



Resources for Faithful Child Advocates

The following resources may be useful to you and your place of worship as you work to create change for children today and bring hope and a better tomorrow. In this section you will find:

- Resources from the Children's Defense Fund
- Resources from Other Sources
- Resources from the Bahá'í Community

- Resources from the Christian Community
- Resources from the Jewish Community
- Resources from the Unitarian Universalist Community
- Resources for Children

In addition to exploring the resources from your own religious tradition, you may find that resources from another tradition are informative and useful as well.

Resources from the Children's Defense Fund

Unless otherwise noted, all of the following may be ordered by visiting the CDF web store at www.childrensdefense.org or by calling (865) 457-6466. Many of the publications can be downloaded for free at www.childrensdefense.org/Publications.

The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat Is So Small: Charting a Course for the Next Generation

by Marian Wright Edelman

A call to action for all Americans to address the urgent needs of the country's youth, this book is a series of letters to a variety of audiences—educators, faith leaders, youth, mothers, elected officials and concerned citizens nationwide—that reflect on the social and economic progress as well as the setbacks since Dr. King's death 40 years ago. Mrs. Edelman challenges each audience to step up and take action at this pivotal moment to ensure a level playing field for the next generation. Hyperion, 147 pages, 2008. \$19.95 Available in stores and on-line at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and borders.com.

The State of America's Children 2008

This edition of CDF's analysis of the status of children in America puts a special focus on child poverty and the nearly 13 million children who are poor, and includes the latest developments and data related to family income, child welfare, child health and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), early childhood development, education, and juvenile justice. Foreword by Marian Wright Edelman offers both vision and challenge. The 2008 edition can be downloaded from CDF's website at www.childrensdefense.org.

Did Your Members of Congress Protect Children? The 2007 Children's Defense Fund Action Council Nonpartisan Congressional Scorecard

This Scorecard documents how well your state's congressional delegation voted to protect the children in your state and the nation in 2007. Based on crucial votes that affected the lives of millions of children in America, the CDF Action Council names the best and worst Senators and Representatives in protecting children. Download this edition for free at <http://www.cdfactioncouncil.org/>.

America's Cradle to Prison PipelineSM Report

This report documents an urgent national crisis at the intersection of poverty and race. The report includes an overview of the major factors behind the Pipeline, photographs that show the faces of children in the Pipeline, case studies describing how the Pipeline affects children, calls

for the hard work and persistence needed to build a transforming movement, descriptions of some promising approaches to help keep children out of the Pipeline, and research tables and state-by-state data of key child indicators. CDF, 234 pages, 2007. \$9.95

Protect Children, Not Guns 2008

CDF's annual report about the toll gun violence is taking on our children and society. Contains tables and graphs outlining the latest data for firearm deaths of children and teens, as well as action steps that you can take to help prevent this senseless loss of lives. CDF, 16 pages, 2008. Available for free by calling (865) 457-6466.

Katrina's Children: Still Waiting 2007

In 2006, CDF released *Katrina's Children: A Call to Conscience and Action*, a report highlighting the trauma and heartrending stories of young Katrina evacuees struggling with their devastating losses. As our nation's attention has moved on to the next big story, thousands of Katrina survivors are still scattered across the country or crowded into "temporary" trailers waiting to return home. This second "call to conscience and action" looks at what still needs to be done to help them get their lives back and address their health and mental health needs, especially as it relates to chronic and acute traumatic stress disorder. Report is available for free by calling (865) 457-6466.

When Will We Hear Dr. Martin Luther King's Call to End Poverty? 2008 National Observance of Children's Sabbaths Manual

by Shannon Daley-Harris

Focusing on the theme, "When Will We Hear Dr. Martin Luther King's Call to End Poverty?" this multi-faith, easy-to-use resource manual provides congregations everything they need to plan, promote, and present a Children's Sabbath celebration. CDF, 190 pages, 2008. \$8.00 You can also download the manual at www.childrensdefense.org.

In Harm's Way: True Stories of Uninsured Texas Children

Texas has the highest rate of uninsured children in the nation, 20.2 percent, compared to 11.6 percent nationally. In this report from CDF-Texas, families lacking health coverage tell their stories, from frustrating to frightening, of the overwhelming obstacles they encountered in trying to get medical care and health insurance for their children. This report is dedicated to Devante Johnson, who went without health coverage for four months while struggling against cancer of the kidneys. He died at the age of 14 in March 2007. Report can be downloaded for free from CDF's website at www.childrensdefense.org.

Hold My Hand: Prayers for Building a Movement to Leave No Child Behind

by Marian Wright Edelman

An inspiring collection of Marian Wright Edelman's heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of petition, and pledges of commitment that will move and encourage you. CDF, 92 pages, 2001. \$6.95

Holding Children in Prayer: A Lenten Guide,
Shannon Daley-Harris and Eileen W. Lindner, eds.

Each spring renew your spirit and your commitment to children with this Lenten Guide offering daily lessons, reflections, and prayers to encourage and strengthen your commitment to continue serving and advocating for children. Contributors to this collection include Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor, Dr. Diana Garland, Dr. Rebecca Davis, Dr. Eileen W. Lindner, and Shannon Daley-Harris. CDF, 60 pages, 1997. \$2.00

Holding Children in Prayer: An Advent Guide
by Shannon Daley-Harris

During the holiday season, keep children in your thoughts and prayers with this Advent Guide. Includes Lighting the Advent Candle, scripture readings, reflections, prayers, and Acts in Faith for every day of Advent. CDF, 72 pages, 2001. \$2.00

I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children

by Marian Wright Edelman

Marian Wright Edelman has drawn from a variety of cultures and peoples to compile these timeless stories, poems, quotations, and folktales that speak to all children to let them know they can make a difference in today's world. Illustrated by Barry Moser, the book highlights 12 values children and youths can aspire to achieve. Harper Collins Publishers, 112 pages, 2005. Hardcover. \$19.99

Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors

by Marian Wright Edelman

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, shares powerful stories about the mentors in her life from her childhood through the Civil Rights Movement to the founding and building of CDF. She pays tribute to the extraordinary personal mentors who helped light her way: Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert F. Kennedy, Fannie Lou Hamer, William Sloane Coffin, Ella Baker, Mae Bertha Carter, and many others. She brings home the importance of mentoring, caring about, and standing for children every day. Beacon Press, 180 pages, 1999. Hardcover \$20.00, softcover \$14.00

The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours

by Marian Wright Edelman

A touching and moral message from Marian Wright Edelman to her sons—a message both introspective and compelling that all of us can use in our daily struggle to find the right balance. She passes on a family legacy based on service to others and the 25 lessons for life she wants most to impart to her sons. Beacon Press, 97 pages, 1992. \$9.00

Guide My Feet: Prayers and Meditations on Loving and Working for Children

by Marian Wright Edelman

Marian Wright Edelman offers inspiration, prayers of thanksgiving, pleas for guidance, and pledges of commitment. Beacon Press, 210 pages, 1995. Hardcover \$17.95, softcover \$10.00

I'm Your Child, God: Prayers for Our Children
by Marian Wright Edelman

Contemporary, multi-cultural prayers for children and teens dealing with the complexities of growing up in today's world, accompanied by stunning illustrations by Caldecott Honor Medal winner Bryan Collier. Hyperion, 90 pages, 2002. \$19.99

Dream Me Home Safely: Writers on Growing Up in America

This book tells the stories of the many ways children make a place for themselves in their families' hearts and in the world. With insight, skill, great humor, and zestful candor, the writers offer a glimpse of their childhood selves. Written by some of America's most outstanding authors (Anna Quindlen, Alice Walker, Joyce Carol Oates, and many others), this compilation highlights the complexities and preciousness of childhood and the importance of family and rituals in the lives of children. Houghton Mifflin, 244 pages, 2003. \$13.00

"A Prayer for Children" video

This moving poem by Ina Hughs is read by Marian Wright Edelman, along with footage of children, creating an inspirational three-minute video that may be used in worship, educational programs, or to begin or end a meeting. \$6.00

Resources from the Bahá'í Community

The following resources all are available from Bahá'í Distribution Service: 1(800) 999-9019 or www.bahaibookstore.com/index.cfm:

- *In Service to the Common Good by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S.*, 56 pages, 2004.
- *For the Betterment of the World* by the Bahá'í International Community, 32 pages, 2002.
- *Foundations for a Spiritual Education, Research of the Bahá'í Writings*
- *Family Life and Bahá'í Education*, compiled by the Research Department of the Universal House of Justice
- *To Be a Mother* and *To Be a Father*, both compiled by Wendi Momen, George Ronald Press
- *When We Grow Up* by Bahiyih Nakhjavani, George Ronald Press
- *The Brilliant Stars: The Bahá'í Faith and the Education of Children* by H.T.D. Rost, George Ronald Press
- *The Virtues Project Educator's Guide: Simple Ways to Create a Culture of Character*, Jalmar Press
- *Healing Racism: Education's Role*, Editors: Nathan Rutstein, Michael Morgan, Whitcomb Publishing
- *On the Front Lines: Bahá'í Youth in Their Own Words*, Editors: Heather Brandon, Aaron Emmel, George Ronald Press
- *ONE Magazine: Wealth & Poverty*, Vol. 2.5, Editor: The Bahá'ís of Eliot, Maine
- *Youth: Channels for Change: A Compilation of Extracts from the Writings of the Bab, Baha'u'llah, Abdu'l-Baha, Shoghi Effendi and the Universal House of Justice Relating to Youth*

Resources from the Christian Community

Weaving a Just Future for Children: An Advocacy Guide by Diane C. Olson and Laura Dean F. Friedrich

In *Weaving a Just Future for Children*, Olson and Friedrich use the image of weaving to bring together biblical and theological imperatives for caring action (the loom), various tools and issues for child advocacy (the warp), and specific productive ways that individuals and churches can advocate for children (the weft). Newcomers to advocacy will feel welcome, and longtime activists will learn new takes on both advocacy and recruiting others to the work. The authors give a broad perspective on the problems children face worldwide and offer well-researched, thoughtfully structured faith responses to issues. A study guide is included to assist groups of adults and youth groups study the book in three sessions. Discipleship Resources, 208 pages, 2008. Softcover \$15.00

Child Poverty: Love, Justice, and Social Responsibility by Pamela Couture

A tool for those who wish to become instigators of love and justice in the world. Developed from a nine-year task force for the United Methodist Bishops Initiative on Children and Poverty, *Child Poverty* explores the possibilities for the church to assume a responsibility for children with needs in the local community, state, nation, and around the world. Children who are economically poor face many of the same problems as children with more economic means, yet poverty concentrates problems in the lives of poor children. Problems that should be merely an inconvenience turn out to be life threatening for some children. Through analysis of concrete cases and ministries, *Child Poverty* demonstrates that the flourishing of poor children and all children is best supported by interdependent conditions of both love and justice. Just as children and poverty are interconnected, so too should be love and justice. Chalice Press, 2008.

Prayers for the New Social Awakening

Christian Iosso and Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, eds.

A compilation of nearly 100 prayers on social justice themes including poverty, economic justice, and care for the environment from well-known church and community leaders in honor of the one-hundredth anniversary of the 1908 Social Creed and the development of a Social Creed for the Twenty-first Century. These prayers reflect the diversity of the Christian faith and call for the church to be awakened to meet the social challenges of the twenty-first century. Contributors include Marian Wright Edelman, Walter Brueggemann, Tony Campolo, Katie Geneva Cannon, and others. Westminster John Knox Press, 185 pages, 2008.

Hope for Children in Poverty: Profiles and Possibilities, edited by Ronald J. Sider and Heidi Unruh, foreword by Marian Wright Edelman

Editors Ron Sider and Heidi Unruh have drawn together the expertise of academics, activists, clergy, and social service professionals to consider—biblically, educationally, physically, sociologically, politically—the special concerns of children living in poverty. Discover ways you, your church, and your community can transform the world for America's children. Free study guide available online at www.judsonpress.com. Judson Press, 168 pages, 2007.

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Raising Children to Love Their Neighbors

by Carolyn C. Brown

Practical plans with reproducible activities and outlines for classroom and service experiences for children ages 3 to twelve to nurture mission-minded children. “How to” plans that churches can build into their current programs, with a hands-on enrichment curriculum for grades 1-5, more than a year of monthly service projects for preschoolers, mini-workshops for teachers, and newsletter blurbs about the program. Abingdon Press, 114 pages, 2008.

Thus Far On the Way: Toward a Theology

of Child Advocacy

by Dr. Eileen W. Lindner

Based on sermons and speeches that Rev. Lindner delivered over more than a decade at CDF’s Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry each July, this superb book develops a theology of child advocacy, skillfully weaving together theology, church history, biblical exegesis, and more, with Lindner’s classic stories and humor that move the reader through laughter and tears to faithful action. Foreword by Marian Wright Edelman. Presbyterian Publishing House, 116 pages, 2006. Available from Presbyterian Distribution Services at 1 (800) 524-2612 and www.amazon.com.

Congregational Health Ministries Resource Packet

An information packet containing resources useful in developing congregational health ministries using the parish nurse, lay counselor, participatory approach and congregations as healing community models. Packet available through the United Methodist Church, www.umc.org.

Health for All: A Congregational Health Ministries Resource

Manual for congregational use exploring health issues and factors that promote a healthier life for all. Each chapter contains a Bible study, information case study, discussion questions, and suggestions for action. Available through the United Methodist Church, www.umc.org.

A Church for All God’s Children

In 1996 the Council of Bishops called upon The United Methodist Church to reshape its life in response to the crisis among children and the impoverished and in faithfulness to Jesus Christ. Congregations are invited to undertake specific actions to make their churches more responsive to the needs of children and their families in the church and community. This packet contains resources (checklist, guidelines, resource list, and reporting

form) for churches that want to participate and to qualify as a “Church for All God’s Children.” The packet, which was sent to every United Methodist congregation, is available on The United Methodist website at <http://archives.umc.org/initiative/pdf/cp.pdf>.

Putting Children and Their Families First: A Planning Handbook for Congregations

This book offers strategies for assessing children’s needs in the congregation and the community; identifying the strengths and assets of children, families, and communities; and developing a plan for comprehensive ministries. It also provides a biblical framework for ministry and suggestions for implementing new ministries. General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church. To order, call 1 (800) 305-9857.

Community with Children and the Poor: A Guide for Congregational Study

This six-session study guide for use by small groups in a congregational setting is based on the United Methodist Bishops’ Letter Community with Children and the Poor and was prepared by the Task Force for the Bishops’ Initiative on Children and Poverty. Sessions focus on the Bishops’ Initiative, Community with the Poor, Economic Globalization, Global Debt, the State of Poor Children in the U.S., and Where Do We Go from Here. Cokesbury, 2003. To order, call 1 (800) 672-1789.

The Child-Friendly Church

by Boyce Bowdon

One hundred and fifty examples of how churches of various sizes and settings are faithfully ministering to and with children and the impoverished. Models include ways churches attract children and their families, models that help children grow as disciples of Christ, models that enable churches to minister to their communities, and models for ministry to and with the poor. Concludes with consideration of what it takes to make a child-friendly church. Abingdon Press, 142 pages, 1999.

Children’s Ministries: Ministries That Help Children Grow in Faith

by Mary Alice Gran

A practical resource that helps children’s ministries leaders understand elements of that ministry and how it fits within the mission of the congregation and the United Methodist Church. Sections include children in the life of the congregation, ministry in the community and world, and more. Cokesbury, 40 pages, 2004.

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Listen to the Children! (35-minute video)

This video takes a look at the lives of children—their needs, fears, and hopes. To create this video, children at four church settings in diverse communities were given video cameras. Hear children's own messages to us through singing, dance, drama, and interviews. To order, call the United Methodist Church at 1 (800) 305-9857.

The United Methodist Women's Campaign for Children, Phase III

The third phase of this campaign is focused on advocacy in public school education. A "how to" booklet (#3223 for \$5.00) is available from the Mission Resource Center, 1221 Profit Drive, Dallas, TX 75247-3191 or call 1(800) 305-9857.

United Methodist Women's Division Action Alerts

Alerts provide updates on legislative issues that address concerns of United Methodist Women including children's issues. Receive by contacting the Women's Division, Office of Public Policy, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Suite 530, Washington, DC 20002 or call 202-488-5660. For other information about current campaigns related to children's issues, contact the Women's Division, Office of Community Action, CCUN/UMOUN, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017 or call 212-682-3633.

Seeing Children, Seeing God: A Practical Theology of Children and Poverty

by Pamela D. Couture

A holistic theology that incorporates the reality of poverty and the plight of children, this book is a resource for theologians, pastors, and other church leaders. Abingdon Press, 144 pages, 2000.

Safe Haven for Children, Hope for Congregations and Communities

From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a folder of tools and information to help Lutheran churches become "Safe Havens" for children in the community. Folder includes an emblem identifying the congregation as a Safe Haven for Children, a reproducible congregational resolution to become a Safe Haven, a certificate, and practical materials spelling out how congregations can be safe havens for children in poverty, needing child care, at risk of abuse, and more. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1999, ISBN 6-0001-0865-6. To order, call 1 (800) 328-4648.

Introducing Caring for Health bulletin insert

Bulletin insert offering suggestions for bringing the social statement to life in your congregation. Download from www.elca.org/socialstatements/health/bulletin.

Decade of the Child

A brochure, newsletter, and range of other resources are available to help congregations participate in the General Assembly designated "Decade of the Child" and lift up the special gifts and needs of children and youths, birth to 18, within the church, beyond the church, and throughout the world. For more information, call 1 (888) 728-7228 and ask for the Presbyterian Child Advocacy Office or write to: The Decade of the Child, The Child Advocacy Office, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, KY 40202-1396.

Presbyterians In Covenant With Children Intro Booklet

This booklet presents an invitation for PC(USA) groups or congregations to become a part of a network of Presbyterians who care about children and who want to make a difference with and for them. The booklet includes a three-session discernment study to help congregations reflect on what they are already doing and what further steps God is calling them to make with and for children. Order from Presbyterian Distribution Service, PDS#24-354-08-002, or download in PDF format at www.pcusa.org/children. Free.

www.presbykids4kids.org

This website for older elementary children is designed to empower kids to take action on behalf of other kids. Children can read stories, play games, and engage in other activities to learn more about the needs of children both here and worldwide and to take action on their behalf. Includes a section for parents and leaders.

Light a Candle for Children Prayer Vigil Project

This brochure provides information about the Ecumenical Light a Candle for Children project begun by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This project leads up to and brings attention to the Children's Defense Fund's *National Observance of Children's Sabbaths*. During the vigil, congregations are encouraged to pray for children and learn more about children's needs. People in the congregation and/or community are invited to take one of the 40 days to light a candle and spend the day in prayer for children. For information, visit www.homelandministries.org/FamilyandChildren/candle.htm. To download a generic copy of the brochure, visit <http://www.nccusa.org/pdfs/lightacandlebrochure.html>.

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Building Assets in Congregations: A Practical Guide for Helping Youth Grow Up Healthy

This guide offers everything you'll need to create a congregation that builds assets—young people's strengths. Perfect for youth workers, clergy, volunteers, and others, this practical book includes: worksheets for assessing and planning your current priorities and programs; strategies and ideas for introducing assets into youth programs; tips for creating intergenerational programs and parent workshops; and ten reproducible bulletin inserts. Search Institute, 176 pages, 1998. #113. To order, call 1 (800) 888-7828.

Catholic Resources

Health Care for All Campaign brochure

Introduced at the 2005 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, it is available for download at www.usccb.org.

Health and Health Care: A Pastoral Letter of the American Catholic Bishops

This statement issued in 1981 addresses the message of the Gospel and tradition, responsibility for health, formal health apostolate, and public policy. It is available for download at www.usccb.org.

Catholic Campaign for Children and Families: Parish Resource Manual

This comprehensive resource includes practical planning and support materials, clip art, bulletin quotes, liturgical and preaching guides and models to help parishes integrate a focus on children and families into all aspects of parish life. Includes the Bishops' Statement, "Putting Children and Families First: A Challenge for Our Church, Nation, and World," a resource developed by committees on domestic social policy, international policy, and marriage and family life. A video is also available. Also available in Spanish, \$6.95. To order, call the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at 1 (800) 235-8722 and ask for publication number 525-9.

Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops addresses the call to personal discipleship, evangelization, and leadership. Offered as a "blueprint" for the continued development of effective ministry with young and older adolescents, this framework is an affirmation of the faith, gifts, energy, and fresh ideas of young people, a Christ-centered vision, and a call to empower young people. Available in English and Spanish, 61 pag, \$5.95. To order, call 1 (800) 235-8722.

Organizations:

The following key national Catholic social ministry organizations are associated with the USCCB and provide valuable resources to support the Catholic community in its work on poverty and health-related concerns:

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: For information and educational materials on poverty in the United States, go to www.povertyusa.org. For information on the Church's program to support self-help groups in low-income neighborhoods, go to www.usccb.org/cchd.

Catholic Charities USA: For parish social ministry resources, advocacy materials, and information on how the Catholic community serves people in need throughout the United States, go to www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.

Catholic Health Association: For resources and information on Catholic health care and efforts to provide accessible and affordable health care for all, go to www.chausa.org. Its framework for health care reform published in April 2000 is *Continuing the Commitment: A Pathway to Health Care Reform*. In addition, it has an extensive resource catalog of health-related publications and other resources for the Catholic community.

Catholic Relief Services: For advocacy and educational materials on international issues as well as information on the relief and development efforts of the Church in the United States at sites around the world, go to www.catholicrelief.org.

USCCB Department of Social Development and World Peace: For parish resources and educational materials as well as advocacy resources and general information on the U.S. bishops' efforts to address issues of justice and peace, go to www.usccb.org/sdwp.

USCCB Migration and Refugee Services: For parish resources, advocacy materials, and general information on programs of the Church in the United States to support and resettle immigrants and refugees, go to www.usccb.org/mrs.

There are many additional organizations within the Catholic community and beyond that offer programs and resources for understanding and responding to poverty. Throughout the country, there are many diocesan and parish programs that offer essential help to poor people who are struggling to live in dignity. In addition, state Catholic conferences and diocesan social ministry offices work on justice issues and provide helpful information to

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schools and parishes. Catholics join with many ecumenical, interfaith, and other groups to defend human dignity. For more information, go to www.usccb.org/sdwp.

USCCB Statements on Health Care, Economic Issues, and Other Justice Areas

USCCB documents outlining policy criteria on a range of key issues related to health care and poverty include:

- *Health and Health Care*
- *A Framework for Comprehensive Health Care Reform*
- *A Catholic Framework for Economic Life*
- *A Commitment to All Generations: Social Security and the Common Good*
- *A Decade After “Economic Justice for All”: Continuing Principles, Changing Context, New Challenges*
- *A Jubilee Call for Debt Forgiveness*
- *Called to Global Solidarity*
- *Economic Justice for All*
- *Food Policy in a Hungry World*
- *Homelessness and Housing: A Human Tragedy, a Moral Challenge*
- *In All Things Charity*
- *Moral Principles and Policy Priorities for Welfare Reform*
- *Putting Children and Families First*
- *Welcome and Justice for Persons with Disabilities*

These documents can be ordered from USCCB Publishing by calling toll-free 1 (800) 235-8722 or obtained by visiting the U.S. bishops’ website. Also available on the USCCB website (www.usccb.org) are recent testimony and action alerts on these and related issues.

Resources from the Jewish Community

The Religious Action Center website, www.rac.org, has a variety of advocacy resources including information on issue areas including children and poverty, legislative reviews and agendas, and links to write letters to the President and Congress. You can also join RAC’s Advocacy Network and sign up to receive emails; RACNews delivers Chai IMPACT Action Alerts, the RAC’s Weekly Legislative Update, all RAC press statements, program announcements, Web updates, and other timely information to anyone with an email address. “Social Action” is an interactive electronic social justice activists’ discussion group, where you can share your successes, learn from others, and discuss pressing issues of the day with other committed social justice activists.

Social Action Blessing Cards

In an effort to bind our pursuit of justice more explicitly with our tradition, the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism and the URJ-CCAR Commission on Religious Living have created a series of b’rachot- blessings- that can be recited when performing mitzvot of social action.

A Guide To Synagogue Tzedakah Collectives

View this guide produced by the Commission on Social Action and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism on how your Synagogue can create a *Tzedakah* Collective

Mitzvah Day Manual

Mitzvah Day is a program that sets aside one day during the year when all congregants—adults and children, social action mavens and novices—take part in one of several social action projects in their city or town.

K’hilat Tzedek: Creating a Community of Justice

K’hilat Tzedek is a discussion guide intended to help congregations through a process of reflection to determine where their social action programs fit into the scheme of congregational life, and how they can become models of integrated, justice-seeking congregations. The K’hilat Tzedek process will invigorate and deepen your congregation’s social justice work.

Speak Truth to Power: A Guide for Congregations Taking Public Policy Positions

A publication to assist congregations in taking public policy positions, created by the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism (CSA) and the Ida and Howard Wilkoff Department of Synagogue Management of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ).

Lirdof Tzedek: A Guide to Synagogue Social Action by Evelyn Laser Shlensky, Rabbi Marc D. Israel, ed.

Whether you are looking to expand a successful social action program or are working to build one, this guide is an important resource for you and your congregation. Lirdof Tzedek provides step-by-step guidelines for all aspects of synagogue social action programming, from establishing the appropriate structures within the congregation to effecting change on the local, regional, and national levels. UAHC Press, 112 pages, 2001.

Resources from the Unitarian Universalist Community

In Our Hands, Grades 4-6: A Peace and Justice Program

by Barry Andrews and Pat Hoerlender

Explores the concepts of peace and justice in 16 sessions. Unitarian Universalist Association, 1990.

***The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander: From Preschool to High School – How Parents and Teachers Can Help Break the Cycle of Violence*

by Barbara Colorosa

It's a deadly combination: bullies who get what they want, victims who are afraid to tell, bystanders who either watch, participate, or look away, and adults who see these incidents as a normal part of childhood. Parenting educator Colorosa provides the tools to break this cycle of violence. Quill, 2003.

In Our Hands, Grades 1-3: A Peace and Justice Program

by Samuel Goldenberg, et al.

Explores peace and fairness through active learning in 16 sessions. Unitarian Universalist Association, 1989.

Race to Justice: A Racial Justice and Diversity Program for Junior High

by Robin F. Gray and José A. Ballester y Marquez

Fifteen-session program affirms human diversity through role-playing, real-life stories, and games. Unitarian Universalist Association, 1995

Weaving the Fabric of Diversity

by Jacqui James and Judith A. Frediani

Take stock of the "isms" that may be holding you back from embracing diversity: racism, heterosexism, ableism, classism, and ageism. Eight-session program for adults to learn strategies for increasing diversity in their congregation. Unitarian Universalist Association, 1996

The following are Unitarian Universalist Association resources and/or other resources available through the UUA Bookstore. Phone: 1 (800) 215-9076, email: bookstore@uua.org

Common Fire

by Laurent A. Parks Daloz, et al.,

Landmark study reveals how we became committed to the common good and sustain our commitments in a changing world. Beacon, 1997.

The Best Things in Life Aren't Things: Celebrating What Matters Most

by Joann Davis

Through inspirational essays on family, faith, friends, virtue, service, community, and the beauty of the natural world, the author explores and celebrates the real stuff of life. She reminds us that life is a spiritual exercise that brings fulfillment when we savor the intangibles that are often right in front of us. Beacon Press, 2003.

How Much Do We Deserve? An Inquiry into Distributive Justice

by Richard Gilbert

"It is my intent to bridge the gap between scholars in economic and theological/ethical disciplines and concerned laity and clergy." Draws on Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, humanist, and other traditions to reflect on ethical and economic issues. Can be ordered online at www.uua.org. Skinner House, 2001.

The Prophetic Imperative: Social Gospel in Theory and Practice

by Richard Gilbert

Explores the connection between spirituality and social action. Helpfully presented in two parts, "Theoretical Foundations" and "Social Gospel in Practice." Contains vital advice and models to help congregations engage in effective justice work. Can be ordered online at www.uua.org. Skinner House, 2000.

Bucketful of Dreams: Contemporary Parables for All Ages

by Christopher Buice

A charming cast of characters brings values such as diversity, justice, faith, and empowerment to life in 18 original parables. Playful cartoon illustrations by the author. All ages. Skinner House, 1994

What If Nobody Forgave? And Other Stories

by Colleen M. McDonald (ed.)

"From Buddha to Jesus to the Sufi masters, spiritual teachers have used stories to convey basic messages about truth and right living." This edition contains 11 new stories (19 in all) that echo the seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. Each story is followed by discussion questions, activities, and a reading list. All ages. Skinner House, 2002

** Resource for teachers and parents

Resources for Children

Something Beautiful

by Sharon Dennis Wyeth, illustrated by
Chris K. Soentpiet

A young girl longs to see beyond the scary sights in her neighborhood and angry graffiti on the wall. After her teacher writes the word “beautiful” on the chalkboard, she sets out to find her “something beautiful.” Along the way, she discovers what others in her neighborhood find beautiful. Newly hopeful, she sets about creating positive changes in her neighborhood and feels powerful. She envisions how she will engage others to create further change. The story ends as she discovers that she is her mother’s “something beautiful.” Dragonfly Books, 1998. \$6.99

Black Is Brown Is Tan

by Arnold Adoff

The winning portrayal of a loving family—a brown-skinned mother, white-skinned father, two children, and their various relatives—beautifully illustrated with watercolors by Caldecott Medalist Emily McCully. Ages 4-8. Harper Trophy, 2002

The Kids' Guide to Working Out Conflict: How to Keep Cool, Stay Safe, and Get Along

by Naomi Drew

Proven, practical ways to avoid conflict and defuse tough situations. Includes tips for how to counter bullying, calm down, reduce stress and tension, let go of anger, and eliminate put-downs and other hurtful language. Free Spirit, 2004

What Do You Stand For? A Kid's Guide to Building Character

by Barbara A. Lewis

Guided exploration of issues of honesty, empathy, integrity, respect, and more. With quotations, activities, problem-solving exercises, true stories, and reproducible handouts. Ages 11 and up. Free Spirit, 1997

Different Just Like Me

by Lori Mitchell

While April is waiting for the days to pass before she visits her grandmother, she encounters all sorts of different, interesting people. By the time she returns from her visit, she realizes that people—like the flowers in her grandmother’s garden—have different needs and come in many colors, shapes, and sizes. Ages 4-8. Charlesbridge, 1999

Ten Amazing People and How They Changed the World

by Maura Shaw

Profiles of Black Elk, Dorothy Day, Malcolm X, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Janusz Korczak, Mother Teresa, Albert Schweitzer, Thich Nhat Hanh, and Desmond Tutu show kids that spiritual people can have an exciting impact on the world around them. Includes a map showing the place of origin for each individual and a timeline. Ages 6-10. Skylight Paths, 2002

If the World Were a Village

by David J. Smith

What if we imagine the whole world as a village of just 100 people? The shrunk-down statistics about everything from religion to language, electricity to water quality, and literacy to money help children gain a better understanding of the world’s peoples and their ways of life. Includes two pages of games, activities, and thought-provoking questions to teach “world-mindedness.” Ages 7 and up. Kids Can Press, 2003

Briefly Noted:

The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child by Francisco Jimenez

Smoky Night by Eve Bunting

The Wall by Eve Bunting

Click, Clack, Moo (Cows That Type) by Doreen Cronin

That's Good, That's Bad by Marge Cuyler

She is Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head by Kathryn Lasley

The Misfits by James Howe

Swimmy by Leo Lionni

Frederick by Leo Lionni

Baseball Saved Us by Ken Mochizuki

Passage to Freedom by Ken Mochizuki

Honest-to-Goodness Truth by Patricia McKissack

Prejudice – A Story Collection by Daphne Muse

A Step from Heaven by An Na

Sitti's Secrets by Naomi Nye

Don't Hold Me Back: My Life and Art by Winfred Rembert

The Real Thief by William Stieg

Sneetches and Other Stories by Dr. Seuss

Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

The Butter Battle Book by Dr. Seuss