

Draft Summary of "Share the Plate" Programs at N. Georgia UU Congregations

11/1/15

UU Congregation of Gwinnett

Contact: Bert Schuster bertschuster@att.net

What do you call your program?

Give Away the Plate (GATP)

When did you begin your program?

September 2010

Who selects the beneficiaries?

The GATP committee reviews nominations, vets organizations, and selects beneficiaries.

Do you have specific criteria for selection?

Required: 501(c)(3) nonprofit status; organization aligns with UU principles and values

Desired: history of significant achievements, shows promise of future success, local impact, involvement by UUCG members

For how long does the selected organization benefit?

50% of non-designated offerings every Sunday morning service for 3 months. There usually are a couple of one-month special collections per year.

Is there any follow-up after the cycle?

It varies. Non-UU recipients are eligible for additional funding 12 months after an award.

Do you have any data you would like to share?

In 2014, we disbursed \$7,269.78

What are some of the organizations with whom you have shared the plate?

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Gwinnett, Gwinnett Children's Shelter, Gwinnett Sexual Assault Center - Children's Advocacy Center, Friends of Gwinnett Senior Services, Freedom University (undocumented students), UUSC and UUA Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund, UUA-UUSC Philippines Crisis Fund

UU Emerson

Contact: Debi O'Neil debby.oneil67@gmail.com

What do you call your program?

Share the Basket

When did you begin your program?

2000

Who selects the beneficiaries?

Faith in Action Committee

Do you have specific criteria for selection?

Mostly local organizations

For how long does the selected organization benefit? What is the split?

50% of non-pledge offerings for two Sundays for one month.

Is there any follow-up after the cycle?

When the stars align, a person from the organization presents the sermon.

Do you have any data you would like to share?

On average, a charity will receive about \$500.

What are some of the organizations with whom you have shared the plate?

Yearly donation: UUSC, the Mountain, El Refugio

Other donations: Cobb County: Cobb Christmas, MUST Ministries, Marietta Center for Children and Young Adults, YMCA Rape Crisis Center. Atlanta Metro: Gateway, Lost N Found Youth, WeCycle.

Anything else you would like to add: Each year the Environmental Task Force presents a Sunday service and chooses an organization to support. Chattahoochee RiverKeepers was selected Spring 2015. Other local donations given to: Food Pantry, Christmas toys, Thanksgiving dinners, and a group that regularly cooks breakfast at a shelter.

UU Northwest

Contact: Marcia Kreycik mkreycik@gmail.com

What do you call your program?

"Donate the Plate" but are planning a trial run of "Share the Plate" in the fall where all undesignated contributions are split 50/50

When did you begin your program?

Possibly as early as 2000 (definitely prior to 2007)

Who selects the beneficiaries?

In general the ministry team leader. See approach below:

- Generally a survey has been done in recent years (Survey Monkey) but with very limited response.
- Post on the bulletin board for suggestions, which straggle in randomly.
- Last November I had a well-attended session after service facilitated by Greg Pattison in which I was able to get a sense of what members really wanted to support at the time. Compiled these suggestions and let them guide selections.
- Charity Navigator or equivalent

Do you have specific criteria for selection?

Yes

For how long does the selected organization benefit? What is the split? 100% of the second Sunday's undesignated plate collection

Is there any follow-up after the cycle?

- Attempt to create service opportunities with most of the recipients.
- This year we started a more regular monthly service - Saturday morning at Community Assistance Center

Do you have any data you would like to share?

\$10,941 for 2014

What are some of the organizations with whom you have shared the plate?

Planned Parenthood SE, Community Assistance Center (Sandy Springs) Humane Society, Southern Center for Human Rights, Green Law, Habitat for Humanity, New American Pathways (RRISA), GIPL

Georgia Mountain UU Congregation

Contact: Nancy Hunt nancyhunt2012@gmail.com

What do you call your program?

Share the Plate

When did you begin your program?

Unclear. Incomplete records dating back to 2011

Who selects the beneficiaries?

The Board of Trustees

Do you have specific criteria for selection?

- application showing need and values shared with GMUUC
- organization is active in our region
- completion and currency of application, date of previous award
- participation or potential participation of GMUUC members in the applying organization

For how long does the selected organization benefit? What is the split?

100% of non-specified plate donations on the third Sunday of each month, for a 3 month period.

Is there any follow-up after cycle?

There is no formal follow-up on the part of the church. In most cases, we receive a thank you note from the awardee.

Do you have any data you would like to share?

The amount of the award has ranged from \$346.00 - \$935.96, typically about \$400.00. Congregants are reminded each third Sunday of the organization receiving the day's collection.

What are some organizations with whom you have shared the plate?

- Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
- Caring Hands
- Inda Y Allen Scholarship Fund
- Rainbow Children's Home (2 times)
- Lumpkin County Literacy Council
- Community Helping Place
- The Mountain
- Legacy Link Area Agency on Agency
- Lost-n-Found Youth
- Georgia Forest Watch
- White County Backpack Buddies

UU Metro N. Atlanta

Contact: Jen Saltzman jensaltzman@gmail.com

What do you call your program?

We call it 50/50 Sunday

When did you begin your program?

Not sure

Who selects the beneficiaries?

Social Justice Committee

Do you have specific criteria for selection?

Must be a charity or a non-profit

For how long does the selected organization benefit?

We do a 50/50 split the third Sunday of every month.

Is there any follow-up after the cycle?

No, that's an area for improvement.

Do you have any data you would like to share?

No, another area for improvement.

What are some of the organizations with whom you have shared the plate?

Fur Kids, Trees Atlanta, Lost N Found Youth Shelter

UU Fellowship of Athens (UUFA)

Contact: Karen Solheim ksolheim54@gmail.com

What do you call your program?

Share the Plate, formerly called Cause of the Month (CoTM)

When did your program begin?

Cause of the Month began Sept. 2005. A speaker from designated organization would come the first Sunday of each month. Beginning in 2007, the speaker would come, and a separate collection would be taken for that organization throughout the month.

Share the Plate began July 2013. Our initial research showed that overall giving would increase and our offering income would not drop. This turned out true: the totals raised for the Fellowship have substantially increased (beyond our projected budget for plate offerings) and the amount raised for the causes have about doubled.

Who selects the beneficiaries?

The Social Action Committee meets once a year to designate the 12 causes by vote of the committee

Do you have specific criteria for selection?

1. The Social Action Committee (SAC) chooses the cause of the month.
2. We should limit the CoTM to either local charities or nonprofits or UU related causes. (like UUSC or The Mountain)

3. Limiting to local causes not only helps them and keeps our dollars in Athens but also increases the positive visibility of UUFA in the Community.
4. Anyone in the Fellowship can suggest a cause but priority is given to causes known to and supported by members of the SAC. That way we know the money is going to a worthwhile target and strengthens our individual ties to the community.
5. The Minister is welcome to suggest additional causes that she becomes aware of from her work in the community over time.
6. We are guided by the 7 Principles in our choice of causes.
7. We are also guided by the UUFA Mission and Vision statements.

For how long does the selected organization benefit?

It is a 50/50 split every Sunday for one month of non-designated plate donations. With our current program, we try to have a speaker from the organization speak (3 minutes) at the first Sunday of the month.

Is there any follow-up after the cycle?

We try to record a picture of us giving the check to the cause for a press release but we have not done that most months. We also invite members to volunteer time to the cause each month

Do you have any data you would like to share?

We have been keeping records since 2007. We have lots of data! For FY 2014, the total amount donated to selected organizations was \$15,948, for an average of \$1329 per month.

What are some organizations with whom you have shared the plate?

We have a very long list of organizations we have supported. For FY 2014-2015: Our Partner Church, Athens Economic Justice Coalition, IHNA/Our Daily Bread, UUSC (Service Committee)/GAYT, Athens Nurses Clinic, Food to Kids, Athens Area Homeless Shelter, The Ark, Athens Area Emergency Food Bank, Chess and Community

Anything else you want to add? We have been supporting Cause of the Month for over 10 years!

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta

Contact: Sally Riddle sar@riddle.net

What do you call your program?

We are in the process of changing from a one per month 100% plate model to a weekly 50/50 split model.

When did your program begin?

Who selects the beneficiaries?

We have a list of organizations that were approved by a committee (what committee?), with the goal that the chosen organization "fits" with a sermon theme for the month

Do you have specific criteria for selection?

How long does the selected organization benefit?

We are in the process of re-organizing our program to a 50-50 monthly split, with the exception of the summer months, where one organization may get more than one month.

Is there any follow-up after the cycle?

Do you have any data you would like to share?

Average about \$2000 per month under once a month donation.

What are some organizations with whom you have shared the plate?