

## **2022/2023 SHARE THE PLATE Nominations**

*(in the order in which they were received)*

1. Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools
2. ECHO Collective
3. Planned Parenthood
4. Open Harvest
5. Mourning Hope
6. Lincoln Indian Center
7. Blue Heron Tiospaye
8. Friendship Home
9. Clyde Malone Community Center
10. NAACP Lincoln Branch Scholarship Fund
11. Center for People in Need
12. Food Bank of Lincoln
13. Center for Legal Immigration Assistance
14. Community Crops
15. Everett Free Grocery Program
16. Fresh Start
17. Little Free Pantries
18. Out Nebraska
19. Lincoln Literacy
20. Lutheran Family Services
21. NE Religious Council for Reproductive Freedom
22. Asian Community and Cultural Center
23. Voices of Hope
24. Willie's Underwear Project

**1. Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools, <https://www.foundationforlps.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Karen Heafer**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools focuses on the whole child—and each child is the reason we exist.

The job of the Foundation is to raise money that enhances the school experience or helps the child and his/her family reduce stressors that become barriers to learning. Learning doesn't stop when a student leaves the classroom, so engagement after the bell rings makes a huge difference in a child's life.

The Foundation focuses on children as they move from crayons to cap and gown knowing that their needs change. Their four pillars: College and Career; Beyond the Classroom; Next-Level Learning; Strong, Stable Families, address the physical, emotional, academic and enrichment needs of all students,

**2. ECHO Collective, [www.echocollectivene.org](http://www.echocollectivene.org)**

**Nominator(s): Duncan Case, Judy Hart**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

ECHO Collective connects and empowers refugee and immigrant women by providing opportunities for personal growth, skills development and application, and facilitation of cross-cultural relationships through organized projects and support activities. Current programs include: The Refinery, Refined Coaching, Quilt Project, Bead Weaving Project, Textile Weaving Project, the Afghan Maker Circle and the Ukrainian Yarn Circle. In the past two years, 31 women have been supported. Interactions between clients, staff and community volunteers has numbered over 4,780. (Organization Director and contact person is Kelly Ross.)

This organization is well organized (see web site:[www.echocollectivene.org](http://www.echocollectivene.org)) and is led by an executive director with demonstrated administrative experience (*Kelly Ross, Member & Admin Coordinator, at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln*). It serves an international community of refugees and immigrants deserving of support. In the short time this group has been in existence, many programs have been developed to serve this population: (The Refinery, Refined Coaching, Quilt Project, Bead Weaving Project, Textile Weaving Project, the Afghan Maker Circle and the Ukrainian Yarn Circle.) Many staff, board members, community volunteers and instructors have had previous experience working directly with international groups. Given the programs recent development efforts, the support of experienced community leaders and volunteers, this non-profit organization deserves the support of our "share the plate" program.

Note from Judy Hart: This organization and its founder Kelly Ross deserve our attention. The organization celebrates the strengths of these women and is creative about helping them make their own money and become entrepreneurs in Lincoln. I personally have the opportunity to work with a young woman on her sewing skills. We're not just learning the common language of tailoring and sewing, we are also building a personal friendship.

**3. Planned Parenthood, <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/>**

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

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The mission of Planned Parenthood is to:

- Help people live full, healthy lives — no matter your income, insurance, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, or immigration status;

- Provide the high-quality inclusive and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services all people need and deserve — with respect and compassion;
- Advocate for public policies that protect and expand reproductive rights and access to a full range of sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion;
- Provide medically accurate education that advances the understanding of human sexuality, healthy relationships, and body autonomy;
- Promote research and technology that enhances reproductive health care and access.

I am nominating Planned Parenthood because the right of safe and legal abortion is in danger.

**4. Open Harvest, <https://openharvest.coop/>**

**Nominator(s): Tim Johnson**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Open Harvest is moving and getting bigger and better! We have good food, local and regional and organic where possible, and connect with the community.

They were around many years ago offering organic and local foods before the big box stores took over that and they need our help. They'll be offering shares in the near future.

**5. Mourning Hope, <https://www.mourninghope.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Alan Worth**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Mourning Hope supports children who have had a parent die.

**6. Lincoln Indian Center, <https://www.indiancenterinc.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Larry Pelter, Judy Hart, Social Justice Committee**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The Indian Center provides value to the Native American community by creating and obtaining programs that empower self-sufficiency and positive quality of life standards in individuals and families.

I belong to the Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club and we've been working with the Indian Center to rebuild their Pow Wow Grounds. Through that process, I've learned more about what is happening at the Center now. They've had some rough years as their leadership, resources and programming changed - but they seem to have their feet firmly on the ground and their outreach into the community is making them more visible. They deserve our support and they will be great community partners.

**7. Blue Heron Tiospaye, *no website available***

**Nominator(s): Larry Pelter**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Blue Heron was established with the purpose to provide and support the ceremonial and cultural ways of the indigenous people of the great central plains of North America. We conduct inipi ceremonies regularly for the Blue Heron and wider community.

The Blue Heron community comes together to learn, hold ceremony, work together on and with the land, raise awareness around current indigenous issues, and offer aid in solidarity to those in community in need.

Blue Heron Inipi, Inc. is a Nebraska registered corporation with a 501c3 designation.

Note from Larry Pelter: I recommend funds raised to go towards purchasing rocks for the indigenous sweat lodge ceremonies at the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

**8. Friendship Home, <https://friendshiphome.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Theresa Forsman**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Friendship Home provides services to survivors of domestic violence, and other sexual assault. Services include crisis intervention, housing, employment services, and advocacy. Friendship Home recognizes the value of cultural diversity in the makeup of its staff and board. Friendship Home was founded in Lincoln in 1978 and has a long track record of providing effective, empowering services to survivors of domestic violence, many of whom are children.

**9. Clyde Malone Community Center, <https://www.malonecenter.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Linda Brown, Jackie Egan, Priscilla Handy, Judy Hart, Judy Kelly, Elizabeth Meyer, Charlotte Pierce, LauraLee Woodruff**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The vision of the Malone Center is to create unity and prosperity throughout Lincoln while honoring our African American heritage. The Malone Center has a staff of 50 providing services in support and outreach, education, youth leadership and youth athletics.

Since 1955, Malone has served families, youth, seniors, and the Lincoln community with inclusive, social, cultural, educational, employment, and welfare services. We believe that through enhanced understanding between all groups of people, we can create a better community.

Malone Community Center serves the African American community of Lincoln by providing child care, after school programs, teen programs, and women's programs including the importance of breast feeding.

**10. NAACP Lincoln Branch Scholarship Fund, <https://naacplincolnbranch.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Frank Edler, Jackie Egan, Mary K. Stillwell**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Each year NAACP Lincoln Branch offers scholarships to deserving, high achieving high school students who are civil rights advocates. UCL has contributed a full \$1000 scholarship for the past two years. Let's make 2023 our third!

From the NAACP website: "NAACP is leading the fight for equity to ensure that Black lives are a priority in all spaces. From police brutality to COVID-19 to voter suppression, Black communities are under attack. We work to disrupt inequality, dismantle racism, and accelerate change in key areas including criminal justice, health care, education, climate, and the economy. When it comes to civil rights and social justice, we have the unique ability to secure more wins than anyone else. Help make racial equity a reality."

Since the founding of the Lincoln Branch of the NAACP, the Unitarian Church of Lincoln has been a strong supporter. 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.

**11. Center for People in Need, <https://www.cfpin.org/>**

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

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The mission of the Center for People in Need is to provide services and programs to low-income people that address their basic needs and help them achieve economic independence. The Center provides regular food distributions both on- and off-site. Partnering with the Food Bank of Lincoln, it distributed food to more than 3,450 low-income families in 2019. Through a strategic partnership with the Junior League of Lincoln, they also co-founded Lincoln's first Diaper Bank to meet the growing need for diapers in our community.

Education is the key to helping low-income individuals obtain economic independence. As such, the Center developed educational and training programs to help people obtain employment with a living wage. Their notable programs include:

Free English Language Learning courses offered to refugees and New Americans. In the POP (People Obtaining Prosperity) program, classes are taught at three skill levels and are geared toward obtaining or bettering employment.

Full tuition assistance and support services to attend Southeast Community College to improve employment and wages

TRADE (Tackling Recidivism And Developing Employability) program provides education, training and mentorship assistance to current and formerly incarcerated individuals.

**12. Food Bank of Lincoln, <https://www.lincolnfoodbank.org/>**

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

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

In the United States, one of eight people face hunger. The mission of the Food Bank of Lincoln is to alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska. An estimated 229,120 Nebraskans are food insecure, including 57,510 people right here in Southeast Nebraska.

The Food Bank serves 16 counties in Southeast Nebraska. Their services include food distribution, a backpack and school food markets program for youth and families, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for low-income families, Community Supplemental Food Program, geared toward those age 60+, and the Housewarming Project, which helps neighbors move from transitional housing into their own households.

Under the food distribution program, guests receive food either by driving through or walking up to a distribution site with a cart or a bag. Guests do not need to sign up in advance or provide any paperwork or documentation at Food Bank distributions. In partnership with the Community Health Endowment, Food Bank

of Lincoln runs the Lincoln Fresh Mobile Distribution Truck to provide fruits and vegetables to neighbors in Lincoln. In 2019, the Lincoln Fresh Mobile Distribution Truck made 269 stops, distributing 108,647 pounds of fresh fruit and produce to 12,985 visitors.

**13. Center for Legal Immigration Assistance, <https://cliane.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Priscilla Handy**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The Center for Legal Immigration Assistance helps immigrants and refugees navigate the immigration process, provides mental health services, connects with other supporting nonprofits.

**14. Community Crops, <https://communitycrops.org/>**

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

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Community Crops is a non-profit organization that empowers people to grow food through education, experiences and resources. Begun in 2003, Community 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 a new storefront. The organization is an important leader in fostering local food production. Many of the farmers they support are immigrants.

**15. Everett Free Grocery Program, <https://www.facebook.com/everettfreegroceryprogram/>**

**Nominator(s): Andie Larson**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The Everett Free Grocery Program provides mutual aid through weekly distribution of groceries and essentials to food-insecure and unhoused members of the community. My friends at EFGP pivoted from street medic work to helping local unhoused populations, and they are impressive as hell for riding that momentum from one form of mutual aid to another. They do good work!

**16. Fresh Start, <https://freshstarhome.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Michael Reinmiller**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Fresh Start is a transitional shelter for women over the age of 19 without children. (Under served group) They just celebrated their 30th year of success of empowering women to sharpen the strengths they need to get out of homelessness.

**17. Little Free Pantries, <https://www.facebook.com/LittleFreePantriesLNK/>**

**Nominator(s): Michael Reinmiller**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Little Free Pantries has grown and now has over 40 Pantries in the city limits. The amazing thing about the little free pantries is that they are open 24/7 enabling our neighbors to get food all hours of the day and keep pride in some instances.

**18. Out Nebraska, <https://outnebraska.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Judy Hart**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

VISION

Nebraska communities that embrace and celebrate the full spectrum of LGBTQ+ people.

MISSION

To empower, celebrate and grow LGBTQ+ communities in Nebraska.

PRINCIPLES

Be inclusive and collaborative

Promote affirmation

Lead the charge

Build power together

Bring the fun!

I have worked with ED Abbi Swatsworth for years on a variety of community building projects through Angels Theatre Company and Camp Summergold. Abbi and her team have always responded to my questions about language, inclusivity and policy writing. They have provided materials for outreach, and they serve as the public advocate for the full spectrum of individuals who question and embrace all people. My daughter Katy and I have been allies and supporters of this organization since it's beginning.

**19. Lincoln Literacy, <https://www.lincolnliteracy.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Lincoln Literacy (LL) is a multi-award-winning charitable provider of a continuum of services rooted in language and literacy skills. Its mission is to strengthen our community by teaching the English language and a variety of literacy skills to people of all cultures.

Established in 1972 by, LL incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 1993, when large numbers of refugees began to be resettled in Lincoln. Since then, LL has grown prodigiously maintained its reliance on trained volunteers as instructors. Beginning with a few dozen tutoring matches at the time of incorporation, it now serves more than a thousand people annually through a combination of hundreds of one-to-one tutoring matches and a wide array of classes held at locations throughout the city.

**20. Lutheran Family Services, <https://www.lfsneb.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska provides quality human care services that build and strengthen individual, family, and community life. LFS demonstrates its mission through 3 broad service areas: Children Services, Community Services, and Behavioral Health. LFS provides direct support services for refugees, immigrants, asylees, and victims of human trafficking. This is the organization with whom UCL co-sponsored an Afghan refugee family.

**21. NE Religious Council for Reproductive Freedom, <https://ne-rcrf.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The Nebraska Religious Council for Reproductive Freedom (NE-RCRF) is a state partner of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC). RCRC is a broad-based, national, interfaith movement that brings the moral force of religion to protect and advance reproductive health, choice, rights and justice through education, prophetic witness, pastoral presence, and advocacy.

NE-RCRF values and promotes religious liberty that upholds the human and constitutional rights of all people to exercise their conscience to make their own reproductive health systems of oppression and seeks to remove the multiple barriers that impede individuals, especially those in marginalized communities in accessing comprehensive reproductive health care with respect and dignity.

Especially during this year when SCOTUS may strike down the landmark Roe v Wade decision, supporting the Nebraska Religious Council for Reproductive Freedom is investing in our state's vital pro-choice movement.

**22. Asian Community and Cultural Center, <https://www.lincolnasiancenter.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

The mission of the Asian Community and Cultural Center is to support and empower all refugees and immigrants through programs and services and to advance the sharing of Asian culture and other cultural heritages of our clients with the community at large. They offer English and citizenship classes, driving and sewing classes, and women's and seniors' groups as well as programs for youth. They offer community celebrations of special holidays, such as Asian New Year. They recently created a department that supports Afghan refugees.

**23. Voices of Hope, <https://www.voicesofhopelincoln.org/>**

**Nominator(s): Judy Hart**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

They provide confidential 24/7 crisis intervention services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and related forms of abuse; and raise awareness for prevention by offering training for professionals who work with individuals who have experienced the trauma of relationship violence or sexual abuse.

What else would you like to tell us about the organization and/or why you are nominating them? I have friends who have needed a hand up and a safe start. VOH is open to everyone. It helps a person deal with the immediate danger and then take the next steps toward independence without fear.

**24. Willie's Underwear Project, *website unavailable***

**Nominator(s): Carol Kendrick**

**Purpose/Mission of the Nominee**

Willie's Underwear Project supplies new underwear and/or outerwear to children who have had accidents or problems at school. This project serves children from preschool to high school.

Willie Shafer founded and has been leading the project for over 10 years. Nurses from 78 schools come to a central location (at Saratoga Elementary School) once a month and collect what they need. This is funded and run by volunteers, mostly retired teachers who know of the need. Willie retired from teaching after umpteen years. She is 84 and still going strong.

