

**2021/2022 SHARE THE PLATE Nominations (in the order in which they were received)**

1. *Planned Parenthood of the North Central States*
2. *Fresh Start Home for Women*
3. *Child Advocacy Center*
4. *Community Crops*
5. *NAACP Lincoln Branch*
6. *Voices of Hope*
7. *Native American Women's Task Force/ MMIWG*
8. *Asian Community and Cultural Center*
9. *I've Got a Name (End Sex Trafficking)*
10. *The Malone Center*
11. *OutNebraska*
12. *ECHO Collective/The Refinery*
13. *Little Free Pantries (Lincoln)*

## **1. Planned Parenthood of the North Central States**

**Nominator(s): Jo Brown, Linda Brown**

### **Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Planned Parenthood is a vibrant, needed entity that serves the needs of many. Their Mission Statement is: "To provide, promote and protect reproductive and sexual health through health services, education, and advocacy."

Since the 1970's Planned Parenthood has been serving patients in Lincoln. Our very own The Rev. Charles Stephen was integral in forming Planned Parenthood in Lincoln. Thousands of patients every year visit the Lincoln health clinic for expert reproductive health care, while thousands of youths and adults rely on Planned Parenthood community educators for fact-based, nonjudgmental sex ed. During this pandemic Planned Parenthood has developed Expanded telehealth services include additional birth control options, home STD test kits, transgender hormone therapy, and more. Despite constant political challenges, Planned Parenthood's doors remain open for all. Local support ensures that all patients can get the health care they need and deserve.

## **2. Fresh Start Home for Women**

**Nominator(s): Michael Reinmiller**

### **Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Fresh Start's mission is:

To empower women experiencing homelessness to change their lives by recognizing and using their strengths to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency.

Our vision statement is:

Fresh Start is a proactive agency focused on eradicating homelessness for women through quality services and expanded partnerships.

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. Fresh Start has provided services to more than 1,500 women over the last 30 years.

## **3. Child Advocacy Center**

**Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee/Jackie Kehl/Dori Bush**

### **Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The mission of the Child Advocacy Center is to respond to child abuse through a team approach designed to reduce trauma, seek justice, and provide hope and healing for children and their families.

One of the main services provided by the CAC is that of forensic interviews of the child victim of suspected abuse. Highly trained interviewers ensure that a child victim will not be interviewed countless times related to the abuse case. The interviews at the CAC are conducted in such a way that the child's testimony may be authoritatively used in court. Additionally, children and families are assisted through case coordination with courts, law enforcement organizations and other agencies in Lancaster and the other sixteen counties it serves. Providing services, and the coordination of services to the impacted family minimizes the trauma otherwise experienced.

The description used by the Child Advocacy Center is "Where small voices are heard".

[www.smallvoices.org](http://www.smallvoices.org)

#### **4. Community Crops**

**Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee/Jackie Kehl**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Mission Statement: We provide education, advocacy and experiences to grow local food. **Vision Statement:** We are leaders in a community where all people can grow and enjoy healthy, local food. **History:** Community Crops was started with one community garden in 2003, and has grown over the years to become a successful organization. Crops now has 11 community garden sites, a training farm, a production greenhouse, garden and cooking education for all ages, a mobile farmers market and new storefront, and more.

#### **5. NAACP Lincoln Branch**

**Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee/Jackie Kehl/Mary K Stillwell**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The NAACP aligns with our UU values and our principles. The Lincoln Branch is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to eliminate discrimination and prejudice regardless of race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and faith. It works to ensure the social, economic, educational, and political equality of all persons through democratic processes.

Since the founding of the Lincoln chapter of the NAACP, the Unitarian Church of Lincoln has been a strong supporter of the organization and its good work in our community. In fact, our past minister, Arthur Weatherly, was instrumental in the foundation of the group's local chapter.

The Church continues to share NAACP goals to ensure the social, economic, educational, and political equality of all people through the democratic process and to eliminate discrimination and prejudice wherever it is found.

Among its current initiatives, the Lincoln NAACP is gathering information on academic performances, evaluating hiring practices of the Lincoln Public School System, evaluating teaching methods, answering questions/concerns about the Lincoln School system, and establishing an informational packet on the history of the African-American community in Lincoln.

#### **6. Voices of Hope**

**Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee/Jackie Kehl**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Its vision is that all victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as their families and communities, receive responsive, empowering services and support that meet their needs, both individual and cultural, through advocacy and education aimed at eliminating recurrence, challenging oppressive social institutions, and reducing violence and oppression. They provide crisis intervention, advocates for victims, support and educational groups, and legal advocacy and referral. They serve an average of 1800 unduplicated-adult and 350-400 child victims. On average they receive 7500 client-related phone calls per year and serve 400 survivors through support and educational groups.

#### **7. Native American Women's Task Force/ MMIWG**

**Nominator(s): Priscilla Handy, Social Justice Committee**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Nebraska Native American Women's Task Force continues to address the high rate of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Their work this year during the pandemic has involved forming networks with other organizations and supporting new organizations, all in a caring way sensitive to the cultures of all. Since the passing of LB154 in Nebraska, which requires the State Patrol to collect data on Nebraska MMIWG, the task force has worked to address the erasure of native Americans from the predominant white American viewpoint, "unschooling" white

Americans from what they were taught in schools. An important goal in that is to spark people to act to create change. The task force has also contributed their time and personal resources to helping families of victims, which includes explaining legal proceedings and forensic investigations, and providing mental health support. They are also aware that all Indigenous people--Women, Girls, Men, Boys, people of other genders and no-gender--are at risk, and are exploring expanding their work to include all Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR).

## **8. Asian Community and Cultural Center**

**Nominator(s): Jackie Kehl**

### **Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Their mission is to support and empower all refugees and immigrants through programs and services and to share Asian culture and other cultural heritages of their clients with the Lincoln community. They offer English and citizenship classes, support and activities for seniors, assistance with tax preparation, health care and employment, youth group meetings and more. Their cultural festivals are open to the community.

## **9. I've Got a Name (End Sex Trafficking)**

**Nominator(s): Jackie Kehl**

### **Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Their mission is to put an end to sex trafficking in Nebraska by generating awareness of the problem and organizing action against it. They offer outreach to connect with the vulnerable and victims of sex trafficking and begin the process of life-change. They offer training and speakers to understand the realities of trafficking in Nebraska and to become an advocate of the vulnerable. [www.ivegotaname.org](http://www.ivegotaname.org)

## **10. The Malone Center**

**Nominator(s): Mary K Stillwell**

### **Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Malone was founded in 1955 through a reorganization of the Lincoln Urban league. The league founders were determined to improve social and economic conditions and increase understanding between all races.

Initially founded during a time in our history when civil rights for African American were extremely limited, the league founders, both black and white, were determined to improve social and economic conditions and increase understanding between all races. They believed that enhanced understanding between all groups of people would create a better community.

For decades, Malone has served neighboring families, youth, seniors and the Lincoln community with inclusive, social, cultural, educational, employment and welfare services. Current programs that include the breastfeeding initiative, the Early Achievers Academy for 3-5 year olds, the Out of School Program for the development of academic and social skills--with activities ranging from gymnastics to Spanish, Science and fitness clubs, the Culler after School program, the Teen Leadership Program, Project Uplift, which offers legal aid, and the Minority Health Initiative. The goals of all Malone programs focus on developing successful students, thriving families, and a stronger neighborhood.

## 11. OutNebraska

**Nominator(s): Abby Swatsworth**

### **Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

OutNebraska is a statewide organization working to celebrate and empower LGBTQIA2S+ Nebraskans. We have 3 mission areas: **Educate:** Build broad public support for and affirmation of LGBTQ+ Nebraskans. **Advocate:** Mobilize LGBTQ+ and allied Nebraskans to advance intersectional policies that meet our community's needs. **Celebrate:** Create safe, affirming, and joyful spaces for LGBTQ+ Nebraskans to build community.

We envision Nebraska communities that embrace and celebrate the full spectrum of LGBTQ+ people. We are working for a state where LGBTQ+ Nebraskans of all ages and races:

- Are fully protected in state law
- Have access to safe and affirming housing, education, health care, and safety nets
- Are well represented in all levels of elected and appointed office
- Have access to safe and affirming community spaces
- Are affirmed in their communities

In the first quarter of 2021 (Jan - March) we provided LGBTQ+ 101/Safe Space training to 188 individuals through 8 area organizations. We are currently collaborating with NE Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence to improve survivor services across the state and with Women's Fund of Omaha to support the Nebraska Dept. of Education's new Health Standards.

## 12. ECHO Collective/The Refinery

**Nominator(s): Kelly Ross, Jean Helms**

### **Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

ECHO Collective **E**mpowers **C**ommunities through **H**er **O**pportunities. We help refugee and immigrant women overcome barriers to success in their new lives here in the United States.

The Refinery is our flagship program that provides these women the opportunity to increase their family income and create connections in the community through intensive business education classes and professional mentorships. We focus on women who are still in the process of learning the English language. Our four-month business classes cover every aspect of running a business well in the United States - from marketing to pricing to registering with the IRS. We use a proprietary curriculum that features local businesswomen speaking to their expertise and industry-specific mentors assisting the entrepreneurs with the ins and outs of their business.

By donating to ECHO Collective, you are investing in the futures of women who were given a second chance in the United States after facing suffocating conditions in their home countries, some to the point of near-death. Your generosity helps them achieve their full potential, actualize dreams long held tightly in their hearts, and begin to finally call Lincoln, Nebraska, home.

## 13. Little Free Pantries (Lincoln)

**Nominator(s): Michael Reinmiller, Jean Helms**

### **Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The beauty of the Little Free Pantries are that they are open 24/7 throughout multiple neighborhoods in Lincoln. One major benefit is if a person works second or third shift, and they need applesauce for their child for breakfast, they can get those kind of supplies at one of the pantries. I have been trying to figure out how to spread the Unitarian love so that all of the

pantry's benefit and I'm open to suggestions! The flagship pantry at our house is busy non-stop at 1609 S. 26th St. There are also several in the 13th and F Street area that are often empty and that I try to fill as often as I'm able. -Michael Reinmiller

This is one of my favorite places to give if I have a little extra money. I know exactly what the money is going to be used for, which is to fill the empty bellies of families in our local community. I am proud that our church has provided food, masks and hand sanitizer to the Little Free Pantries in Lincoln during the pandemic. -Jean Helms