

## NYSCU GRANT PROGRESS REPORT

This report of a 2025 grant received from the New York State Convention of Universalists in is due to Tom Hackett, Clerk, 70 Wall Street, Kingston, NY 12401, or electronically to [NYSCUTom@gmail.com](mailto:NYSCUTom@gmail.com), ON OR BEFORE 30 SEPTEMBER 2025 .

If there is a visual component to the program, please send a photo or two (labeled, please) or other appropriate visual. If there is an audio or video component, please include as well.

**Note:** If your project is not yet underway or is just beginning, you may defer your report until 2026. Please inform the Clerk at the above address if this is the case.

**ORGANIZATION:** The Social Justice Committee of First Unitarian Congregational Society Brooklyn

**DATE OF REPORT:** 1/20/26

**PURPOSE OF GRANT:** To fund a social justice and neighboring community

Teach-In series for the Brooklyn congregation

**AMOUNT OF GRANT:** \$2600

### 1. How was the money actually spent?

#### TOTAL:

| Expense                                                              | Amount | Teach-In             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Honorarium to NYC                                                    | 200    | Immigrant Solidarity |
| Childcare                                                            | 90     | Immigrant Solidarity |
| Snacks & Donations @ BJs                                             | 233.51 | Immigrant Solidarity |
| Stamps (400) @ BJs                                                   | 291    | ALL                  |
| Envelopes                                                            | 25     | ALL                  |
| Women's Leadership Alliance Grant                                    | -300   | Repro Justice        |
| Honorarium to Maryam Mohammed-Miller from PPGNY                      | 200    | Repro Justice        |
| Honorarium to Karen Duda from Haven                                  | 200    | Repro Justice        |
| Post-Abortion Care Kit Supplies                                      | 221.25 | Repro Justice        |
| Snacks for 9/28                                                      | 99.1   | Repro Justice        |
| Honorarium to Kirsten Blahd                                          | 100    | Housing Justice      |
| Snacks for 11/9 (Susan)                                              | 56.48  | Housing Justice      |
| Final Event MLK Day Lunch                                            | 590    | MLK Day of Service   |
| Honorarium to Edwin (Tuff Art Media "Closing the Last Penal Colony") | 200    | MLK Day of Service   |
| MLK Day Supplies - Compostables                                      | 109.7  | MLK Day of Service   |
| MLK Day Supplies - Whistles                                          | 14.1   | MLK Day of Service   |
| Honorarium to Neighborhood Watch Trainers                            | 150    | MLK Day of Service   |
| Childcare for MLK Day                                                | 180    | MLK DAY of Service   |
|                                                                      |        |                      |
| Contribution from SJC fundraising                                    | -60.14 |                      |
|                                                                      |        |                      |
|                                                                      |        |                      |
|                                                                      |        |                      |
| TOTAL                                                                | 2600   |                      |

2. By your best estimate, how many people were/are being reached/served?

About 200 folks attended the four teach-ins we held (Immigrant Solidarity, Reproductive Justice, Housing Justice & the MLK Day of Service, which featured an abolitionist screening and immigration defense training). We were able to donate three enormous bags of socks, underwear, undershirts, and diapers to a mutual aid organization that serves asylum seekers and immigrants in Brooklyn, and we were able to put together 24 care packages that included hot pads, menstrual pads, lotion, chapstick, granola bars, compression socks, and water bottles for patients receiving abortion care in New York, and we mailed hundreds of letters and put together whistle/zine packages.

3. How well have the *goals* of the program/project been met, and how has this determination been made?

The goal of the program/project was to bring advocacy around social justice issues to our congregants and community and to offer them immediate action—including donation drives and letter-writing. In this sense, we have been successful. We have brought outside experts on social justice issues to our community, and we have led advocacy efforts. We have also created space for activism to take root and to think about social justice concerns.

4. What *concerns* developed in the course of the program/project?

One major concern is getting enough hands/volunteers in terms of planning, managing, and producing the teach-in events. There are a lot of moving pieces: reaching out to speakers, drafting letters to representatives, learning about legislation in order to draft letters, purchasing snacks and donation materials, brainstorming donation recipients, physically bringing donations *to* recipients, and then the day-of tasks like moving chairs, AV, kitchen help, etc. It's hard to balance the work fairly.

5. Is this program/project complete?

Yes

- A. If yes, what are the implications for the future?

The series was a hit with the congregation, and there is interest in more events of this kind, and in taking action to close Rikers (after seeing the film “Closing the Last Penal Colony”) and form Neighborhood Watch groups. We will just have to make sure the labor is evenly divided if we go forward with more events of this kind.

6. Would you do the program/project again, or recommend it to others? Explain.

I would do it again if more folks wanted to step into leadership roles for the teach-in series. We always have enough volunteers, but personally I felt it was too much for one person to organize each event. I'd love for other folks to step up and suggest events and take on the organization.

In congregations/communities where volunteer support is robust, I wholeheartedly recommend this kind of program. It's great to hear about a justice issue and then be able to immediately sit down to write letters and organize donations to help. Our congregants had lots of positive feedback about these events.

Name of respondent: Emily Hockaday

Address: 7939 78th Avenue, Glendale NY 11385

Phone: 860-748-7423

Email: [emily.hockaday@gmail.com](mailto:emily.hockaday@gmail.com)

*Thank you!*