

# **First Parish in Portland**

## **Share the Plate Recipients**

### **January- June 2018**

First Parish shares its abundance by making a \$300 contribution to a different nonprofit organization each month, whose work is helping to heal the world. The organizations selected for Share the Plate at the 12/10 meeting of the Faith in Action Committee, for January through June, in order, are:

1. **Homeless Voices for Justice** - is a state-wide social change movement, organized and led by people who have struggled with homelessness. It is a grassroots effort based on the belief that true change occurs only when those affected by an unjust system are directly involved in addressing the injustices and in which disenfranchised people become empowered and gain leadership skills to organize and advocate for institutional change. Organized under Preble Street, a 501c3.
2. **Florence House Women's Shelter.** Houses women and children. Provides a safe environment, enabling them to escape abusive relationships. The abused and battered are in need of nurturing and caring. Let them know there are good people that help in the community.
3. **Water Mission (Puerto Rico project)** - is a nonprofit engineering organization that designs, builds and implements safe water, sanitation and hygiene solutions for people in disaster areas in this case for Puerto Rico. 100% of donations will provide safe water for those in Puerto Rico affected by Hurricane Maria. Water Mission has earned Charity Navigator's highest rating for the past 10 years.
4. **The Locker Project.** Provides food to needy children and families throughout the year via public schools (over a dozen in southern Maine). Supporting food security for all, especially the invisible poor, advances our mission by literally nurturing and healing our communities.
5. **Gateway Friends** (nonprofit arm of Gateway Community Services in Portland, Lewiston & Augusta). Supports refugees and asylum seekers with mental health services, winter clothes closet and other transitional support. Gateway serves the most vulnerable new neighbors in our community and in doing so is helping to heal some of the trauma in the world.
6. **Maine Council of Churches** -- seeks common ground, working for the common good. Works with organizations around the state for social justice issues and speaks out on public policies such as health care and tax reform.