

2025/2026 SHARE THE PLATE Nominations in the order they were received

(Number of times selected for Share the Plate since 2019-2020 (#),

Green--not selected in the last 6 years (0), *Blue--first time nominee)

1. *Community Crops* (2)
2. *I've Got a Name* (0)
3. *The Gathering Place* (0)
4. *OutNebraska* (3)
5. *Bridges to Hope* (0)
6. *BraveBe Child Advocacy Center* (2)
7. *FoodNet* (1)
8. *The Solidago Conservancy**
9. *Fitting Futures/White Cane Foundation**
10. *KZUM Community Radio**
11. *Planned Parenthood of the Heartland* (6)
12. *Mourning Hope* (0)
13. *ACLU of Nebraska* (3)
14. *ARC of Lincoln* (0)
15. *Center for Legal Immigration Assistance (CLIA)* (4)
16. *ECHO Collective* (0)
17. *Lincoln Literacy* (1)
18. *Willie's Underwear Project* (0)
19. *Big Gumdrop Outdoors**
20. *NAACP Lincoln Branch* (3)
21. *Malone Center* (5)
22. *Fresh Start Home for Women* (5)
23. *Little Free Pantries of Lincoln* (3)
24. *Food Bank of Lincoln* (0)
25. *Indian Center* (3)
26. *El Centro de las Américas* (1)
27. *Larksong, Writer's Place**
28. *Angels Theater Company* (0)
29. *Roots of Justice Project**
30. *Voices of Hope* (4)
31. *Blue Heron Tiospaye* (0)
32. *Lincoln Hygiene Network**
33. *Civic Nebraska**
34. *Camp Bold**
35. *Otoe-Missouria Educational Fund**

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1. COMMUNITY CROPS (2)

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee, Erica Birky Rios

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

A program of Family Service Lincoln, Community Crops empowers people to grow food through education, experiences and resources. Community Crops provides education, advocacy and experiences to grow local food.

<https://communitycrops.org/>

2. I'VE GOT A NAME (0)

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Their mission is to end sex trafficking in Nebraska <https://ivegotaname.org/>

3. THE GATHERING PLACE (0)

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

The Gathering Place provides free hot, nutritious meals every evening, seven days a week.

<https://www.communityactionatwork.org/programs/hunger-relief-healthy-food-access/the-gathering-place-soup-kitchen.html>

4. OUT NEBRASKA (3)

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee, Frank Edler, Judy Hart, Erica Birky Rios

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

"We believe in a Nebraska that embraces and celebrates the full spectrum of LGBTQIA2S+ people. Often, LGBTQIA2S+ Nebraskans experience discrimination, disparities, and isolation – particularly transgender people and people of color. OutNebraska is dedicated to empowering, celebrating, and growing LGBTQIA2S+ 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.

- We're advocating for reform, connecting with local and state representatives, encouraging civic engagement and making investments for the betterment of our communities.
- We're growing connections, lifting up our allies and celebrating LGBTQ+ people through fun events like the Prairie Pride Film Festival.
- We're providing inclusivity training and engaging in community conversations to help ensure a welcoming and thriving environment for all."

5. BRIDGES TO HOPE (0)

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee, Harry Heafer

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Serves and encourages men and women transitioning back into the community after incarceration as they become successful contributors to society. Provides basic household furnishings, clothing, personal hygiene products. Works with organizations to provide job training and mentoring.

6. BRAVE BE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (2)

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee, Harry Heafer, Frank Edler

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

BraveBe Child Advocacy Center is a non-profit organization providing a safe, child friendly location for conducting forensic interviews and medical evaluations for abused children in Southeast Nebraska.

7. FOOD NET (1)

Nominator(s): Social Justice Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

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. <https://foodnetlincoln.org/>

8. THE SOLIDAGO CONSERVANCY*

Nominator(s): Green Sanctuary Committee

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Solidago Conservancy works with public and private partners and local families to expand greenways throughout our community, connecting people to natural spaces. Last fall, the Development Director for Solidago, Bailey Wood, shared a presentation with the Green Sanctuary Committee, and the committee then decided to nominate Solidago.

<https://solidagoconservancy.org/>

9. FITTING FUTURES / WHITE CANE FOUNDATION*

Nominator(s): Karen Heafer

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

The White Cane Foundation provides students with basic needs through a consistent presence of volunteers in Title I Schools. An emphasis is placed on maintaining the dignity and respect of the individual. Students are empowered to go out in the world choosing new clothes and given basic toiletries that give them confidence and independence to become their very best self.

10. KZUM COMMUNITY RADIO*

Nominator(s): Peg Pelter

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

KZUM is a noncommercial, listener-supported community radio station licensed to Sunrise Communications, a nonprofit organization established solely to operate KZUM. The mission of KZUM is to educate and build community through broadcast media, with diverse and independent voices that enrich the perspectives of our audiences.

11. PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE HEARTLAND (6)

Nominator(s): Phyllis Conway, Harry Heafer, Linda R Brown, Frank Edler, Judy Hart

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Planned Parenthood of Lincoln offers a full range of high-quality sexual health care services without judgment.

12. MOURNING HOPE (0)

Nominator(s): Linda Ager

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

At Mourning Hope, children, adults and families have the opportunity to participate in grief support groups with peers their own age who have experienced similar loss. Participants and clients are taught healthy coping skills for dealing with the death of a significant person. They are given the freedom to grieve in their own way and at their own pace. Ultimately, they learn that hope and healing are possible, and that no one has to grieve alone.

13. ACLU of NEBRASKA (3)

Nominator(s): Harry Heafer, Frank Edler

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

The ACLU of Nebraska works in courts, legislatures, and communities to protect the constitutional and individual rights of all people.

14. ARC OF LINCOLN (0)

Nominator(s): Harry Heafer

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

The Arc of Lincoln is a non-profit advocacy organization that serves people of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

15. CENTER FOR LEGAL IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE (CLIA) (4)

Nominator(s): Harry Heafer, Judy Hart

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Helping immigrants and refugees achieve their dream by providing high quality legal immigration assistance and mental health services.

16. ECHO COLLECTIVE (0)

Nominator(s): Harry Heafer, Jackie Egan

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

ECHO Collective connects and empowers refugee and immigrant women by providing opportunities for personal growth and building cross-cultural relationships in a nurturing environment. ECHO Collective helps refugee and immigrant women overcome the barriers that they face in rebuilding their lives in the United States. Our entrepreneurship and creative programs focus on sparking connections that surpass language, and our desire is to see every refugee and immigrant confidently call Lincoln “home.”

17. LINCOLN LITERACY (1)

Nominator(s): Harry Heafer

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Help people in our community learn English language and job skills.

18. WILLIE’S UNDERWEAR PROJECT (0)

Nominator(s): Harry Heafer, Carol Kendrick

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Providing underwear and sweatpants and t-shirts and socks to school nurses and counselors for when a student is ill at school or has an accident and needs a change of clothes to be able to return to class.

19. BIG GUMDROP OUTDOORS*

Nominator(s): Christine Davis

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

“Big Gumdrop Outdoors (BGO) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska, dedicated to empowering urban youth through education and outdoor exploration. We aim to break down barriers to nature access by providing afterschool programs, summer activities, and community events that inspire kids to connect with the outdoors. In a time when screen time and sedentary lifestyles are on the rise, and youth physical health is declining, BGO creates opportunities for kids to thrive, learn, and grow through meaningful outdoor experiences.”

<https://www.bigumdropoutdoors.org/>

In the summer of 2023, BGO launched its first eight-week program with the Clyde Malone Community Center, introducing youth to conservation, wildlife education, and outdoor skills. Kids learned about ecosystems, built tents, cooked over campfires, and—most memorably—went fishing for the first time. By meeting youth where they are and fostering a love for nature, BGO aims to instill lifelong habits that benefit both individuals and the environment. Through these efforts, BGO strives to inspire a new generation of environmental stewards who understand the value of the natural world and the importance of preserving it for future generations. - Christine Davis

20. NAACP LINCOLN BRANCH (3)

Nominator(s): Jackie Egan, Frank Edler

Purpose/Mission of Nominee

The Lincoln Branch NAACP is an official chartered branch of the NAACP. Since its founding in 1918, the Lincoln Branch NAACP has played an unparalleled role in improving the lives of those who are socially, politically and economically disenfranchised in Lincoln and its surrounding communities. Toward these ends, Lincoln Branch NAACP has always strived to identify, monitor and prioritize our communities’ needs, then partner with like-minded individuals and organizations to meet those needs. Lincoln Branch NAACP continues to pursue strategic alliances with businesses, non-governmental organizations, and persons of all races who share its goals.

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.

21. MALONE CENTER (5)

Nominator(s): Linda Brown

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. They are in the middle of *The Breaking the Cycle campaign*, focused on building a new \$22.8 million 52,000-square-foot facility for the Malone community to reflect Malone's vision for excellence and its unwavering commitment to the kids and families they serve.

22. FRESH START HOME (5)

Nominator(s): Michael Reinmiller, Trey Coley Lusk, Frank Edler, Judy Hart

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Fresh Start is a transitional shelter that empowers homeless women to change their lives by recognizing and utilizing their strengths to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. Fresh Start Home offers a safe, structured, alcohol- and drug-free environment for women invested in attaining self-sufficiency. Services are offered to women ages 19 years and older. "Fresh Start serves an important niche that is not provided by any other organization in town. Additionally, Fresh Start has a long standing relationship with our UU Church, from its founding to current board members. I highly recommend they be selected for Share the Plate." - Trey Coley Lusk

23. LITTLE FREE PANTRIES of LINCOLN (3)

Nominator(s): Michael Reinmiller, Erica Birky Rios

Purpose/Mission of Nominee

The money raised through Share the Plate will be used to purchase non-perishable foods and other household items in bulk to be distributed through our pantry at the Unitarian Church of Lincoln (UCL). The beauty of the Little Free Pantries are that they are open 24/7/365 throughout neighborhoods in Lincoln. LFP was founded by church member, Michael R!

24. FOOD BANK OF LINCOLN (0)

Nominator(s): Frank Edler

Purpose/Mission of Nominee

Strives to alleviate hunger in Southeast Nebraska. Serves 16 counties where an estimated 48,100 people are food insecure.

25. INDIAN CENTER (3)

Nominator(s): Frank Edler

Purpose/Mission of Nominee

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

26. EL CENTRO DE LAS AMÉRICAS (1)

Nominator(s): Frank Edler

Purpose/Mission of Nominee

.A culture center focused on the promotion of Awareness, Appreciation, and Acceptance of Diversity through cultural activities and education since 1982, El Centro continues to provide services for its clients through its Three Pillar Approach: Assistance, Education, and Health. Through this Three Pillar Approach El Centro perseveres in its mission: Educating and Empowering Hispanic/Latino Families and the Community At-Large.

27. LARKSONG, WRITER'S PLACE*

Nominator(s): Frank Edler

Purpose/Mission of Nominee

Larksong's Mission Statement: Inspiring people to create a better world through writing and storytelling.

Vision statement: To create a sustainable midwestern-based literary center providing in-person and on-line writing workshops, educational community events, individual manuscript consulting, and co-working space services for beginning to seasoned writers who want to advance their skills outside of a university or college framework.

28. ANGELS THEATER COMPANY (0)

Nominator(s): Frank Edler, Judy Hart

Purpose/Mission of Nominee

"Angels Theatre Company creates, develops, and produces new work. It creates engaging theatre to promote artistic growth, foster community relationships, and raise social awareness. With an emphasis on promoting new work, we nurture and celebrate theatre artists while engaging our community in quality live theatre. We strive to create an inclusive company filled with diverse viewpoints, so that we can tell stories and amplify voices that deserve to be heard."

29. ROOTS OF JUSTICE PROJECT*

Nominator(s): Frank Edler

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

"The Roots of Justice history of race and racism in Nebraska is in the final editing stages, with a projected publication date of December 2025 on UNL Digital Commons. The five chapters focus on Native Americans, African Americans, Latinos, Asian Nebraskans and refugees. Most of the authors of these chapters have firsthand knowledge of being a person of color in this state. The Truth & Reconciliation Steering Committee, a diverse group of volunteers who guide the project, is beginning to plan for "the rollout" — a series of meetings across the state in 2026 to raise awareness of these overlooked parts of our shared history. We hope to stimulate discussions of how our past shapes our present and how wrongs of the past might best be remedied. Above all, we hope people will be inspired to take actions that lead us to a future free of the divisiveness of racism. The support we receive for this "rollout" would help pay for meeting expenses such as space rental, travel costs, refreshments and promotional materials."

30. VOICES OF HOPE (4)

Nominator(s): Betsy Shipley

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

"Our mission is two-fold: 1.) To provide services to victims and their significant others who are faced with the traumatic aftermath of sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, human trafficking, incest, and childhood abuse and 2.) To provide information about these crimes for the purposes of citizen awareness, prevention and to enhance the sensitivity and professional understanding of those who may work with individuals with these problems."

31. BLUE HERON TIOSPAYE (0)

Nominator(s): Larry Pelter

Purpose/Mission of the Nominee

Blue Heron Tiospaye is an indigenous peoples nonprofit organization. Focused on promoting Native American values, and land restoration in order to preserve and bring forth the spiritual, ceremonial and ecological teachings of indigenous peoples of the Great Plains and the Americas.

32. LINCOLN HYGIENE NETWORK*

Nominator(s): Abby Lemburg-McDowell

Purpose/Mission of Nominee

"Our mission is to improve the health, dignity, and self-esteem of impoverished and vulnerable persons by ensuring access to essential hygiene care and period products. Our vision is a community in which everyone has access to hygiene and period products."

33. CIVIC NEBRASKA*

Nominator(s): Judy Hart

Purpose/Mission of Nominee

Civic Nebraska builds young civic leaders, promotes civic health, and protects voting rights. We believe that decision-making and moving forward together in a democratic society must include debate, shared interests, mutual respect, diverse solutions, and faith that the majority can be counted on for a wise resolution. Such prosocial aspects are what makes democracy the most powerful organizing force in human history and it's what we seek to create and sustain.

34.GREAT PLAINS CAMP BOLD*

Nominator(s): Nathan Woodruff

Purpose/Mission of Nominee

Since 2018, Great Plains Camp Bold, Inc. has offered a safe, welcoming camp experience for transgender and gender diverse children and their families. Campers swim, fish, do crafts, and sing around the campfire, but most importantly, they get to be themselves with other kids who share their experiences. Siblings get to have a fun camp experience and be with families like their own. Parents have a weekend away from the stress of daily life, knowing their families will be celebrated and cared for without judgement. And because many of our volunteer staff are transgender and gender diverse adults, families see real people who defy stereotypes and lead joyful and healthy lives. Great Plains Camp Bold raises private funds to offer the camp experience free of charge to families each year from Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Missouri. Unitarian Church of Lincoln members were instrumental in the founding, implementing and funding of Camp Bold.

35. OTOE-MISSOURIA EDUCATIONAL FUND*

Nominator(s): Judy Hart

Purpose/Mission of Nominee

Walking in the Footsteps of our Ancestors (Ahadada Wathigre Hjinéwi Ke) is a joint project of the Center for Great Plains Studies and the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma that aims to promote healing and reconciliation in southeast Nebraska by reconnecting the Otoe-Missouria to their homelands and by educating non-Native people about the history and ongoing presence of the Tribe and other Indigenous peoples in our region. The fund provides crucial financial support to students from the Otoe-Missouria tribe as well as other tribes with historical connections to Nebraska and can be used for all educational costs, including tuition, room and board, books, and student fees.