

Habitat for Humanity Nominated for 25% Sunday Plate Fund

Sunday Plate Funds would support Habitat for Humanity's comprehensive series of Financial Education and Home and Community classes every family takes as a homeownership requirement. The classes, says development director Colleen McKenna, are "really why families are successful." Habitat has a less than 1% foreclosure rate by its homeowners.

Habitat's money management and budgeting classes prepare families for the unexpected and expected. Habitat says its "focus on financial literacy has long-lasting, generational impacts by teaching that security comes not only from homeownership, but from budgeting, savings, and investments."

Home and Community Classes emphasize indoor home maintenance, landscaping and outdoor maintenance, neighborhood development practices to become good neighbors, communicating in workplace settings, public speaking, leadership skills, and stress management.

Specifically, funds will provide educational materials and supplies about financing, stress management, managing tax refunds, insurance, and home and yard maintenance. Funds will be used for training materials for volunteer instructors; video cameras and videotaping programs to record classes to make them fully accessible; printed materials in Spanish and English; landscaping tools; and printed monthly newsletters for future homeowners.

Habitat now has 23 families with 85 people in the program working toward homeownership, and more families will be added this summer. With these funds, UU can support Habitat's bold step tocreate a new 69-home community, Osage Place, on the southwest side. The first three will be finished this summer. This community, Habitat's third one, will make a major impact on the availability of local decent, affordable homes.
For more information, visit: **https://monroecountyhabitat.org/apply/**.



Refugee Support Network Nominated for 25% Sunday Plate Fund

In December, Exodus invited UU RISE to sponsor a wonderful Afghan family who came to the U.S. with nothing. The Fakherduins have four boys and are expecting another in July. We have a great group of UUs who are part of our sponsorship team. Our team has worked closely with **the Refugee Support Network (RSN**). Pete Lenzen, the operations director on the board of RSN, has been a major supporter and friend of the Fakherduins. Because he is so knowledgeable about the resources in Bloomington he knows right where to go for help, and he has been a huge asset to our committee.

Because we have seen firsthand how impactful RSN is in meeting the needs of refugees and in moving families from dependency to successful independence, our RISE task force has submitted a proposal to the Social Justice Funds Committee for the 25% of the Sunday Morning Plate Fund to be awarded to RSN.

The Refugee Support Network was registered as a 501C3 non-profit in 2017. In the past two years RSN has supported 50 immigrant families, coming from 15 countries. Adequate housing is critical in order for these families to feel safe and secure, for children to receive a consistent

education and for heads of households to be able to find meaningful employment. Housing and utilities in Bloomington are extremely high. **Our funds from the 25% Sunday Plate fund would go to RSN for housing needs for refugees who are here now and for refugees who will be coming to Bloomington in the coming year.**

For more information see **https://www.bloomingtonrefugees.org/**

Tandem Birth Center and Postpartum House Nominated for 25% Sunday Plate Fund

Tandem Birth Center and Postpartum House was founded in February of 2020. Their mission is to improve perinatal outcomes by trusting patients, increasing options for care, and challenging the status quo. They've secured a physical location, begun renovations, and launched perinatal educational programming. They expect to open the doors to their gynecology clinic this summer, followed by the birth center by the end of 2022.

If selected, the 25% funds would cover the costs of renovating the birth center's Family Area. The renovations include building a kitchenette, adding tables and chairs, and integrating comfortable furniture. An activity center for kids and siblings will also be added. This area outside of the birthing suites is instrumental in maintaining the intimate, home-like feel of the center while ensuring functional space exists for those supporting birthing people. This contribution would provide a lasting, physical embodiment of our congregation's commitment to reproductive justice.

Upon opening, Tandem will be the only freestanding birth center between Indianapolis and Louisville. Currently, families wanting midwifery services for childbirth in Bloomington must choose between birthing at home or the hospital. Tandem will provide an important third option. Upon opening the Postpartum House, Tandem will be the only provider in this part of the state where families can have round-the-clock support. With an average local hospital birth discharging families less than 48 hours after birth, we believe this service is critical in fully supporting families in the weeks following a new baby's arrival.

For additional information, please visit: **https://tandembloomington.org/**