

COMMUNITY PLATE

Each month our congregation provides support for a community partner who we believe shares our values. We encourage our congregants to learn more about these organizations and actively volunteer in the work they do. On the first (OR 2nd) Sunday of each month, our entire offering is dedicated to that month's partner as well as any checks identified as "Community Plate" during the entire month. Money can also be contributed at the Justice Table at coffee hour. The Community Plate Committee of our Justice Ministry team selects recipients based on suggestions made by congregants.

For more information and nomination forms: uuasheville.org/community-plate.

January's Community Plate recipient is the Mel Hetland Scholarship.

Mel Hetland was an incredible educator and humanitarian in our community. The Mel Hetland Scholarship Fund was established in 2004 to honor this selfless leader. The Mel Hetland Scholarship is a one-time award to a student who will attend a North Carolina publicly funded college, has financial need, has participated in community service, and has a weighted GPA of 3.0 or better. Extra consideration is given to first generation college attendees. Funding for this scholarship is provided solely by the generosity of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville. First generation college students need extra support through their first year of college to navigate the complexity of academic and social life. The Mel Hetland Scholarship Fund plays a critical role in supporting our promising high school graduates as they pursue their dreams of higher education.

The scholarship is distributed through the Asheville City Schools Foundation which awards over \$180,000 in new and renewing scholarships each year to help students continue to excel after graduation.