



The History of UUSC

- 1939**
Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp travel to Czechoslovakia under sponsorship of the American Unitarian Association to help refugees escape Nazi persecution.
- 1940**
The Unitarian Service Committee is officially established.
Martha Sharp arranges for passage to the United States of 27 children and 10 adults on a rescue mission from Europe.
- War Years**
The Unitarian Service Committee offices in Lisbon, Marseille, Geneva and Paris provide refugee assistance, medical care, clothing and other services.
- 1945**
The Universalist Service Committee is established.
- 1946**
Medical missions are sent to Poland and Czechoslovakia by the Unitarian Service Committee to update medical practices in countries isolated during the war, and the Universalist Service Committee provides relief in the Netherlands.
- 1947**
The Texas Migrant Workers Project begins.
- 1949**
The Universalist Service Committee runs service projects in U.S. state hospitals.
- 1951**
Medical missions are sent to Israel, Japan and Iran.
- 1954**
The Gallup (N.M.) Indian Community Center project offers social services and education to Navajo children and adults.
A social work education program is established in Korea.
- 1955**
An innovative teacher education program is developed in Cambodia.
The Columbia Heights Boys Club in Washington, D.C., offers integrated classes, social services and recreational activities.
- 1956**
Relief work begins in Vienna on behalf of Hungarian refugees.
- 1958**
A health and community development project is established in Nigeria.
- 1960**
Aid is given to Hospital Amazonica Albert Schweitzer in Peru.
The Universalist Service Committee provides flood relief in the Philippines.
Desegregation projects are undertaken in Atlanta, Ga., and Jacksonville, Fla.
- 1962**
Social work education programs start in Jamaica.
- 1963**
The Unitarian and Universalist Service Committees merge.
- 1965**
Advanced nursing training begins in Turkey.
- 1966**
UUSC offers maternal/child health care as well as family planning in Haiti.
Community development work begins with the Passamaquoddy in Maine.
- 1970**
A community health program begins in Togo.
The Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Center and El Centro Chicano in Houston, Texas, offer legal, educational and community services.
- 1973**
UUSC helps Salvadoran clergy publish *Justicia y Paz (Justice and Peace)*, a newsletter offering self-help and literacy skills to the poor in El Salvador.
- 1975**
The National Moratorium on Prison Construction begins, seeking alternatives to incarceration and other criminal justice reforms.
- 1976**
An all-Caribbean conference on family planning and community development is held.
- 1977**
UUSC's Richard Scobie, executive director, and John McAward, international programs director, make a fact-finding trip to El Salvador and testify before the House International Relations Committee.
- 1978**
UUSC sponsors a congressional fact-finding mission to El Salvador, a first by a private agency.
- 1980**
UUSC organizes the first weeklong regionwide meeting for Central American community organizers.
- 1981**
The first UUSC local unit is formed in Topeka, Kan. Its campaign against the death penalty later results in a landmark vote against capital punishment.
The UUSC program on aging begins.
- 1984**
The famine in Ethiopia spurs UUSC to appeal for emergency funds long before U.S. television crews pick up the story.

1985

UUSC publishes the first edition of *Journey to Understanding: Central America* and the *Busy Person's Guide to Social Action*.

1986

UUSC sponsors rural health clinics in Jinotega and Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

1988

The Olympic Gardens Skills Training center in Jamaica expands its program and opens a medical clinic in an impoverished neighborhood.

1989

The Promise the Children program begins. It is a 10-year initiative aimed at addressing the needs of U.S. children through legislative advocacy.

1990

UUSC celebrates its 50th anniversary of "Sharing a Vision of Justice" by expanding U.S. programs.

1991

UUSC partners gather in Senegal for a UUSC-sponsored Institute on Leadership Development and Sustainability for Grassroots Organizations.

1992

After organizing 20 congressional delegations to El Salvador, UUSC celebrates the signing of peace accords which end the 10-year civil war.

UUSC's Urban Emergency Fund responds to the Los Angeles riots sparked by the verdict in the Rodney King trial.

1993

UUSC is asked to send staff to serve as international election monitors for the referendum on independence in Eritrea.

UUSC sponsors a citizens' delegation to Central America to strengthen partners' self-help projects.

1994

UUSC sends emergency medical equipment to Rwanda and begins a long-term relationship with grassroots groups working to bring peace to the region.

Just Works begins, matching UUSC volunteers with other groups to combat social and economic injustice.

1995

In December, UUSC sends a delegation of opinion leaders to Chiapas, Mexico, to investigate human rights violations against indigenous people.

UUSC brings a progressive voice to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women – and related NGO Forum – in China.

1996

UUSC helps to rebuild firebombed black churches in the South as part of its ongoing workcamp program.

Gender Justice is published to engage U.S. citizens in the international women's rights movement.

1997

Firsthand reports from partners describe how the U.S. embargo harms Cuba's most vulnerable citizens.

UUSC expands its Welfare and Human Rights Monitoring Project to address rights violations caused by welfare reform.

1998

Working in worldwide coalition, UUSC plays a leading role in convincing the multinational telecommunications giant, Ericsson, to pull out of Burma.

1999

In response to the crisis in Kosovo, UUSC distributes nearly \$400,000 to partners in the region for relief efforts and programs specifically targeted to aid women and children refugees.

2000

In Yakima, Wash., a UUSC workcamp documents the living and working conditions of migrant farm workers. The resulting report is shared with state legislators.

UUSC launches a member campaign to advocate for an end to the ban on the sale of U.S. food and medicine to Cuba. The first law aimed at easing the embargo in 40 years is passed.

UUSC completes its Endowment Campaign, greatly surpassing its goal.

2001

UUSC releases Phase III of the Welfare and Human Rights Monitoring Project.

UUSC raises \$1.13 million to help victims of the Sept. 11 attacks and their families, focusing on people who may not have received aid otherwise.

2002

UUSC brings a partner from the Democratic Republic of Congo to the United States to tell UU congregations about the situation facing the Congolese people and ways that UUs can support peace.

2003

Dr. Charles Clements, a widely recognized leader in international human rights and public health, is appointed president and chief executive officer of UUSC.

The What's Your Profile? project is launched. It brings together youth from UU congregations, non-UU churches and community-based groups to explore the roots of racism and to develop ways to combat discrimination.

2004

A delegation of UUSC members, activists and policy-makers go to Guatemala in November to monitor the national elections. They witness the defeat of a former dictator turned presidential candidate, by the votes of courageous Guatemalans.

UUSC kicks off Defending Democracy, a nationwide effort to engage U.S. citizens, with an emphasis on youth and young adults, in the election process.

Participants in the first Freedom Summer: A Civil Rights Journey explore the history of the civil rights movement and use what they learned as a springboard to engage in the electoral process.

Under the direction of human rights lawyer Jennifer Harbury, the STOP (Stop Torture Permanently) Campaign is launched to end U.S.-sanctioned torture.

2005

UUSC members and supporters respond with an outpouring of generosity on behalf of victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami. Relief efforts, aimed at restoring livelihoods, are directed at marginalized, neglected and politically oppressed populations.

