



## UUFF SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NEWS

APRIL 30, 2020

### UPCOMING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EVENTS

#### FALMOUTH SERVICE CENTER: from Cathy Kligler

- Open but in a very different way – drive through pick up of prepackaged bags - in Gifford Street parking lot 10 am to noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
- Anybody from anywhere can drive through and pick up groceries - minimal intake process
- Financial requests (for help with utility bills, rent, etc.) are available to Falmouth residents – are handled over the phone
- FSC collaborating with senior center to run home food delivery program for people who can't get to the service center - geared towards making sure that seniors and really home-bound individuals get food
- Help spread the word to anyone who needs food to come to the service center

#### BOURNE FOOD PANTRY: from Heather di Paolo

- At this time they are a drive-through pantry for clients and are only accepting monetary donations that can be mailed to: PO Box 144, Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

#### FALMOUTH CARES: selling T-Shirts For A Cause

- To benefit Belonging To Each Other & the Falmouth Service Center
- Proceeds from the sale of the T-shirts will be shared equally between the two organizations.
- FALMOUTH CARES is a business roundtable on FCTV, hosted by Troy Clarkson and includes Michael Kasparian, William Zammer and Gary Vacon
- To order a Falmouth Cares T-shirt: <https://bteofalmouth.com>

**Local Charities Food Certificates Sales DONATIONS NEEDED:** The SAC distributes funds earned from the sales of the grocery gift cards annually. **Please donate to the Local Charities Food Certificates Program.** Despite the pandemic, SAC would like to distribute generous funds to the charities in May, 2020. To support this effort, please mail a check to the Fellowship, payable to UUFF-SAC, writing the word "Donation" on the memo line. Thank you for helping out. Contact Julia Withers 508-477-1849 with any questions. Visit UUFF website: <https://uuffm.org/justice/local-giving/>



#### IMMIGRATION REFUGEE ALLIANCE:

- Helping undocumented immigrants on Cape Cod: Tom Ryan, Chair of the The Cape Cod Council of Churches "Migrant and Refugee Committee", has finalized the details on how people can help undocumented immigrants on Cape Cod by making donations through Catholic Social Services. If you are interested in this opportunity, please read the letter from Tom Ryan at the end of this document. It gives the details of how this fund will work and be administered.

- Support of Chelsea Family: Members of our Alliance have continued to provide financial support to help Kelly and the family to cover their rent and buy groceries during this very difficult time in Chelsea. THANK YOU to all who have sent donations to help with this effort.
- Suitcase Stories: As one might expect, the completion of the Suitcase Stories project in Falmouth has been moved ahead to the fall. Cheryl Hamilton of the International Institute of New England has recommended we establish a date to reschedule the live performance of Suitcase Stories for late fall.
- Casa Alitas Drive: the drive for items to send to Casa Alitas, the first stop for asylum seekers in Tucson, AZ after being released by ICE, has been suspended until such time as the collected items can be delivered to Casa Alitas. Thank you to all who have donated so far. Your donations will be sent to Tucson as soon as possible.

### **WELCOMING CONGREGATION:**

The Welcoming Congregation Committee continues to meet by Zoom monthly. Most of our projects are cancelled or postponed due to the virus but we still plan to install the Rainbow banner around the meetinghouse on Saturday, May 9th, while practicing social distancing. Also, Michael Goldring is donating a book to the LGBTQ shelf of our UUFF Library. The book is Global Gay; "How Gay Culture Is Changing the World" by Frederick Martel, 2018, MIT Press.

### **GREEN SANCTUARY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION UPDATE:**

As we socially distance to protect ourselves and others, we reconnect to nature through walks, planting, and working on-line to address climate change.

UUFF representatives meet monthly with other Cape and Islands members of the thirty-two faith communities of the Faith Communities Environmental Network (FCEN)  
<https://capecodclimate.org/faithnetwork/>.

In April, we shared our April 26th Earth Day Service material for other network members to use in their Earth Day services.

Our Building and Grounds Committee is working with Chris McQuarrie, our new Caretaker, to plan and begin work on our grounds for eco-friendly beautification.

Many UUFF members and friends are committed and involved getting the fifteen towns on the Cape to declare a Climate emergency <https://capecodclimate.org/about-the-emergency-initiative/>.

The six "One Cello- One Planet" benefit concerts we have organized for climate action on the Cape and Islands [www.onecellor.org](http://www.onecellor.org) may be re-imagined as virtual on-line concerts. The concerts will support work for climate education, sharing best practices, and advocacy by FCEN.

If you are looking for the next steps you can take at home and in support of local climate action, Cape Light Compact can help, [www.capelightcompact.org](http://www.capelightcompact.org). Supported by the Commonwealth, they provide free energy audits, energy efficient materials, and information and guides to help you be a climate actioneer.

For more information or to get more involved, contact Lew Stern at [lewstern49@gmail.com](mailto:lewstern49@gmail.com).

↓ Letter from Tom Ryan with proposal to help local undocumented immigrants ↓

April 24, 2020

Dear Friends,

As we know, the undocumented immigrants who are our neighbors here on the Cape and Islands -- who have helped our economy and will help it again – are not receiving \$1,200. from our government. Despite their economic crises, despite the nearly total unemployment in the hospitality industry – along with the scare of asking for health care, especially with the new public charge rule – they get nothing.

Some of us have received emails seeking contributions from our \$1,200, to help immigrants, directly or indirectly. Some of you may have already decided to donate to those funds. Some may justly need the 1,200 for themselves. For those who would like to share your \$1,200. directly with a local undocumented immigrant household in need, and with nowhere else to turn, I have a local proposal.

Catholic Social Services (diocese of Fall River), among its many human services, provides pro-bono legal services for many of the undocumented in its service area. Rebecca Eissenova, who recently replaced Schuyler Pisha as legal director of services for immigrants, checked with the other leaders of CSS. She wrote to me that they "would be honored to accept the donations and help them get to our undocumented clientele." This is now being called the "COVID-19 Cape Project" and funds will go to undocumented individuals and households on the Cape and Islands known to Catholic Social Services. This interim cash assistance is for this limited moment – until June 30 – and can be used by beneficiaries for rent, utilities, food, medicine, or other such needs. The CSS immigration office will assess each household's need and administer this project responsibly.

If you wish to donate your \$1,200., or any portion thereof, to this project, there are two ways of doing so:

\* TO DONATE BY MAIL:

Write "COVID-19 Cape Project" in the memo section Mail checks / money orders directly to / payable to

Catholic Social Services Finance Department 1600 Bay Street Fall River MA 02724

\* TO DONATE ONLINE:

Go to the website for Catholic Social Services, Diocese of Fall River and follow prompts to donate via PayPal

<https://www.cssdioc.org/monetary-giftsonline-donation/> Click "general donation" and write "COVID-19 Cape Project" in the comment section.

CSS is a 501c3 agency (donations are tax deductible), and CSS will be sending you a thank you note. If you want to see the good work they do in many aspects of life in our region, visit their website [www.cssdioc.org](http://www.cssdioc.org)

As ever, I can be reached for more info at [gthomasryan@verizon.net](mailto:gthomasryan@verizon.net)

THANK YOU !

G. Thomas Ryan

Eastham MA

Member of many immigration-related committees, like the Nauset Interfaith Association's Refugee Support Team, the Cape Cod Coalition for Safe Communities, and founder of the Migrant and Refugee Committee.

This proposal is not from any committee or organization – rather a project that seems right.