

2022-2023 UUCSC Helping Hands Annual Report

Helping Hands Workgroup: **Bethany Sorrentino, coordinator**
Randi Marten, co-coordinator

It has been a pleasure to facilitate connections between those in our community with needs and those who are willing to lend a hand.

We continue to maintain lists of around 30 congregants willing to help with meal preparation and delivery, transportation, friendly cards or visits, etc. This year, we have had around 10 requests, most of which we were able to assist with. We have provided meals, rides, help organizing storage areas, and respite care to congregants. For the few requests that we were not able to facilitate, we were able to provide recommendations or referrals to services in the wider community that could be of use.

We have also established a new email address for requests: **uuhelpinghands@gmail.com**. We are slowly updating this in the appropriate areas. Recently, I experimented with sending out a general email to our volunteers listing recent requests. This received a lot of positive feedback, and I plan to grow this into a regular (although still occasional!) communication method.

One area I'd like to grow in is proactively reaching out to members of our congregation who we know are going through hard times. Since both of the Helping Hands coordinators are not regularly in services, it would be helpful to add another person to our team who is a regular in-person and can update us on those we might reach out to.

Other than that, it has been a pleasure to be in this role and I look forward to continuing this important work.

With love,
Bethany Sorrentino
Submitted May 25, 2023