



## **Organizations Nominated for UTUUC 2019 Sunday Collections**

As a congregation, we are committed to contributing our resources to help make a better world. One way we put our faith into action is by giving our Sunday collections to organizations that embody our values. Each year members of the congregation nominate non-profit organizations to receive a Sunday collection. All members in good standing, who attend the Annual Meeting, may cast up to six (6) votes for organizations to receive a collection. Members may give a maximum of two (2) votes to the same organization. Unity Temple Faith in Action leaders and Rev. Taylor will tally the votes to determine which organizations receive a collection in 2019.

Here are the organizations that have been nominated. Please familiarize yourself with these organizations and plan to join us on Sunday, December 9th, to participate in the voting process. Thank you!

### **Austin Scholarship Program of Third Unitarian Church**

The Austin Scholarship program of Third Unitarian Church provides college scholarships to outstanding high school seniors in the Austin community. Since 1974, the Austin Scholarship Program has helped more than 500 Austin students go to college and graduate. Former recipients have returned and asked to join our team to help continue the opportunities for Austin youth into the future.

### **Bellissima Opera**

Oak Park-based Bellissima Opera has brought music to 20,000 students in the Chicagoland area in communities that are generally underserved. These performances by professional musicians and poets allows students to meet up close with artists. The program also creates space for students to write lyrics to their own songs with the belief that self-expression, in a loving environment, is a road to healing. We thank you for your support to share the transformative power of music with young people.

### **BUILD - Hope. Lives. Futures.**

Build is located in the Austin community, and has helped up to 6,000 kids that face poverty, and chronic exposure to violence, trauma, and gangs. We have 69 employees who are involved with Gang Intervention and Violence Prevention. Core after school and summer programs focus on music, dance, art, podcast development, digital art, business, accounting, outdoor activities, computer and software education, and academic assistance. We also offer basketball and wrestling opportunities, and many mentors to provide a healthy, happy, and safe place to be.

### **Chicago HOPES for Kids**

Chicago HOPES for Kids provides educational support for children living in Chicago's homeless shelters. It is our mission to provide students with the resources and encouragement needed to succeed academically, despite the challenges of homelessness. Over 200 volunteers provide one-to-one or small group support for the children in our programs. Your support would help pay for volunteer training, books, enrichment partnerships, art materials, and healthy snacks for the children.



### **Connections for Abused Women and Their Children**

Connections for Abused Women and their Children, formerly Chicago Abused Women Coalition, is committed to ending domestic violence. Using a self-help, empowerment approach, we provide a shelter for women and children, and counseling, advocacy, and a 24-hour hotline for people affected by domestic violence. We work for social change through education, service collaboration, and institutional advocacy.

### **Day Nursery of Oak Park & River Forest**

The Day Nursery provides exceptional early childhood education that welcomes all children, and fosters the academic, social-emotional, and physical development that leads to school success. Annually, the program serves 110 children, ages 2-6, and their families, many of whom are from low-income families. This is the only full-time, NAEYC accredited early child care center to provide internal financial assistance. The nursery serves Oak Park and areas throughout Cook County including Maywood, Bellwood, Berwyn, Forest Park, Austin and Galewood.

### **Disabled American Veterans**

Since 1920, Disabled American Veterans has empowered veterans to lead high quality lives with respect and dignity. Services are offered at no cost or obligation to veterans, their families and survivors at 100 offices throughout the US and Puerto Rico. DAV provides assistance to homeless veterans, represent veterans in the claims process with the VA, offers counseling, holds informational seminars, and advocates for veterans' needs - helping all who have served our country.

### **Fisher House**

Fisher Houses are constructed to provide accommodations for military families in times of emergency. We provide caregivers and loved ones of patients, receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers, a safe and accessible place to stay. There is no charge for any family to stay at a Fisher House. Locally, the VA Hines Center has a Fisher House to support military families in need.

### **Hephzibah - Youth Services**

Caring for vulnerable children for over 100 years, Hephzibah offers short and long-term group homes for children traumatized by neglect and abuse, child welfare and family services, foster care and adoption programs, and award-winning day care on a sliding scale for families of all income levels. Our internationally recognized children's home is built in the shape of the letter H, which stands for healing, hope, happiness and, of course, Hephzibah - a Hebrew name meaning, "comforting mother."

### **Hopital Albert Schweitzer, Haiti**

Hopital Albert Schweitzer (HAS) was founded in 1956 and has been providing health care to the people of the Artibonite Valley in Haiti ever since. HAS reaches thousands of people in a 610-square-mile area through a 131-bed hospital, community health centers, mobile clinics, and a network of community based prevention, care and treatment. This hospital is an organization with a 4-star rating, where you can be sure your gift goes directly to the people in need!



### **Maywood Fine Arts Association**

Maywood Fine Arts Association provides affordable, quality arts and fitness education to enrich and transform the lives of more than 1,000 youth and their families in Maywood and surrounding communities. MFA aims to strengthen the community by encouraging youth to reach their full potential. As youth study dance, tumbling, karate, drama, visual art, and music, they learn self-discipline, teamwork, and respect for others.

### **Merciful Hearts Foundation**

Established in 2006, Merciful Hearts Foundation provides preventive healthcare services to support children, pregnant women, and the elderly in rural Imo State, Nigeria-Africa. Access to healthcare is sorely lacking throughout Nigeria, especially in rural communities. Every year thousands of women, children and elders die from preventable health conditions. You can help by supporting Merciful Hearts Foundation in making a difference.

### **NAMI Metro Suburban**

NAMI Metro-Suburban is an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental illness - a grassroots family and consumer organization dedicated to improving the lives of people living with mental illness, and their families and friends. We achieve this goal through advocacy, support, and education (free of charge) within the communities of west suburban Cook County. Your generous support will help us continue this vital work.

### **New Moms (formerly Parenthesis)**

At New Moms, 100% of the young moms who access our services live in extreme poverty; 63% come from homes where their mothers were teen parents. New Moms exists to interrupt the cycle of poverty and create strong families. Our mission is to surround young moms and their children with love and care and everything they need to transform their lives - providing stable housing; job training; and comprehensive family support services to strengthen families and communities.

### **Oak Park Regional Housing Center**

Our mission is to achieve meaningful and lasting diversity throughout Oak Park and the region. Housing is the fundamental structure of opportunity. Since the 1960's, leaders in Oak Park made a concerted effort to bring about an effective approach to integration that would break the pattern of rapid racial change in housing. Because one-third of renters move every year, OPRHC is still needed to sustain an integrated housing market.

### **PASO - Proyecto de Accion de los Suburbios del Oeste / West Suburban Action Project**

PASO is a community-based social justice organization that combines empowerment tools, support, education, and leadership development with policy/advocacy and immigration legal services. PASO is the primary community partner of Unity Temple's Immigration and Refugee Response team. Recent initiatives include DACA renewal and citizenship applications, Oak Park Sanctuary Ordinance, and working with our congregation and St. Christopher's to create a sanctuary network.



### **Planned Parenthood of Illinois**

Planned Parenthood is the largest and most publicly visible organization providing and supporting comprehensive reproductive health care services in the Chicago area. We provide care to patients across the socioeconomic spectrum. Care includes: contraception, cancer screening, testing for sexually transmitted infection, and access to all services including abortion. Your donation helps support each individual's right to make informed, independent decisions about health, sex and family planning.

### **Tower Hill Camp & Retreat Center**

Tower Hill Camp is a non-profit camp operated by the United Church of Christ in Sawyer, MI. More than 100 members of our congregation enjoy attending the All Congregation Retreat at this camp each year. Our support will help fund capital improvements to housing and playground equipment for the benefit of all groups who use the camp year-round.

### **Unitarian Universalist Military Ministry Great Lakes**

The Unitarian Universalist Military Ministry Great Lakes (UUMMGL) conducts weekly worship services at the Naval Recruit Training Command (Boot Camp) near North Chicago. Last year we served more than 625 young adults ages 18-35. Some are UU's, but for most, this is their first exposure to Unitarian Universalism. Our one-hour service is an island of spiritual support during their physically and emotionally challenging training.

### **Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois**

We equip UU congregations throughout Illinois to transform institutions and support people harmed by the prison industrial complex. We advocate for bail/bond reform, reducing solitary confinement, and improving reintegration for citizens released from prison. We run UU groups in Illinois prisons and jails, and equip congregations to offer solidarity circles to support people re-entering society from prison. Your generous support will help us continue expanding this important ministry throughout Illinois.