

2019/2020 SHARE THE PLATE Nominations

1. *Women in Community Service (WICS)*
2. *UU Youth or Young Adult to UU Conference*
3. *OutNebraska*
4. *Fresh Start Home for Women*
5. *Clinton Elementary Partnership*
6. *Islamic Foundation of Lincoln*
7. *JUUST Living*
8. *Voices of Hope*
9. *Food Net*
10. *ACLU Nebraska - Campaign for Smart Justice*
11. *Lincoln Literacy*
12. *Planned Parenthood*
13. *CLIA Center for Legal Immigration Assistance*
14. *Southern Heights Food Forest*
15. *Friendship Home*
16. *Camp Summergold*
17. *Child Advocacy Program*
18. *Nebraska Appleseed*
19. *Young Men's Business Leadership Academy*
20. *Nebraskans for Peace*

1. Women in Community Service (WICS)

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee, Jackie Kehl and Wendy Hines, co-chairs

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Assists girls in transitioning through adolescence to adulthood...providing the tools needed for positive change. Since 1970, this non-profit organization has provided a structural living environment for young women who are considered at risk. Whether they have experienced a family crisis, behavioral/emotional problem or alcohol/drug abuse, WICS is there to help them.

2. UU Youth or Young Adult to UU Conference

Nominator(s): Chelsea Krafka

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Attending a conference is an incredible experience for a youth or young adult. This is a way for them to become involved with our faith on a different level. These folks bring back learnings to our own congregation. Conferences offer energizing keynotes, breakout sessions and social witness activities occur and connections are made with fellow UU members from across the country. Please help support an experience for a youth or young adult in our congregation.

3. OutNebraska

Nominator(s): Abbi Swatsworth

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

OutNebraska is an expansion of OutInC. We continue to provide excellent community-building activities but we've added more advocacy and civic engagement work. We are working to become a statewide organization that can be a voice for LGBTQ+ people across the state. This year we've lobbied for pro-LGBTQ legislation, registered voters, and we're organizing non-partisan GOTV activities for the city elections.

Support from the UU church would help support activities in our community and the outreach we are doing in Omaha and Greater Nebraska.

4. Fresh Start Home for Women

Nominator(s): Michael Reinmiller

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Fresh Start was founded in 1991 by a group of people who wanted to make Lincoln an even better place to live, and wanted to help those struggling in our community. Here are some highlights from our 25+ years of helping homeless women transform their lives. Fresh Start has provided services to more than 1,500 women over the last 25 years.

2016 – 25 years of empowering women to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency.

2012 – 20 years of providing shelter services. 5 years of being in the new facility in Havelock. The Daisy Thrift Shop celebrates being open for 5 years.

1992 – Fresh Start begins shelter operations in a home provided by Joyce Burgess, one of the committee members. The original facility is a house located at 1809 Ryons Street.

1991 – Concerned community leaders began meeting to discuss the limited services available to many people in need in Lincoln. They decide to focus on homeless women without children in their custody, as this was identified as an underserved group. The organization is formed and models Fresh Start after a transitional house in Calgary, Canada. The name “Fresh Start” came to mind when someone spoke of giving women a “fresh start in life”.

5. Clinton Elementary

Nominator(s): Mark Weddleton and Clinton Volunteers

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Schools from wealthy parts of the city have parent groups that raise substantial amounts of funds for their use. Schools serving areas of poverty – such as Clinton, where 94% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch and breakfast – lack this advantage. Our contributions would go into the school’s discretionary fund to make possible teacher initiatives to go beyond the curriculum, such as visits by an author or illustrator, field trips to broaden experiences, native plants to beautify the grounds, or materials for enrichment projects in science or art.

We are in the second year of a developing partnership with the school, reflected in UUs leading half a dozen afterschool clubs, participating weekly in the one-on-one student literacy program, assisting in the library, and helping out at the Book Fair, Popcorn Friday and other special events. School staff call us when looking for volunteers because they’ve learned they can count on UUs to Show Up.

This nomination is a chance to deepen our partnership, which is at the heart of why we have a Share the Plate program.

6. Islamic Foundation of Lincoln

Nominator(s): Amy Birky

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Some of the main objectives and goals are:

- To help Muslims in Lincoln and surrounding areas to carry out activities in the pursuance of Islam as a complete way of life
- To foster a Muslim community based on Islamic principles of equality, mutual help, and Islamic teachings of peace, love and justice
- To strengthen fraternal bonds and brotherly relations among Muslims
- To promote better understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims
- To present Islam to the people of other faiths

7. JUUST Living

Nominator(s): Colleen Kadleck

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

JUUST Living is a unique model of holistic living, creating community free from the ravages of addiction. Our mission is to help turn around the lives of substance abusers, the formerly incarcerated, and others who have hit bottom by empowering people to become their own solution. This is done in community, living with Unitarian Universalist principles and sources, and informed by permaculture design principles.

We envision a long-term residential educational healing and recovery community:

- healing and recovery: alcoholism and drug addiction, homeless, re-entry from “justice” system
- clean and sober intentional community
- and “adjacent” Unitarian Universalist congregation, building Beloved Community, and supporting long-term healing and recovery from addictions and the broken culture we are living in

8. Voices of Hope

Nominator(s): Kathy Stastny

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Voices provides services to those that have experienced relationship violence, sexual assault and abuse. Voices has a 24 hour Crisis line, walk-in services, support groups, crisis counseling, advocacy, protection orders, and education/training. Voices mission and vision is for victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as their families and communities, receive responsive, empowering services that meet their needs, both individual and cultural, through crisis counseling and education aimed at eliminating recurrence, challenging oppressive social institutions, and reducing violence and oppression.

Voices of Hope is a small agency but covers so many needed areas in Lincoln. They do so much with a small staff and I know they would use any money carefully. www.voicesofhopelincn.org

9. Food Net

Nominator(s): Denise Dickeson

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Foodnet is a 501(c)(3) organization, and is a group of volunteers from many different churches and other non-profit organizations, trying to stop the waste of food and provide for those in need. Foodnet provides mostly perishable foods such as fruits, vegetables, dairy products, bread, etc. At least 2 FoodNet sites are open each day, including weekends and holidays. www.foodnetlincoln.org

10. ACLU Nebraska - Campaign for Smart Justice

Nominator(s): Jean Helms

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

The Campaign for Smart Justice is an initiative that focuses on bolstering the movement to end money bail and eliminate wealth-based pretrial detention. The initiative is a part of the campaign's effort to reduce the U.S. jail and prison population by 50 percent and to combat racial disparities in the criminal justice system by challenging the injustices that have helped make America the world's largest incarcerator.

Udi Ofer, director of the ACLU Campaign for Smart Justice: "This nationwide system of wealth-based incarceration keeps people who have not been convicted of a crime in jail for weeks, months, and even years. People lose their families, jobs, and homes as they wait for their case to move through the system. Money should never decide a person's freedom, yet that's exactly what happens every day in courts across the country."

11. Lincoln Literacy

Nominator(s): Amy Birky

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Their mission is to assist people of all cultures to strengthen community by teaching English language and literary skills

12. Planned Parenthood

Nominator(s): Amy Birky

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

The newly formed group includes Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota , North and South Dakota It has 29 health Center serving 114,00 patients.

Its goal is to provide, promote and protect reproductive and sexual health through health services, education and advocacy.

13. CLIA - Center for Legal Immigration Assistance

Nominator(s): Christine Hope Davis, Allison Davis, Fritz Hudson

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

In 17 years, The Center for Legal Immigration Assistance, or CLIA (formerly Equity in Nebraska) has served more than 7,000 immigrants and refugees in Nebraska, assisting them with the required legal work to be able to comply with complex (and ever-changing) federal immigration laws. It continues to be a community-based and community-supported organization. It's mission remains the same: To open doors of equal opportunity by providing quality, affordable immigration-related legal services to immigrants and refugees in Nebraska.

To put the need in perspective:

- \$550 - Provides for representation of unaccompanied minors such as those separated from their families at the border
- \$500 - Legally empowers a survivor of domestic violence
- \$180 - Helps a student re-apply for DACA so they can attend college
- \$60 - Covers the first consultation fee and initial research

14. Southern Heights Food Forest

Nominator(s): Heather Fox

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

The two-acre Southern Heights Food Forest located at 40th and Old Cheney includes a Food Forest, Community Crops garden plots, a pollinator garden, and a Nature Explore Classroom.

Our mission is to provide a space where members of the community can come together to learn about themselves and the natural world. We aim to be a catalyst for ecological resilience, facilitating ties across cultures and generations while teaching each other about the value of food, play, and environmental stewardship.

15. Friendship Home

Nominator(s): Theresa Forsman

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Friendship Home, which has served Lincoln for more than 40 years, exists to support, shelter and advocate for victims of domestic violence and their children. Friendship Home seeks to provide a continuum of safe, confidential shelter options—from emergency shelter through transitional shelter. It provides crisis intervention services, case management and emotional support to those they serve, helping them to rebuild their lives, free from fear. Friendship Home addresses the many complexities and barriers associated with domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence and stalking on an individual level as well as a community systems level

16. Camp Summergold

Nominator(s): Jean Helms

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

We are a 501 c3 Non Profit organization with admin offices in Lincoln and our camp in Aurora Nebraska. Camp Summergold's mission is to bring a diverse group of teenage girls together to explore creativity, knowledge and stewardship through arts and science based mentor centered workshops and collective girl power. Any money collected through the Share the Plate collection would be matched by Camp Summergold to send one or more UU Lincoln girls (aged 11 - 17) to camp. We'd set up a scholarship application system and an ad hoc review process for interested families. We'll offer an ARTS focus and a STEM focus week of residential summer camp programming at The Leadership Center in Aurora Nebraska in June 2019 and June 2020. www.campsummergold.com

17. Child Advocacy Center

Nominator(s): Jackie Kehl

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

One in ten children will be sexually abused before the age of 18. Of these, 20% are abused before the age of 8. The mission of the Child Advocacy Center is to provide Lincoln, Lancaster County and Southeast Nebraska with a coordinated, team approach to the problem of child abuse in order to reduce trauma, seek justice, and foster hope and healing for children and their non-offending caregivers. To accomplish these, the center provides a safe, child-friendly environment for interviews and medical evaluations for the alleged child victim and offers continued support to the child and non-offending family members. They also provide training for professionals as well as public education and prevention efforts.

18. Nebraska Appleseed

Nominator(s): Denise Dickeson

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

I would like to nominate Nebraska Appleseed. I've worked with them for years to get expanded Medicaid.

Who We Are

Nebraska Appleseed is a nonprofit organization that fights for justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans. We take a systemic approach to complex issues – such as child welfare, immigration policy, affordable health care and poverty – and we take our work wherever we believe we can do the most good, whether that's in the courthouse, at the Capitol, or in the community.

Commitment to Race Equity

Nebraska Appleseed is committed to diversity, inclusion, and equity among our board, staff, interns, clerks, and volunteers. These foundational values are central to our mission to increase justice and opportunity for all Nebraskans.

19. Young Men's Business Leadership Academy

Nominator(s): Christina Strong

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Young Men's Business Leadership Academy is a new program at the Malone Community Center that meets weekly at Lincoln High. Their mission is "To positively influence young men to be accountable for their actions, to think proactively, and to cooperate with community entities and individuals in preparation for being servant leaders in their communities and in their future careers/ businesses."

Their activities this year have included attending the MLK Day breakfast, rally & march; hosting a Hip Hop Music, Art & Culture celebration; auditioning for Shark Tank; meetings with police, businesspeople, and other community leaders; and fundraising activities. This June they will go on their first annual one-week tour of historically black colleges and universities and black-owned businesses in Missouri, Tennessee, & Georgia.

20. Nebraskans for Peace

Nominator(s): Amy Birky

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Nebraskans for Peace is a statewide grassroots advocacy organization working nonviolently for Peace with Justice through community building, education and political action. The Unitarian Church of Lincoln has been partnering with Nebraskans for Peace for decades.