

2024 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. Handcrafted 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 today it is an independent faith-based organization focused on "transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster."

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. 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 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 partnerships. 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. Our 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 2024 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 seeks to raise funds to enable nimble responses to pressing legal and financial needs in the coming years of uncertainty for immigrant and refugee families. These include the *Family Crisis Fund*, which provides cash assistance to immigrant families locked out of more traditional forms of assistance such as emergency groceries or a short motel stay for a homeless immigrant family. And the *Immigration Legal Fund* which assists families applying for asylum, residents renewing DACA or work authorization and victims of a crime.

La Familia/The Family Center (D). For over 30 years, The Family Center has worked alongside 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, and designed to support the whole family, programs are created with an explicit vision of creating a community in which all families are safe, supported, and thriving. Donations will support early childhood scholarships, family support services (i.e. car seats, mental health/parenting classes) and Mi Voz, a leadership and advocacy program.

La Fondita Latina (P)– La Fondita is an immigrant-conceived and developed small food business, governed by Cooperative Principles and Practices of Social Return. Since its creation, profits have

been focused on self-financing its operation, supporting members' education in food preparation, and providing food for community events such as ISAAC's quarterly Empowerment Clinics and Plymouth's Missions Marketplace. Their famous tamales (cheese/pepper, pork, vegan) will be available for purchase at the Marketplace, frozen, in bags of six. Freshly-baked empanadas will also be available. Sales will support the Co-Op, which is in the process of opening a restaurant on Laurel St., near CSU.

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 and 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 Climate Action Ministry Team (CAM) – Talk with the Climate Action team about their work and their vision for Plymouth as a Creation Justice Congregation. Donations will support projects, such as the Community Garden being developed on church grounds. Visit their "Give a Scrap" display for earth-friendly items made from donated fabric including colorful, reusable bags for gift-giving, including "bottle bags". "Scrap" items are available on a "take what you can use, give what you choose" basis.

Plymouth's Ending Gun Violence Ministry Team. Last June, the Surgeon General declared gun violence, including suicide, to be a public health crisis in the United States, with profound consequences on survivors, communities and

mental health. "... we have now reached the point where gun violence is the leading cause of death among kids and teens.... That is something that we should never take as the new normal," said Dr. Murthy. Starting in 2025, guns in Colorado cars must be secured in a locked, hard-sided container in a locked vehicle. One of the ways Plymouth can help is to provide gun safes to gun owners to secure their firearms, and demonstrating proper use of such safes.

Plymouth's Student Support/Housing Security Initiative (D) Ever since Plymouth Church moved to its current address, Colorado State has been "the university next door." Our relationship to CSU is focused on 1) Support of housing-insecure students through a partnership with other area congregations and in collaboration with LUMIN (Lutheran Campus Ministry at CSU) and its Student Housing Security Initiative (SHSI). Donations support rent subsidies for the 20+ participating students. 2) Cooperation with the CSU Office of International Programs, and other groups, to host an annual Welcome Event to help SHSI and newly-arrived international students outfit their apartments with gently-used household items. 3) Engagement with LUMIN through an interfaith dialogue program and an emerging Progressive Campus Ministry program.

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. Since 2000 Plymouth has supported two students from the school each year.

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. More than 16.7 million people in Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance, accounting for 70 percent of the population. About half of the people affected by the crisis are children. Fort Collins resident Radwan Kalaaji, and his physician niece, use donated funds to 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, 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, would give them a steadier income.

The Marketplace Café (P). Note: some 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 Afghans fled their country in the summer of 2021 when the U. S. military withdrew their forces after a presence of two decades. One family relocated to FC where a team of members from Plymouth and Heart of the Rockies (DOC) have accompanied them for the past 3 years 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.

Palestinian Family Support - The family moved to Fort Collins in the fall of 2022 to attend graduate school. When their funding abruptly was cut off they turned to Plymouth for housing support. With the escalation of the war between Israel and Palestine the family is seeking asylum. Plymouth continues to accompany them as they work and strive to rebuild their lives. Stop by the Marketplace Café to meet them and try a cup of tasty Palestinian lentil soup. Donations received will support the housing for 471094 the family.

La Fondita Latina invites you to stop by the Café for a light lunch of burritos (meat, veggie or vegan), and a beverage.

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.

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