale Tutoring

- Volunteers from First Church are trained and serve as tutors for kindergartners, Tuesdays 1:00-2:00, Wednesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:30 at [South Avondale Elementary School](#).
- **Contact:** Liv Ramstad, liv.ramstad@gmail.com; phone 513.543.9012

Shiloh Food Pantry

- Volunteers from First Church provide food donations, volunteer labor, and financial contributions to the Shiloh Food Pantry in Avondale.
- **Contact:** Tom Rohrer, trohrer@cinci.rr.com; phone 513.518.9213

If you would like to add an organization to this list, please contact Karen Rohrer: Karen@therohrers.org