



Dear Friends:

Thank you to everyone who applied for a Share the Plate month. We are pleased to announce the offerings for 2023-2024:

Month	Name of Person or Group submitting the nomination	Name and short description of group/organization
September	Partner Congregation Committee	"Gondviselés" a Unitarian organization in Transylvania - the name loosely translates as "Caring about problems". It is connected to our Partner Congregation. This organization was formed years ago to help those in need in the communities where there are Hungarian Unitarian congregations in Transylvania, Romania.
November	Jeff Greene	Camino Verde, whose mission is to restore the forest landscapes of the Amazon by strengthening forest communities. Camino Verde was founded 10 years ago by Robin Van Loon, who grew up in this church. Under his leadership, Camino Verde has planted hundreds of thousands of trees, established a seed bank, and worked with numerous indigenous communities to transform their agricultural practices to be more sustainable. He has established an international reputation.
October	Dan Niven and Dana Lissy	Boston Area Gleaners addresses food insecurity, on-farm food waste, and local farm sustainability

		<p>through a variety of programs. With the help of volunteers, the Gleaners harvest and pack food donated from local farms for communities across the region. Through our Distribution program, we deliver fresh food to a network of local food pantries, food banks, and meal programs, and provide trucking support to partner non-profits and farms in need of resources. Our newly-launched Boston Food Hub program is a wholesale market for local produce—providing income opportunities for farmers, healthy food access for low-income communities, and a much-needed farm-to-institution supply line for local universities, hospitals, and food banks. The Gleaners also organize Seasonal Apprenticeships to train the next generation of leaders in the field.</p>
December	IJTF/Ted Bayne	<p>KIND (Kids in Need of Defense): KIND helps protect the basic human rights of refugee and immigrant children in the United States, many of whom come to escape abuse and persecution. A world in which children’s rights and well-being are protected as they migrate alone in search of safety.</p>
January	Don Miller	<p>THRIVE is a non-profit organization headquartered in Lowell. Its mission is to provide Restorative Reentry to people who are coming out of prison or jail. THRIVE accomplishes this through Circles of Support and Accountability (“CoSA”), an evidence-based restorative justice and reentry initiative practiced in many communities around the world. THRIVE has already expanded its efforts beyond Lowell to Lawrence and Haverhill.</p>
February	RJAG/ Sue St. Croix	<p>Robbins House has led the way for Concordians and visitors to learn and understand Concord's broader history. We now know much more about the previously invisible black presence in, and contributions to, our town. Thanks to Robbins House research and documentation of the educational and social activism work of Caesar Robbins' granddaughter, Ellen Garrison, her name is being submitted as the name of our new middle school.</p>

March	IJTF/Jane Blumberg	THE BIKE CONNECTOR, INC. This is a volunteer-run non-profit in Lowell that fixes up donated bikes and makes them available to people in Lowell who cannot afford them. Recipients are given helmets and training in repairing and maintaining their bikes.
April	Environmental Team/Gail Ghardia	One Tree Planted is a 501c3 organization located in Vermont. Established in 2014 the organization plants trees in North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Pacific; where trees are most needed at any one time. Working with local organizations, it plants trees in 47 countries. It has doubled the number of trees planted annually since it was founded. It planted 52 million trees in 2022 One Tree Planted Benefits: jobs to minimize poverty in local communities, improve climate change resilience & mitigation, restore forest cover, improve food security. A \$1 donation equals 1 tree; \$2,000 provides 2,000 trees
May	WPA/ Marylin Lowitt	Restoration Project. description: a non profit whose mission is to help individuals with mental health issues achieve self-sustaining lives by offering remedial, transitional employment and facilitating their integration in the community. It is a woman operated non profit and has served 300 plus young men and women since its inception in 1992.
June	Diversity Team/Sara Ballard	Greater Boston PFLAG's mission is to advocate for and advance equity and societal affirmation of LGBTQ people by building and strengthening loving families, safe communities, and a diverse and inclusive society.

We look forward to your generosity to these organizations and to the many projects we sponsor and support. Have a wonderful summer!

In Solidarity,
Paul, Minister of Social Action