

## **Sharing The Plate 2024-2025 Nominations**

Under Beacon's Sharing The Plate [STP] program, one-half of the open collection taken each Sunday service is donated to a local charity. The STP policy requires that the Beacon membership annually select the following year's STP recipient through a vote at the Annual General Meeting on April 21, 2024.

Guidelines for the Sharing the Plate Charity. The charity:

- should have its principal activities in the Lower Mainland, preferably in the New Westminster/Tri-Cities area;
- be a relatively small charitable organization, one which will be positively impacted by the amount of the Sharing the Plate contribution;
- should not have a formal affiliation with a religious organization or political party; and
- should be willing and able to come to Beacon in September 2024 to tell us about its work, and come again in May or June 2025 to receive the cheque if it is selected as our new STP recipient.

The STP committee offers the following two charities for selection of the STP recipient for the 2024–25 church year. The charities are listed in alphabetical order. Please familiarize yourself with the information included below, so that you can make an informed decision at the AGM on April 21, 2024.

### **Century House Association Peer Support Program**

**Address:** 620 Eighth Street, New Westminster

**Phone number:** 778-882-2472

**Website:** [Peer Support Program – Century House Association](#)

The Century House Association Peer Support program is a helping service designed to support and enhance the social and mental well-being of older adults who are facing life transitions and challenges. Peer Support services address the needs of aging adults and seniors by providing confidential, no-cost, one-to-one support with the help of trained volunteers. The Peer Support

Volunteers are there to offer:

- listening and emotional support;
- empathy and guidance;
- information and outreach;
- exploration of possibilities;
- assistance in setting goals; and
- education and service opportunities.

The Peer Support program partners with other community groups to provide broader community programming, for example, we have an alliance with New West Hospice to co-host the Annual Dialogue on Death & Dying a 3-4 day event honouring all it means to be human. The Peer Support volunteers receive lay-counseling training and are supported and supervised enhancing their gift of service to their community.

**The Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS)**

**Address:** 9048 Stormont Avenue, Burnaby

**Phone:** 604-527-0556

**Website:** <https://pads.ca>

PADS supports people with disabilities and community care providers by partnering them with certified assistance dogs. We breed, raise and train fully certified assistance dogs. Our service (mobility & PTSD) and hearing dogs provide life-changing independence to those with disabilities. Our accredited facility dogs work with community professionals, such as teachers, RCMP and psychologists to help support healthy communities. PADS currently runs volunteer programs in the BC Lower Mainland and Okanagan and is a fully accredited member of Assistance Dogs International.