

## **Restorative Justice UUAA (RJUUAA) Annual Report (April 2020)**

Submitted: Co Chairs, Kathy Friedrichs and Carolyn Madden

Restorative Justice UUAA is a relatively new social justice group which began as a subgroup of the secular and interfaith group, Friends of Restorative Justice of Washtenaw County. Currently RJUUAA has 17 members. Highlights of the past year include:

- Showed film, “Healing Justice” plus an in-depth discussion about: the impact of trauma, redefining justice, the power of healing justice and peacemaking circles;
- Sponsored a Social Justice Connection and forum by Demetrius Titus on the Good Neighbor Project of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Michigan Criminal Justice Program, describing training and procedures for writing letters to incarcerated persons in Michigan prisons;
- Supported training for volunteers to participate in a Parole Readiness program at the Women of Huron Valley (WHV) facility;
- During Covid-19:
  - Signed letter to Governor Whitmer through AFSC to release long-serving elderly prisoners at WHV
  - Donated to and helped organize a campaign to write to women at WHV in particular need, and send small standardized packages of personal items and money for phone calls. To date (and project is still ongoing) we have:
    - over 30 volunteers pledging to write and/or donate or both
    - over 25 women at WHV participating in the program
    - Raised close to \$2000 for small packages and phone money