



# 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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## EXTRA MILE AWARDS

The Rainbow Project is thrilled to present JustDane with an Extra Mile Award. Formerly known as MUM (Madison-area Urban Ministry), JustDane has been remarkable in their commitment to providing care and support for those fighting difficult battles. Whether it's returning home after being incarcerated, or facing poverty and homelessness, or battling oppression, JustDane has been relentless in their work to help underserved populations. Everyone at the Rainbow Project — and in the wider Madison community — deeply extends their acknowledgement and gratitude to JustDane.

JustDane began as a program out of the First Congregational Church in Madison over 40 years ago, before becoming its own nonprofit agency. They have since partnered with their founding Church for some of their immensely important initiatives, including Just Bakery and Healing House. Healing House, a respite house for families experiencing homelessness, exemplifies their care and concern for children and parents. Eldonna Hazen, the Senior Minister of First Congregational Church and the Chair for Healing House's fundraising committee, describes the importance of providing care to an entire family: "This is a great way they touch the lives of children especially, who are sometimes left on the margins...This is a place where kids can heal and parents can heal together." Hazen is proud to support JustDane's work to help those who are "oppressed in so many ways. They look for ways to lift these people up, remind them of their value and worth and make sure their needs are provided for...We believe wholeheartedly in their mission."

A comment from another enthusiastic supporter of JustDane: "JustDane is a long-standing organization with deep roots in the Madison community for people who experience oppression, discrimination and marginalization, but who also have great strength and voice. JustDane's approach to bringing justice, health and advocacy to Madison goes beyond traditional strategies by engaging people with lived experience and doing the hard work that is needed to lead the way in creating lasting change. JustDane sees, hears and acts on the calls for justice, support and reform."

Congratulations, JustDane!

