

## **25% of Sunday Plate Fund 2021-22 Nominees**

The Social Justice Funds committee is happy to announce the three finalists for the UUCB 25% Sunday Plate Fund. The three organizations are listed below and voting will take place at the June 13 congregational meeting. Each agency will give a video talk at the June 13 Sunday Service, and additional information will be on the UU Church website.

### **New Hope's program: The Nest**

*Nominated by Marlin Howard*

The New Hope agency is the only agency in Bloomington that houses homeless families with young children. Right now, the agency is in the throes of a major building project and move due to the closing of the current Bloomington Hospital. However, the Homeless task force would like to use the 25% plate contribution to support [New Hope's program The Nest](#) which is the program for early childhood care and education.

The Nest is an Indiana Paths to Quality Level 4 and nationally accredited by the National Association for Family Child Care. Only 6% of licensed family childcare providers in Indiana have received this level of accreditation.

The donation would be for supplies and materials needed to cover the many facets of early childhood care. The children would be more likely to succeed in kindergarten.

Most recently, there have been 39 families which include 88 children under the age of 18 in Monroe County. New Hope is the only agency that can meet the needs of all members of these families.

### **Nurse Family Partnerships**

*Nominated by Deb Fish*

Nurse Family Partnerships (NFP) is a non-profit organization that opened in Bloomington in 2015 with grant money provided by the Indiana State Department of Health. Their grant was designed to address the high infant mortality rate in this state. The sponsoring agent for the South Central NFP is IU Health whose only responsibility is to provide a facility and handle designated administrative tasks. NFP is housed with WIC, making their services more accessible for those in need. The impact report can be found at [nursefamilypartnership.org](https://nursefamilypartnership.org).

Nurse Family Partnerships (NFP) would be a worthy recipient of the UUCB Share the Plate as they provide unique services that transform the lives of vulnerable babies, mothers, and families. Six RNs serve 150 clients in Monroe (52%), Greene, Lawrence, Paoli and Owen

counties. They provide direct services to 1st time, low-income mothers with the majority being on Medicaid. RNs connect with mothers during pregnancy and provide support and education throughout pregnancy and for up to two years after. Examples of the "extras" that are needed, but not funded by the grant are: helping with funeral services when an infant doesn't make it; buying required work shoes so a mom could get a job to provide for her child; paying for a mom's teaching license so she could get a job; basic needs like food, clothing, and living expenses; bus passes and gas cards....and so much more. The needs are varied and great and these small acts can have lasting positive impacts on mothers and babies.

## **Friends of Monroe County Public Library (MCPL)**

*Nominated by Ruth Aydt*

What surrounds us shapes us.

The [Coretta Scott King Book Awards](#) are given to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values.

25% Plate funds would allow the Friends, in consultation with MCPL and school librarians, to purchase CSK award-winning books for K-12 Monroe County schools, ensuring all students have access to these titles not traditionally in school libraries and classrooms. Books range from \$5 to \$25. Classroom book kits requested by teachers will also be created so all their students can read and discuss books together.

The distribution of these books would complement MCPL's 2022 planned exhibit, *Our Voice: Celebrating the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards*, featuring prints of illustrations from award winners.