

The American Humanist Association

What They Have Done for Us In the World and for Our Chapter

In the Name of Humanism In the World:

Humanist Charities: In an effort to debunk the myth that atheists are less likely to support charitable aims than our religious counterparts, Humanist Charities was formed in 2005 and focuses on financially supporting relief and rebuilding projects. (There is an official Facebook page for Humanist Charities.)

Pakistan flood crisis: Humanist Charities has selected the International Rescue Committee to redirect donations toward flood relief in Pakistan. The International Rescue Committee has been a major presence in Pakistan since 1980 and is currently working to deliver blankets and other urgently needed items to flood victims in order to thwart outbreaks of waterborne disease.

Haiti Earthquake Relief: With over \$20,000 in donations collected from the Humanist Charities' Haiti Emergency Relief Fund, Velez purchased food, water, medicine, and relief tools to load onto a Dominican Navy ship. Out of all the NGOs taking part in the shipment, **Humanist Charities purchased the largest number of supplies. Our tools and medical supplies were the first to arrive** and were put to use immediately.

Chile Earthquake Relief: Humanist Charities makes donations on your behalf to **Doctors Without Borders**, a medical-humanitarian organization with doctors, nurses, and volunteers already on the ground.

Appignani Humanist Legal Center: Despite the Humanist movement's long history of utilizing the courts to stand-up for our rights, no group has ever had more than a handful of lawyers assisting with the process. To address this, and to ensure that our constitutional rights are represented in court, the American Humanist Association (AHA) launched the Appignani Humanist Legal Center (AHLC) in mid-May 2006. Through amicus activity and litigation, **our team of pro-bono lawyers provides legal assistance to defend the constitutional rights of religious and secular minorities** by directly challenging clear violations of the law where it relates to First Amendment/ Establishment Clause concerns.

Appignani Bioethic Center The Center helps inform local, state, national and international policy debates about global issues in medical and biotechnological sciences through collaboration with NGOs and UN departments, bodies and agencies. The Center also **sponsors scholarly endeavors dedicated to preventive medicine** and seeks partnerships with health care professionals and other NGOs to provide educational venues and opportunities for confronting various medical issues facing developed and developing world countries.

The LGBT Humanist Council, a project of the AHA, is a forum for LGBT humanists from across the country to exchange ideas on local organizing, find support in coming out as LGBT (and a humanist), and to speak out with one voice on issues of concern to the LGBT-humanist community!

The Feminist Caucus of the AHA was established in 1977 as a coalition of both women and men within the AHA to work toward the advancement of women's rights and equality between the sexes in all aspects of society. Over the years, members of the Caucus have worked hard fighting for the Equal Rights Amendment and participating in various public demonstrations, including marches for women's and civil rights.

The Kochhar Humanist Education Center will offer lifelong education resources toward these ends and provide policy recommendations that stimulate society to break down the barriers of prejudice and leave a common and rational approach to knowledge in its place. Humanists have good reason to unite a coalition of the willing to dispel harmful myths, teach positive values, and provide the educational foundation for an outlook that embraces all of humanity as one people.

In Support of the Local Chapters:

One of the benefits of being part of the AHA's field network is access to a broad range of brochures and other materials that local groups can distribute in their communities. The following is a listing of what materials the AHA offers to local groups.

The International Darwin Day Foundation website provides resources and publicity for individuals and institutions across the world to celebrate science and humanity every year, on, or near, February 12, Darwin's birthday. In addition to information about the life and legacy of Charles Darwin, this website provides practical examples, advice and templates for organizing and publicizing Darwin Day events. It also provides a directory of events where you can find celebrations taking place near you or register your own event for others to find.

Grassroots Manual

A comprehensive guide for local group leaders on ways to maintain and run a local Humanist group. Includes sections on running meetings, planning public debates and speakers, activism, fundraising, strategic planning, and education. The manual is in a 3-ring binder, so the 12 sections (along with the appendices and addenda) can be referenced in any order. The AHA plans to periodically update the manual.

Grass Roots News

The bimonthly newsletter of the AHA Chapter Assembly. Includes a letter from the CA chair, reports from AHA field staff, profiles of speakers and Chapter leaders, and other grassroots advice and tips useful to local group leaders. The AHA provides print and PDF versions of the newsletter.

Action Packets

Semi-regular packets containing action items local groups may wish to pursue, occasional press releases and press clippings, and other current information from which local groups may benefit. Each Action Packet also has Chapter/Affiliate and Humanist Celebrant lists, as well as copies of the Humanist and Free Mind.

Summary card of Humanism and Its Aspirations: Humanist Manifesto III

Wallet-sized card with main principles of Humanist Manifesto III listed.

The Humanist: Bimonthly magazine of critical inquiry and social concern, published by the AHA. The magazine's cover stories and articles focus on a broad range of issues that are of interest and concern to Humanists. Features include "Up Front: News and Opinion from Independent Minds," "Creative Controversy," "Civil Liberties Watch," "Church & State," and book reviews.

Voice of Humanism Brochure

General information brochure about the American Humanist Association. Includes a membership form, which can be detached and mailed in.

Humanism and Its Aspirations: Humanist Manifesto III

Four page print that includes a separate sheet for people to endorse the Manifesto. Humanism and Its Aspirations is the most up to date and concise iteration of the Humanist worldview. The print also includes a cover letter and a list of prominent signatories.

National Conference Annually

This is an invaluable opportunity to meet and learn from Humanists and Chapters from across the country. The AHA does most of the organizing and pays most of the costs with minor assistance from the local chapter. This was a priceless opportunity for publicity and membership recruitment when it was held in San Jose this year.