

REPAIR RESTORE REIMAGINE



ANNUAL REPORT 2021





Above: Staff from UUSC partner Asylum Access Mexico (AAMX) demonstrate what it means to truly welcome people with dignity — even during a global pandemic, as border restrictions tighten. As a moral counterweight to anti-immigrant sentiment, AAMX compassionately describes families in transit with whom they work: “They carry varying burdens, both mental and physical, of what they have been through. They have all been forced from their homes for who they are, who they love, what they believe, or because of who they stood up to. They all share a desire for safety, stability, and a chance to rebuild.” Photo: AAMX.

Cover: New UUSC partner the Loss and Damage Youth Coalition works to confront the climate crisis by engaging youth leadership and wisdom like Roxana in Mexico, in the field collecting samples of agricultural crops (corn, sunflower, and beans), diagnosing symptoms of adverse impact from climate change. Photo: Marcos Espadas Reséndiz.



REPAIR RESTORE REIMAGINE



MARY KATHERINE MORN
President



NED WIGHT
Board Chair

DEAR UUSC MEMBERS,

Last year, we were unexpectedly called to navigate together multiple threats that COVID-19 brought to ourselves, our families, and our communities in every corner of the globe. Many civil society groups braced for a time of scarcity. Health services organizations began to be overwhelmed. And most governments were responding slowly and inadequately.

However, UUSC’s Board of Trustees recognized there was no greater time for bold and decisive action, and our donors responded with increased generosity.

Over the course of our last fiscal year, UUSC distributed 38 new emergency grants — spending an additional \$420,000 on COVID-related support and \$180,000 on crisis response work — above our regularly planned grantmaking budget. These funds immediately ensured our global network of partners could keep open pathways of opportunity for people who were forced to face an unprecedented public health crisis — on top of the systemic oppression they’ve been confronting. In a time of increasingly complex human rights challenges, you helped UUSC to provide relief when the world’s needs were extraordinary.

While our long-term work continued, the coronavirus tested the bonds of community as never before. Yet, the grassroots human rights heroes with whom we work reported: *the networks of solidarity that activists have worked hard to build over years have remained strong.*

In ways large and small this year, your support has made a real difference for families defending their lives, homes, and ways of life. UUSC’s work increased safety measures and protections for those who are made vulnerable by the pandemic while surmounting the hardships of forced displacement.

This Annual Report shows just a few examples of ways your generous gifts this year have helped to repair harmful inequities and restore rights in times of crisis — as together we reimagine a world built on respect for every person’s dignity.

REPAIRING HARMS TO COMMUNITIES FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

Funding durable, grassroots-led solutions.

Low lying areas in Louisiana, Alaska, and Pacific Islands have been confronting climate challenges long before the world’s increased attention to the issue. They’ve been forced to cope as their homes, crops, and livelihoods are destroyed by changes to the environment — like sea level rise and variations in rain patterns, accompanied by more frequent and intensified storms. These communities must either adapt or leave the place they know as home. Both of these options come at a cost.

UUSC’s Climate Justice portfolio centers the voices and solutions of those most impacted by the climate crisis, particularly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. This work involves disaster preparedness before a crisis hits, as well as post-disaster

recovery from loss and damage that makes sure rebuilding efforts are rooted in justice and equity. It also involves amplifying the advocacy work of our grassroots partners in national and international forums, ensuring they have a seat at the table when policy decisions are made.

However, despite the best mitigation efforts, many communities will be forced to move as the climate crisis worsens. When relocation becomes inevitable for survival, UUSC’s partners work to protect people’s rights and respect their dignity throughout the process.

For example, in Fiji, **Social Empowerment & Education Program (SEEP)**, is working to bring communities together who are in

different stages of adaptation and migration. Those who have already relocated are able to share their wisdom and lessons learned with those who are just beginning to plan to move their communities. The first to relocate have learned that proximity to water supplies, the type of soil and landscape, and discussions around land ownership are all important considerations. And they know the difficulty of leaving behind the only home they’ve ever known only to feel like a guest in a new location. So SEEP has created ways to preserve ancestral knowledge through a robust mapping of losses these communities will sustain: cataloging of soil type, traditional plants, medicine, food, folklore, chants, dance, song, history, genetic resources, genealogy, kinship ties, and burial sites.



Members of UUSC’s partner Social Empowerment & Education Program (SEEP) gather together. Photo: SEEP.

GRANTMAKING IMPACTS: COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Due to climate change, 353 people from Choiseul Island relocated to 12 nearby regions, some as far as 74 miles by boat — done by themselves with no government assistance.

For the relocation of Nuatambu Village, our support helped **Ecological Solutions** provide: 1,360 pieces of glass for louvre windows, 183 window frames, 24 bags of cement, and other necessary materials to rebuild homes, along with four 1,000-liter water tanks in the new location.

On Wagina Island, well water has become salinated from sea level rise, contaminating the community’s drinking water source. UUSC’s grant provided six 5,000-liter water tanks and three 3,000-liter water tanks.



Aerial view of Pacific Island homes threatened by the rising tides of climate change. Photo: Ecological Solutions.



UUSC partners Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS) during a visit to the island of Maloelap to assess flood risks and collaborate with the community on solutions to enhance the safety of their harbor. Photo: MICS.



UUSC partner West Street Recovery works to get ahead of the reactive cycle of disaster response, where families find themselves perpetually trying to recover from insufficient funds and resources. Through its disaster prep program, they invest the time and resources now to build resilience and develop systems of support before the next disaster strikes. Photo: West Street Recovery.

“I’d like to see funders increase responsiveness and flexibility, because these events happen so quickly and the needs on the ground change quite quickly. So sometimes as organizers, as advocates, as organizations, we might make a request to use funds in a particular way and find that in a week, someone else has met that need or a more pressing need has come up.

And this is something that UUSC has been really great at: being responsive, allowing us to be flexible and to change our approach to meet those needs on the ground.”

— ALICIA WALLACE,
UUSC PARTNER EQUALITY BAHAMAS

DISASTER JUSTICE

IMMEDIATE NEEDS, TAILORED EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Each year, we are called to respond to urgent and unexpected crises where we can direct resources to frontline communities whose access to aid is limited. Our work begins with an understanding that how people are oppressed before a disaster will affect their access to relief after a disaster. Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, we identify multiple partner organizations on the ground who are best positioned to respond. They know — and often are from — the affected communities and how to respond to needs in a way that leads to an equitable recovery and honors the right to self-determination. Here are two examples of UUSC assistance to our partners in the aftermath of climate emergencies that arose last year.

IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Within weeks of each other, two Category 4 hurricanes, Eta and Iota, hit Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras with crushing force. UUSC provided emergency grants to two partners supporting communities whose access to aid was already restricted but made even more difficult due to the pandemic. **Fundación San Alonso Rodríguez** led assistance efforts by supplying immediate essentials, like clean water, medicines, and shelter to families in Honduras. **Fundación entre Mujeres** provided packages of staple foods and medicines to rural women farmers and their families whose homes and crops were badly damaged, in an area of Nicaragua already contending with food insecurity.

IN TEXAS

When a severe winter storm shut down the Texas power grid and the state government failed to respond, UUSC listened to groups in Texas who were being left out of immediate aid — individuals living with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and undocumented immigrants — to deliver on the specific support they requested. Our partner the **Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas** distributed water, food, and propane to members of the community who had been hard-hit by the storm. UUSC’s emergency funding to **Living Hope Wheelchair**

Association in Houston assisted individuals with disabilities and their families to purchase food and water, replace damaged wheelchair and car batteries, and repair homes affected by bursting pipes and flooding. **Grassroots Leadership** used UUSC funds to provide groceries for 150 families in need. And **West Street Recovery** helped to restore water access to families by repairing plumbing damaged by the storm, as well as immediate food and water delivery to Texans in need during the disaster.

This we know: due to continued global inaction on climate change, we will face more acute ecological disaster events that require short-term, immediate responses on top of our long-term climate work.

It’s why this year UUSC ramped up our preparedness for future disasters by opening a revolving **Emergency Relief Fund**. It will ensure we are always ready to respond in ways that truly support people who have the least access to traditional aid, whenever calamity strikes unexpectedly. **We are grateful for the generosity of our donors who have already contributed to this fund.**



UUSC partner Pop No 'j, distributing food and supplies to Guatemalan families facing food insecurity due to COVID. Photo: Asociación Pop No 'j.

RESTORING RIGHTS BY DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

Resourcing activists resisting oppression.

For more than 25 years, UUSC has worked to advance human rights in Burma (Myanmar), focusing on people who have been under brutal attack for decades because of their status as religious or ethnic minorities. Our approach strengthens and funds networks of support for activists who are leveraging international mechanisms to restore people’s rights and provide accountability for atrocities. In February 2021, the overthrow of the government through an illegitimate coup by the Tatmadaw (the Burmese military) made our work even more urgent. The solidarity and organizing efforts are essential to the long-term struggle for ethnic and minority rights, which will continue regardless of which government is in power.

Despite increasing restrictions, UUSC has been one of the few international human rights organizations that have been able to provide direct grassroots support for pro-democracy activists participating in the anti-coup movement.

In addition to making existing funds flexible to meet our partners’ unexpected needs, emergency grants provided life-saving physical security for people subjected to deadly crackdowns on dissent. UUSC worked with the U.S. State Department to sponsor several at-risk Burmese activists and their families so that they could receive humanitarian parole visas and travel to the United States.

This has involved providing letters of support to the U.S. government, arranging and paying for flights and health insurance, committing to livelihood stipends for up to a year, and in some cases arranging for legal support upon their arrival (for employment authorization, asylum applications, and more). In many ways, this work carries forward the legacy of our founders Martha and Waitstill Sharp, who confronted genocide during the Holocaust by conducting rescue missions to help Jews escape Nazi Germany. We are similarly called to confront the 21st century genocide happening now to Rohingya people.



“While some funders have many restrictions for reporting or how to use the funds, the very unique thing UUSC focuses on is the need of the impacted communities and allowing the funds to be used in a way that brings about a positive impact, instead of how to use the money or how to report.

This is very helpful for the grantees as well as the impacted community we are working with.”

— MYRA DAHGAYPAW,
UUSC PARTNER, U.S. CAMPAIGN FOR BURMA



One of our Burma crisis response partners delivering food aid for Rohingya refugees who have fled violence and persecution.

GRANTMAKING IMPACTS: REBUILDING LIVES

Besides fueling the work of frontline activists fighting for systemic change in Burma, your gifts helped UUSC provide additional emergency humanitarian assistance for Muslim minority refugees who have fled the country, such as:

Providing relief for nearly 200 families struggling with food insecurity.

Our partners identified stateless Burmese Muslim migrant workers at the Thai-Burma border whose livelihoods were affected during the pandemic due to closing factories. Their lack of Burmese citizenship documents puts them at risk of exploitation and arrest, so many families have been relying on the generosity of the Thai-Burmese Muslim community for food assistance and protection.

Covering the cost of supplies and teaching staff stipends at refugee camp schools.

This allows Rohingya children to receive a free education while living in the refugee camps and engages qualified Rohingya teachers.

Resourcing community centers, particularly for Rohingya women and children.

These safe spaces are integral to the healing, health, and wellness of those who face steep challenges to rebuilding their lives in the wake of genocide. The centers support displaced women by providing civic education, leadership development, and economic opportunities.

REIMAGINING

A WORLD THAT HONORS PEOPLE’S POWER & DIGNITY

Protecting the right to migration.

Many governments — including our own — view migration as a “problem to be fixed” and create immigration policies designed to punish those seeking safety. People leave behind their homes due to lack of employment opportunities, ecological disasters, unrelenting violence and systemic corruption, or other dire reasons. UUSC believes that migration is a human right. The partners we fund are creating a strong movement centered on the inherent rights of people, not invented borders.

“We do not try to stop migration nor promote it. We work to guarantee the right to a dignified life wherever people are and so that, if they decide to live in another place, their movement can happen in safe and dignified conditions. Likewise, we advocate for the defenders of the rights of migrants, so that they can continue doing their work in their communities, in the best possible conditions.”

— UUSC PARTNER SCALABRINIANAS MISIÓN CON MIGRANTES Y REFUGIADOS



UUSC support furthered Asociación Pop No’j’s ability to assist families in maintaining community gardens during times of food scarcity. Photo: Pop No’j.



Photo: Home Storytellers.

THE RIGHT TO STAY

UUSC’s partners are developing systems of protection to address the root causes of migration, which provide new opportunities to enable families to stay in place.

For example, our partner **Asociación Pop No’j** addresses the migration effects stemming from food insecurity in Guatemala by helping people establish household gardens to alleviate widespread hunger that has grown more acute during the pandemic.

Likewise, women’s cooperative **Fundacion entre Mujeres (FEM)** provides economic and food security for women-led households in Nicaragua. FEM has been an especially vital lifeline to the communities they serve as the government fails to care for its citizens’ needs throughout the pandemic.

THE RIGHT TO MIGRATE

People forced to migrate from Central America to Mexico and the United States have the right to seek asylum and should be free from arbitrary detention and deportation.

UUSC’s **Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum Seekers (CAPAS)** provides a compassionate alternative to family separation, detention, and deportation by supporting communities of faith as they host and accompany migrants through the process of obtaining legal asylum in the United States.

In addition, UUSC members took action to keep families together and out of detention by participating in the **Communities Not Cages** campaign. And building on years of momentum, our partner **Make the Road PA** succeeded in ending Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) contracts with the Berks County detention facility in their community.

“UUSC is always there with support in the moment it is most needed. It is very meaningful that there is someone following our struggles, concerned for us during our difficult moments, and willing to support and guide.”

— JUAN JOSÉ HURTADO PAZ Y PAZ, UUSC PARTNER ASOCIACIÓN POP NO’J



GLAHR continued to be a powerful voice in the movement for justice this year, organizing against anti-immigrant bills and mobilizing voters. They provided more than 1,200 small packages to canvassers and community participants containing hand sanitizer, face masks, and materials on COVID safety, along with booklets on how to avoid voter suppression, election registration dates, and where to vote. Photo: Ash Ponders.

GRANTMAKING
IMPACTS:
BASIC NEEDS AND
BEYOND

This year, UUSC expanded its support for several shelters in Mexico serving migrant families as the pandemic dramatically increased the need for services. We equipped our partners with the resources to continue providing comprehensive support to people in migration when arriving at these temporary, safe destinations.

“I never imagined leaving my country and being apart from one of my children. We thank God for having arrived to [the SMR shelter] where they have helped us a lot and they have given us the warmth of a family and when we feel sad and depressed. After all that we have been through what we want most is to be together as a family. Thank you for taking an interest in all migrants and may God bless you for your work.”

— MARIELA SOBEYDA
ALMENDARES CARBAYO

Asylum Access Mexico (AAMX) assists migrants with obtaining documentation to prove their legal status, which allows them to be employed, access national healthcare systems, enroll their children in school, and participate in the national COVID-19 vaccination program. AAMX’s legal aid services help to expedite the asylum process as much as possible so that families can focus on rebuilding their lives.

Annunciation House expanded their border work in Ciudad Juarez, where the dangers to migrant families have escalated dramatically with the rise of COVID-19. Emergency grant

funds purchased personal protective equipment and supplies for both volunteers and families and paid for coronavirus testing to keep the shelters safe from disease.

In addition to a place to stay, clothing, and food, the **Scalabrinianas Misión con Migrantes y Refugiados (SMR)** Casa Mambré shelter provides legal assistance and job placement for those navigating their way through the difficulties of the asylum process. SMR also gives support to former residents who live in Mexico City but are now unemployed or underemployed due to the pandemic.



A desert aid volunteer preparing a meal at a humanitarian aid camp. Photo: No More Deaths.

FINANCIAL REPORTING

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 2021 2020

ASSETS

Cash & Equivalents		
Cash	1,643,143	2,559,510
Money market funds	7,073,522	4,564,958
	8,716,665	7,124,468

Accounts and Interest receivable, net	60,254	144,010
Prepaid expenses and other assets	393,234	383,524
Pledges and grants receivable, net	1,252,734	536,297
Mission related loan receivable	85,085	105,570
Investments	22,204,629	16,252,272
Property and equipment, net	5,359,539	5,606,983
TOTAL ASSETS	38,072,140	30,153,124

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable & accrued expenses	620,219	455,498
Accrued compensation	302,340	351,910
Paycheck Protection Program advance	-	207,412
Bond payable	2,272,827	2,377,255
Pooled income deferred revenue	53,058	59,135
Donor advance - promissory notes	125,000	125,000
Gift annuities and trust agreements	480,233	522,116
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,853,677	4,098,326

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	20,208,309	16,490,318
With donor restrictions	14,010,154	9,564,480
NET ASSETS	34,218,463	26,054,798

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

TOTAL EXPENSES

BY THREE MAJOR AREAS

- PROGRAM SERVICES \$7125 (82.4%)
- FUNDRAISING \$621 (7.2%)
- MANAGEMENT \$895 (10.4%)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 2021 2020

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Total
Public support & revenue	8,481,429	2,176,339	10,657,768	7,582,326
Net assets released from restrictions	396,263	(396,263)	0	0

TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE AND NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION

EXPENSES

Program services	7,124,614	7,124,614	7,112,229
Office space rental	370,361	370,361	387,148
Fundraising	621,307	621,307	711,998
Management	894,640	894,640	894,635
TOTAL EXPENSES	9,010,922	9,010,922	9,106,010

INCOME/(LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS (a)	(133,230)	1,780,076	1,646,846	(1,523,684)
Net non-operating activities (b)	3,851,221	2,665,598	6,516,819	2,754,778

NET ASSETS

Change in net assets (a + b)	3,717,991	4,445,674	8,163,665	1,231,094
Beginning of the year	16,490,318	9,564,480	26,054,798	24,823,704

END OF YEAR

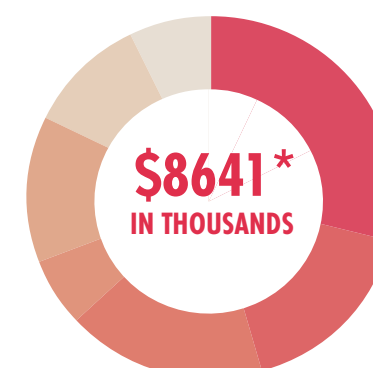
PROGRAM SERVICES

ALLOCATION



- MIGRANT JUSTICE \$2502 (35.1%)
- CLIMATE JUSTICE \$1441 (20.3%)
- PARTNER GRANTS \$1513 (21.2%)
- COLLEGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE \$544 (7.6%)
- CRISIS RESPONSE \$1125 (15.8%)

TOTAL EXPENSES



- MIGRANT JUSTICE \$2502 (29.0%)
- CLIMATE JUSTICE \$1441 (16.7%)
- PARTNER GRANTS \$1513 (17.4%)
- COLLEGE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE \$544 (6.3%)
- CRISIS RESPONSE \$1125 (13.0%)
- MANAGEMENT \$895 (10.4%)
- FUNDRAISING \$621 (7.2%)

* Net of Cambridge office space rental expenses offset by rental income.
Management note on restricted revenue: Restricted Net asset releases in 2021 were lower than they would have been due to UUSC's receipt of a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. The result was an anomalously higher net operating loss offset by an anomalously high level of non-operating revenue. Including the non-operating revenue, UUSC generated net income of \$8.2m overall for the year.

“Having the support from Unitarian Universalists has opened up the door for partnerships with other funders.”

— UUSC PARTNER
LA UNIDAD11