

2023/2024 SHARE THE PLATE Nominations (in the order in which they were received)

1. *NE Religious Council for Reproductive Freedom*
2. *Planned Parenthood of Lincoln*
3. *Malone Center*
4. *NAACP Scholarship Fund*
5. *OUTNebraska*
6. *ACLU Nebraska*
7. *Black and Pink*
8. *ECHO Collective*
9. *Southern Heights Food Forest*
10. *Indian Center*
11. *Community Crops*
12. *Center for People in Need*
13. *Friends of Pioneer Park*
14. *I've Got a Name*
15. *League of Women Voters Education Fund*
16. *Fresh Start Home for Women*
17. *Little Free Pantries Lincoln*
18. *Voices of Hope*
19. *Nebraskans Against Gun Violence*
20. *Girls Code Lincoln*
21. *CLIA (Center for Legal Immigration Assistance)*

1. NE Religious Coalition for Reproductive Freedom

Nominator(s): Trey Lusk, Linda Brown, Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

The mission of the Nebraska Religious Council for Reproductive Freedom (RCRF) is to affirm the moral power of faith by protecting, affirming, and advancing reproductive justice statewide.

The Nebraska Religious Council for Reproductive Freedom (RCRF) is a state partner of the national Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (RCRC). RCRF is a broad-based, interfaith organization 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. RCRF values and promotes religious liberty by upholding the human and constitutional rights of all people to exercise their conscience in making their own reproductive health decisions without shame and stigma.

RCRF challenges systems of oppression and seeks to remove the multiple barriers that impede individuals, especially those in historically marginalized communities. Particularly this year as Nebraska has battled a proposed abortion ban within the Unicameral, supporting the Nebraska Religious Council for Reproductive Freedom is a vital investment in our state's pro-choice movement.

2. Planned Parenthood of Lincoln

Nominator(s): Linda Brown, Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Mission: "To provide, promote and protect reproductive and sexual health through health services, education, and advocacy." Planned Parenthood of Lincoln offers a full range of high-quality sexual health care services without judgment.

The Unitarian Church of Lincoln and Charles Stephen was integral in forming Planned Parenthood in Lincoln in the 70s. 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. 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.

3. The Malone Center

Nominator(s): Linda Brown, Mary K Stillwell, Social Justice Committee

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.

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.

4. NAACP Scholarship Fund

Nominator(s): Jackie Egan, Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Every spring, the NAACP, Lincoln Branch grants Community Service Scholarships of varying amounts to Lincoln high school graduating seniors who will attend a post-secondary accredited institution. To be eligible, you must have a grade point average of 2.5 or above and be a current member of the NAACP Youth Council.* Applicants must demonstrate a record of service to members of their local community documented by letters of recommendations. There is no restriction as to the field of study and the scholarship is open to all regardless of race, gender, ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.

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.

5. OUTNebraska

Nominator(s): Jake Lozier

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Because of their seemingly tireless efforts to rally and support folks right now while legislature is causing so much distress. Mission: To empower, celebrate and grow LGBTQ+ communities in Nebraska. For more than 10 years we've been making an impact by advocating, celebrating and educating to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people.

6. ACLU Nebraska

Nominator(s): Jake Lozier

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

I am nominating them because of their seemingly tireless efforts to rally and support folks right now while legislature is causing so much distress.

For over 50 years in Nebraska, the ACLU has worked in courts, legislatures, and communities to protect the constitutional and individual rights of all people. With a nationwide network of offices and millions of members and supporters, we take up the toughest civil liberties fights.

7. Black and Pink - Omaha

Nominator(s): Linda Brown

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

They are working to do a lot with prison/reform abolition and human rights.

Mission: Black & Pink National is a prison abolitionist organization dedicated to abolishing the criminal punishment system and liberating LGBTQIA2S+ people and people living with HIV/AIDS who are affected by that system through advocacy, support, and organizing.

8. ECHO Collective/The Refinery

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee

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.

9. Southern Heights Food Forest

Nominator(s): Jean Helms

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.

10. The Indian Center

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

The [Lincoln Indian Center](#) has the mission of providing 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. The Center has been serving communities in Lincoln since 1969.

11. Community Crops

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

[Community Crops](#) provides education, advocacy, and experiences to grow local food. It coordinates 11 community gardens with plots on a sliding scale fee. It has a training farm, a production greenhouse, garden and cooking education for all ages, a mobile farmers market, and a new storefront. In addition, it sponsors the Yazidi Farm Outreach Program.

12. Center for People in Need

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

[The Center of People in Need](#) has the mission of providing services and programs to low-income people that address their basic needs and help them achieve economic independence. They provide regular food distributions both on- and off-site, distributing food to more than 5,400 low-income families in 2021. In addition, they have a room for clothing and household goods distribution. They are home to Lincoln's first Diaper Bank. They run educational and training programs to help people obtain employment with a living wage.

13. Friends of Pioneer Park Nature Center

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

[Friends of Pioneers Park Nature Center](#) provides scholarships for preschool and camps and assists with special programs. The Nature Center has 668 acres of tallgrass prairie, woodlands, wetlands and a stream. More than eight miles of hiking trails wind through various habitats and take visitors past non-releasable raptor exhibits and a small herd of bison. The Nature Center has two interpretive buildings and several themed gardens. It serves as an environmental education center for school children and offers a nature preschool and youth camps during summer and school breaks. While it is part of the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department, its budget is always tight.

14. I've Got a Name

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

[I've Got a Name](#) focuses on sex trafficking in Nebraska. They work on awareness through helping the public identify sex trafficking and become engaged to fight it and on preventing exploitation in Nebraska. They work with victims of sex trafficking to begin the process of changing and rebuilding their lives.

15. League of Women Voters Education Fund

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

[League of Women Voters Education Fund](#) is the financial arm, the 501c3, of the League of Women Voters. It was established to encourage the active and informed participation of citizens in government and increases understanding of major public policy issues. The Education Fund provides financial assistance for the activities of the local league through grant monies. It works to register and provide voters with election information through their election resource [Vote411](#) and through sponsoring candidate forums and debates.

16. Fresh Start Home for Women

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Fresh Start Home is a transitional shelter that serves homeless women aged 19 or older within and around the Lincoln community. Fresh Start's mission is: empowering women experiencing homelessness to change their lives by using a strengths-based approach to achieve self-sufficiency. Fresh Start provides fully-staffed shelter, residential care, and community support services for the under-served population of women experiencing homelessness.

Fresh Start's mission: To empower women experiencing homelessness to change their lives by recognizing and using their strengths to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. Vision statement: Fresh Start is a proactive agency focused on eradicating homelessness for women through quality services and expanded partnerships.

17. Little Free Pantries - Lincoln

Nominator(s): Michael Reinmiller

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

There are over four dozen Little Free Pantries in Lincoln now! Five or six of them are on property owned by one of our members or friends! The beauty of the Little Free Pantries are that they are open 24/7 throughout neighborhoods in Lincoln. Multiple people support each pantry. 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. The money raised will be used to purchase non-perishable foods and other household items in bulk that will be distributed to multiple pantries including the one at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln.

18. Voices of Hope

Nominator(s): Kathy Statsny

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

It's 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.

19. Nebraskans Against Gun Violence

Nominator(s): Mary K Stillwell

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

NAGV is a member-driven organization formed to fight gun violence in our state. The focus is on the firearms industry, the NRA and NRA-bought government officials, current gun laws, upcoming gun legislation, teaching individuals how to testify before the legislature, how to write letters to the editors, and how to organize events.

Every voice is vital, because gun control is a big tent issue. The movement includes everyone from gun owners who believe in safe storage laws and mandatory training to folks who want a sweeping overhaul of gun policy. Nebraskans need to move forward together.

The on-going Safe Storage Initiative focuses on keeping children safe from firearms at their home or the homes of their friends.

20. Girls Code Lincoln

Nominator(s): Peg Pelter

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Girls Code Lincoln is a local nonprofit that runs free weekly coding clubs for girls (and all youth who don't identify as cis-male). We want every student in our community to see a place for themselves in STEM and to create space at the table for a more gender-diverse future in tech! Girls Code Lincoln has been educating girls in Lincoln for over 6 years, yet our vision remains clear, local, and focused. Gifts to Girls Code Lincoln help us keep our computers up to date and running, provide resources for our clubs, and help support our volunteer's work.

21. Center for Legal Immigration Assistance (CLIA)

Nominator(s): Allison Starr

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

CLIA's mission is "To help immigrants and refugees achieve their American dream by providing high-quality and affordable legal services." In their own words, "We are a team of attorneys, accredited representatives, paralegals, therapists, and support staff committed to helping immigrants and refugees throughout their legal process."