

# UUSD - Share the Plate FAQ

**What is the Mission of Share the Plate?** To “give back” to our community, raise awareness within the congregation of social justice concerns and give members and friends an opportunity to provide direct support.

**What is Share the Plate and How Can I Contribute?** UUSD designates one Sunday of every month (usually the second Sunday) to offer 50% of the non-pledge collection to the Share the Plate organization. A guest representative from the organization is invited to speak to the congregation during the service. Contributions to the Share the Plate program may be made on the designated Sunday by placing cash or a check in the offering basket with “Share the Plate” in the memo line. You also may contribute throughout the month by using the [Online Giving page](#) and selecting “Share the Plate,” or by mail-in check (mark Share the Plate in the memo line).

**How does Share the Plate also help UUSD?** In addition to amplifying UUSD’s mission and values in our community, UUSD’s Share the Plate contributions to community groups have averaged ca. \$8700 per year over the last four years (FY 2021-FY 2024). Because Share the Plate contributions are split 50/50 between UUSD and the recipient organization, this means that Share the Plate also generated that much revenue for UUSD each year!

**Who are the Recipients of Share the Plate?** Recipients are local/state non-profit organizations whose work supports Sussex County residents. Their programs must be consistent with UUSD’s [Resolution of Conscience](#), as well as with our Mission, Vision and Principles. From time to time or in special circumstances, UU-affiliated organizations are also considered.

**How are Share the Plate recipients selected?** The Social and Environmental Justice Committee (S&EJC) administers the Share the Plate program. Organizations come to the Committee’s attention via word-of-mouth, news articles or submitted nominations from members of the congregation. The [nomination form can be found by clicking here](#).

All nominations are reviewed by the S&EJC to verify that the organization is non-profit, reputable, that their work is in line with our criteria, and that there would be a clear and practical use for our donation.

There is an effort to vary the focus of chosen recipients annually and from month-to-month to support the areas covered in our Resolution of Conscience. Depending upon need, a group might receive a donation two or three years in a row (e.g. Milton Community Food Pantry, Cape Henlopen Homeless program, etc.) or every two or three years.

S&EJC members determine by consensus during their monthly meetings who the upcoming STP recipients will be.

FOR MORE INFO, visit our [Share the Plate](#) webpage or contact [socialjustice@uusd.org](mailto:socialjustice@uusd.org)