

2023 Participating Organizations

Key: (D) donations only, (P) products only, (B) both

Africa Bags (B). Africa Bags is an empowerment project focused on fighting poverty in rural Malawi and reducing environmental waste in the USA and beyond. Hand crafted bags are produced by sewing groups using foot powered treadle sewing machines and sold around the world, providing a sustainable income to women at risk. Africa Bags' outreach has expanded to include Africa Pads, empowering schoolgirls by providing them with reusable, hygienic pad kits, and Greening Malawi, fighting deforestation with a tree planting initiative and feeding vulnerable school children.

Church World Service (D). In the aftermath of World War II, 17 U.S. denominations came together to form Church World Service to "do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone." The focus then was on rebuilding war-torn Europe and Asia and addressing a staggering refugee crisis. It began as a program of the National Council of Churches, but 70 years later it is now an independent faith-based organization focused on "transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster."

Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed (D). *Plymouth's Climate Action Ministry Team* works to develop a comprehensive congregational response to Climate Change and partners with community-wide efforts, like the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, to address environmental and climate issues. Northern Colorado residents are dependent on the Poudre River and its vast watershed, which was deeply affected by the 2012 fires. Over 95,000 acres of the upper watershed burned. Severe erosion, higher than normal runoff volume, and debris flows all contributed to extreme water quality degradation in the Upper Poudre Watershed, the principal source of raw water for Fort Collins, Larimer County and beyond. The Coalition seeks innovative solutions that offer tangible, measurable, and lasting improvements to the health and resiliency of the watershed. Volunteers can assist with tree planting, pine cone collecting, and spring riverfront cleanup days. A gift of time is also welcome!

Equal Exchange (B). This Fair Trade Worker Cooperative partners with more than 40 farmer co-ops and organizations around the world to

provide customers (like us!) with access to exceptional products such as coffee, tea, organic chocolate bars and cocoa, and several items from Palestinian growers. Plymouth's share of the proceeds from the sale of Equal Exchange products support Plymouth's Youth Programs.

Fair Trade Winds (P). Fair Trade Winds is dedicated to offering products that are fair for people and the planet. We want to see a world where no one is exploited for the things we buy. That's why all of our products are proudly handmade and verified fair trade. We work with about 150 artisan organizations in 57 countries around the world. The artisan groups range in size from just a handful in one small community to thousands spread out over entire countries. Each group prides itself in the work they do and we pride ourselves in our partnership. Our shop is a member of the Fair Trade Federation.

Habitat for Humanity Fort Collins (D). Habitat seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. Their vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live, including Fort Collins, where finding affordable family housing is a daunting challenge. In partnership with the buyers, Plymouth is part of the 2023 Faith Build collaborative. Once again, all donations in support of this house will be matched, thus doubling your donation!

Heifer International (D). Have you ever considered how a flock of chickens can change a family's life? Or a wool producing sheep or alpaca? Or, indeed, a heifer that can grow into a source of both food and income for now – and the future? Heifer International grew out of that kind of thinking. It now works alongside local farmers and business owners in 19 countries – supporting farmers and their communities, providing training so they can improve the quantity and quality of the goods they produce, and facilitating connections to markets to increase sales and income.

Interfaith Solidarity and Accompaniment Coalition (D). ISAAC is raising money for our *Accompaniment Fund*, which houses several initiatives to meet urgent needs experienced within Larimer County. Money raised through the Missions Marketplace will go towards our

Family Crisis Fund, which provides cash assistance to immigrant families locked out of more traditional forms of assistance. This can be anything from emergency groceries, to a one-week motel stay for a homeless immigrant family, to rent assistance for an undocumented cancer patient going through chemotherapy. The *Accompaniment Fund* also houses our *Immigration Legal Fund*. This year, funds raised will also go to the *The Chocoy Initiative*, which provides legal assistance for unaccompanied migrant youth in our school district, as well as to Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelans fleeing dangerous country conditions.

La Familia/The Family Center (D). For 28 years, The Family Center has worked alongside diverse families to provide high quality childcare and bilingual and culturally-attuned family-centered supportive services, guided by six core values: compassion, trust, equity, diversity, inclusion, and love. Designed to support the whole family, our programs are created with an explicit vision of creating a community in which all families are safe, supported, and thriving. Our mantra: Strengthening families strengthens the community as a whole.

La Fondita Latina (B). La Fondita Latina is an immigrant-conceived and immigrant-developed small food business, governed by Cooperative Principles and Practices of Social Return. Since its creation, profits have been focused on self-finance of its operation, supporting members' education in food preparation, providing food for community events, and creating a fund to rent a fixed location. Soon it will be offering affordable food from a storefront near CSU! La Fondita Latina also shares its income with other community non-profits. Proceeds from this year's sale of tamales and empanadas will be shared with ISAAC's The Chocoy Initiative, which supports Larimer County immigrant children and teens who are here without a parent or guardian.

Lango School (D). The Lango School project was adopted by Plymouth Congregational Church in 2013 to continue the work started by Bob and Nancy Sturtevant during their Peace Corps service in Ethiopia. The school provides education to 200 students in 3 levels of kindergarten as well as grade 1 to children who cannot afford the cost of a private school. Ethiopia does not provide free kindergarten and the school is in a poor rural area of the country. Your support provides teacher salaries, school equipment, and uniforms for the children at a cost of \$25.00 a child per year.

Masazane Soup Kitchen & Child Protection Project (D). Masazane was founded in 2012 by six Xhosa-speaking Gogos (grandmothers) in the Mbekweni township of Cape Town, Plymouth member Marilyn Votaw and South African activist Judy Cooke. The Gogos know that education is the way out of poverty and that you can't educate a hungry child so they provide up to 500 children a day with a nutritious meal. The Gogos, who range in age from 65 to 85, also offer psycho-social support, assistance with accessing medical care and social grants and other life-saving support to 150 of the most vulnerable of the children and provide foster care in their home to another 30.

Plymouth's Student Support/Housing Security Initiative (D). Over 40% of CSU students experience housing insecurity at some point during their undergraduate years. Plymouth's Student Support Team, in partnership with area congregations, collaborates with LUMIN (Lutheran Campus Ministry at CSU) and its Student Housing Security Initiative. Donations will support rent subsidies for the 21 students participating in 2023-24. Members also provide meals for weekly student gatherings several times a year. With the CSU Office of International Programs and other groups, the Team also hosts an annual Welcome Event to help SHSI students as well as newly-arrived international students outfit their apartments with new and gently-used household items.

Rawdat El-Zhuhur School (D). Following the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, hundreds of Palestinian families were dislocated and destitute. In 1952, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Nazir, then director of the social welfare department for Jerusalem, brought abused and impoverished girls into her home. She began with 25 girls and called the program Rawdat El Zuhur ("Garden of Flowers"). After the 1967 War, there was an urgent need for schools for Palestinian children. In response, Rawdat evolved into a formal elementary school with a kindergarten. The school now serves 221 Palestinian girls and boys, both Christian and Muslim. Plymouth has supported two students from the school each year since 2000.

Rooted Wisdom Africa (B). Rooted Wisdom Africa works in south central Uganda to empower children and families to break free from the chains of poverty through education and business development. We focus in rural Uganda, evaluating success based on observable changes within the family and community units. Understanding that poverty is a complex issue, our model includes multiple services at various stages of development. As such, a family may have a student

enrolled in our Life Skills program, another child in the Collegiate Education Training Program, a mother in the Women's Enterprise Training Program, and the father in the Farmer Field School. Our programs begin with a review of the community and are uniquely developed to address and adapt to those needs.

Samburu Youth Education Fund (B). Samburu Youth Education Fund's mission is to provide equitable opportunities for youth in northern Kenya to enhance their leadership development and problem-solving skills through educational scholarships and civic involvement opportunities. Our primary activities include leadership and civic involvement training and projects, payment of 100% of secondary school tuition, room/board and fees, start-up training and financial support for young entrepreneurs, and sales of women's beadwork.

Syrian Displaced Families Support (B). Now in its 13th year, the Syrian refugee crisis remains the world's largest refugee and displacement crisis of our time. About 6.8 million Syrians are refugees and asylum seekers, and another 6.7 million people are displaced within Syria – more than half of the country's population. About half of the people affected by the crisis are children. Ft. Collins' resident Radwan Kalaaji and his physician niece provide housing and food support to the most vulnerable families in Aleppo, a city that has been devastated as part of this conflict. Radwan makes delicious baklava, which will be available on a donations basis.

Threads Worldwide (B). Threads Worldwide creates life-changing work and connection with women around the world through the fair trade of artisan-crafted jewelry, home goods, and handbags. Women in the United States can represent the artisans at home parties, festivals, and holiday events to create income for themselves!

UPAVIM Crafts (B). Founded in 1989, UPAVIM creates and sells colorful, handcrafted products – kitchen items, jewelry, ethically-made gifts for babies and children, liturgical stoles, ornaments and other holiday items and, of course, masks in many sizes, shapes and colors. Sales of UPAVIM's Fair Trade goods directly support the cooperative, a full-day K-6 school, daycare, and a Montessori-based preschool. UPAVIM's success has also fueled the development of a health clinic, a tutoring program, a bakery and more.

Women's Small Business Loan Program (D). The Murulle Foundation (TMF) is a non-profit organization based in Fort Collins and working in sub saharan Africa. One project is a micro-finance loan program for women around the village of Dinsho, Ethiopia. Through this program, more than 325 women have received loans. Their businesses include buying grains and spices in large quantities and selling in smaller quantities, opening coffee cafés, and rebuilding a thatched-roofed home to rent. Recently, at the suggestion of the women, small groups were given herds of goats to fatten in the hope that larger herds, which could be sold at intervals, would give them a steadier income.

The Marketplace Café (P). Note: some of these organizations also accept donations, but donations appear on a different part of the form for tax reasons.

Afghan Refugee Family Support - More than 75,000 Afghan refugees fled their country in the late summer of 2021 when the U. S. military withdrew their forces after a presence of two decades. One family relocated to Fort Collins where a team of members from Plymouth and Heart of the Rockies (DOC) have accompanied them for the past 18 months as they rebuild their lives. Volunteers have supported them in registering for school, obtaining employment and medical services, learning English, and developing relationships in the community. Drop by The Marketplace Café for a touch of the family's warm hospitality, delicious Afghan sweet bread and cardamom tea. Donations received will support the family as they move toward financial self-sufficiency.

La Fondita Latina Cooperative - Invites you to stop by the Café for a mug of flavorful Mexican hot chocolate and a plate of freshly-baked dulce de leche empanadas. Sales will support the co-op and be shared with ISAAC's The Chocoy Initiative, which provides legal and other assistance to immigrant children and teens who are here without a parent or guardian.

Plymouth's Youth Coffee Cart – Plymouth youth baristas will be brewing up specialty coffee drinks on a donations basis to raise funds for the Youth Missions Fund.