

UUCS Microfinance Committee
Annual Report
2023-24 Church Year
April 5, 2024

Strategic Plan Goal Report:

Goal 1: To provide service to our congregation, our community, and our world

Action:

Our UUCS Microfinance Project began over 15 years ago in 2008, and the UUCS Microfinance Committee is very proud to report that our UUCS Congregation has made a significant difference to the poorest and most vulnerable people in Laos, Peru, Kenya, Nicaragua and India. The UUCS Microfinance project is based on Unitarian Universalist principles rooted in social justice.

Our small loans are targeted for people living on the edge, primarily women, so they can increase their earning power, escape poverty and make a better and sustainable living for their families. Often, poor people are not able to borrow money to buy small equipment items or materials necessary for their businesses. Our donations continue to cycle allowing for additional loans, creating hope and opportunity with every family it touches. As loans are repaid, the payments go into a revolving fund to provide capital to keep lending to others, thus multiplying the impact of our donations.

Thanks to the generous contributions from members of the UUCS, we donated \$6,100 in the 2023-24 church year to our partner non-profit organization, The NEO Fund (www.theneofund.org) serves the poor through sustainable community development via micro-lending and child aid programs in partnership with established local organizations in some of the most impoverished communities in the developing world. Since our inception in 2008, we have raised over \$83,000 to benefit women and their families.

The UUCS Microfinance Committee is very grateful for the strong and generous support the Congregation has provided over the years. We would also like to express our gratitude to the donations of beautiful handmade quilts by Lorna Youngs and jewelry crafted by Elenie Smith that were important to our fundraising efforts in the fall of 2023.

More information about our Microfinance project can be found on the UUCS website under the Connection/Affiliated Ministries/Microfinance tab.

Ann Hanus

Chair

UUCS Microfinance Committee