

Annual Report
May 1, 2019
Khasi Hills Sponsor a Student (SAS) Committee
Submitted by Cathy Doherty and Allen Duncan

Brief Description of the Work of the Committee: The Khasi Hills SAS Committee provides financial support for a Unitarian elementary school at Mawkisyiem in northeast India and personal, transformational connections between the students there and their sponsors in Ann Arbor. The financial support helps to improve access to education in the region. While India has stated a commitment to providing “universal access” to publicly funded primary education, such is not available in many areas, including northeast India. Private schools are necessary to ensure access, and tuition waivers must guarantee the possibility of inclusion in these private schools. As part of its activities, the committee provides a means for written correspondence between congregation members and the students of the school. Congregation members (sponsors) provide support in the form of unrestricted contributions that connect the sponsor to a particular student. The relationship and communication between a particular congregation member and a particular student are maintained throughout the student’s tenure in the school (or the congregation member’s participation in the program). The committee also organizes occasional pilgrimages to the Khasi Hills. Such trips were made in 2006, 2011 and 2016. The next trip is scheduled for October of 2021.

Demonstration of UU Core Values: Without elaboration, the committee directs its work to support the following of the Unitarian Universalist Principles:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are all a part.

Highlights of Activities taking place from May 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019: Members of the committee organized sponsorship related activities for members of the congregation including a letter exchange and a luncheon to discuss family services in northeast India

Participants in the Committee: Laura Bauman, Cathie Breidenbach, Hal Breidenbach, Cathy Doherty, Allen Duncan, Deborah Golden, Gwen Guthrie, Peter Hochgraf, Rick Johnson, John Seeley, Hashen Sohtun and Robert Treadway

Plans for 2019/2020: Continue support of the school and plan 2021 trip to India.