

Our Family of Programs

- Minnesota FoodShare
- Metro Paint-A-Thon
- HandyWorks
- Division of Indian Work
- Urban Immersion Service Retreats
- Born to Learn™
- Project Persevere
- Discover Parent Groups
- Center for Families
- Community Justice Project

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2009 FoodShare annual March Campaign

Old Home Foods Helps FoodShare Put A Lid On Minnesota Hunger™

Minnesota's own Old Home Foods has partnered with Minnesota FoodShare to help feed the growing number of hungry families here at home.

Put A Lid On MN Hunger™ is a new program that will launch March 1, just as FoodShare launches its annual March Campaign to restock the state's food shelves. For every Old Home Sour Cream or Organic Milk lid consumers send in before Dec. 31, 2009, Old Home will donate 10 cents to FoodShare. The company will guarantee a minimum donation of \$10,000, but it could rise to \$25,000 if enough lids are sent in. Proceeds will help Minnesota food shelves purchase food and keep up with the growing number of struggling families in this economy.

"Old Home Foods is excited to be partnering with Minnesota FoodShare on our "Put A Lid On MN Hunger"™ program. We very much look forward to our work together to help serve the 1,000,000+ Minnesotans who deal with hunger on a daily basis," said Geoff Murphy, CEO of Old Home Foods.

Each March, FoodShare directs the largest food drive in the state (known as the March Campaign) and restocks more than 260 food shelves across Minnesota. The campaign recruits businesses, congregations, schools, and civic groups to run local cash and food drives to aid in the effort. FoodShare's March Campaign is critical. More than half of the groceries distributed at food shelves each year is generated from the March Campaign.

"It is companies like Old Home who make Minnesota such a wonderful and compassionate place to live. We can't thank Old Home enough," said Barbara Thell, FoodShare director. "If ever there was a year that Minnesotans needed the entire community to pitch in to help hungry families, this is it. So far we are seeing a 13 percent increase in the number of families who need help compared to last year. This recession is reaching families who have never had to use a food shelf before."

The Old Home **Put A Lid On MN Hunger™** program is easy.

1. Buy any Old Home Sour Cream or Organic Milk product.
2. Mail in your lid.
3. Repeat.

Mail lids to:

Put A Lid On MN Hunger™ c/o Old Home Foods
370 University Ave. West
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Old Home Foods has partnered with Minnesota FoodShare to Put A Lid On MN Hunger™. For every Old Home Sour Cream and Organic Milk lid consumers send in before Dec. 31, 2009, Old Home will donate 10 cents to FoodShare. The proceeds will help Minnesota food shelves purchase food.



HandyWorks tackles 31 percent more chores for elderly homeowners in 2008



A HandyWorks chore worker cleans the home of an elderly Minneapolis woman.



HandyWorks logged in some impressive service numbers in 2008. While the number of senior clients remained about the same, HandyWorks did more chores for those clients — 31 percent more in 2008.

Last year, HandyWorks completed 2,282 chores for elderly homeowners who just need a little extra help to remain independent in their own homes. That is up from the 1,740 chores in 2007.

For the past two years this Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches' program has seen the number of senior homeowners it serves increase substantially. "In 2008, we really wanted to focus on doing more chores for the seniors already in our program. They certainly need and appreciate the help," said Megan Nolan-Elliasen, HandyWork's director.

HandyWorks helps seniors in South, Southeast, and Northeast Minneapolis keep their homes and their independence. It matches elderly homeowners with those who can help with housekeeping, minor home repairs, and outdoor chores. Workers complete chores such as snow shoveling, lawn mowing, door replacement, laundry, and vacuuming. HandyWorks uses a network of both paid and volunteer workers.

GMCC to launch early family conferences to prevent future trouble

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) will launch a new program designed to proactively prevent local families and their children from getting into serious trouble whether at school, at home, or in the community.

The target audience is youth and families who are not yet in the child protection or justice system, but whose behaviors indicate they are at risk. They could be experimenting with drugs, skipping school, facing desperate times and pressure due to the loss of a job, etc.

Hennepin County awarded GMCC a \$75,000 grant to begin Family Group Conferencing.

The idea is to involve the youth, parent, or entire family in a conference along with their faith community, school community, and friends to help reset a positive path.

Referrals for conferences will likely come from congregations, parents, school officials, or neighbors. GMCC hopes to begin conferences later this spring and complete 100 by year's end.

The idea is to help support the person at risk by surrounding him or her with the most influential and positive people in their lives. They will work together to intervene and help guide the person in a new direction.

For more information, please contact LaDonna White, program director, at 612-721-8687, ext. 563 or e-mail her at lwhite@gmcc.org.

Wanted: Paint-A-Thon volunteer teams



Team registration forms for the 2009 Paint-A-Thon are now available.

This year's paint weekend will take place Aug. 1-2. Last year, 139 homes were painted.

Each year, Paint-A-Thon organizes volunteer teams from corporations, congregations, and civic groups to paint homes for low-income elderly and disabled homeowners in the seven-county metropolitan area.

Volunteers scrape, prime, and paint the homes at no cost to the homeowner. The program is designed to help seniors and disabled persons continue to live independently in their own homes.

Paint-A-Thon teams range in size from 10 to 40 people and are assigned a home based on the number of team members and their preferences for house size and location.

Paint-A-Thon provides all the paint, many paint supplies, and all the technical advice a team needs to have a fantastic volunteer experience. Generally, the time commitment involves two to three days of scraping and priming, as well as the paint weekend.

Homeowners must meet income guidelines and homes are inspected and ranked in terms of need.

Team registration forms are due June 1, 2009 and are available by calling Deidre Pope, Paint-A-Thon director, at (612) 721-8687, ext. 321, or e-mail her at dpope@gmcc.org.

Paint-A-Thon has updated its web site to include team information materials in easy downloadable formats as well as the option to register online. Visit us at www.gmcc.org/paint-a-thon and click on "volunteer teams information."

GMCC "Report to the Community" May 6, 2009

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) will present its annual "Report to the Community" May 6 at The Minneapolis Club, 729 Second Avenue South.

The event will begin at 4:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The report will consist of a brief presentation outlining GMCC's 2008 impact on our community.

Parking is free after 4 p.m. in the Minneapolis Club ramp on Eighth Street.

To register, call Mary Ann Williams, executive assistant to the president, at 612-721-8687, ext. 311, or e-mail her at mwilliams@gmcc.org.

Since 1905, the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches has battled poverty in Minnesota. We operate a successful family of social service programs and recruit support across denominational lines to help struggling Minnesota families remain self-reliant. GMCC is the largest direct-service volunteer organization in the state. Today, the nonprofit feeds hungry families, helps low-income seniors with household chores so they can remain in their homes, tutors inner-city kids, helps immigrant families plant new roots in the Twin Cities, trains volunteers to impact urban poverty, and helps struggling parents better support their families and raise their children. GMCC programs include Minnesota FoodShare, HandyWorks, Metro Paint-A-Thon, the Division of Indian Work, the Center for Families, Urban Immersion Service Retreats, Discover Parent Groups, and many more.

Snapshot: Compassion Capital Fund



Always looking for innovative programs that creatively address the needs of low-income children and families in Minnesota, the GMCC Compassion Capital Fund has awarded \$1.6 million in grants. One of the many programs funded includes Uplift-Chess, a program that teaches critical thinking skills and civil behavior using the game of chess. **Pictured:** Students at Sanford Middle School in Minneapolis participate in a chess tournament after taking lessons from Uplift-Chess. Chess teaches civil competition, how to accept defeat and win calmly, how to use one's resources to overcome a challenge, and a never-quit attitude.



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EXPRESSIONS

K. Darcy Hanzlik, Editor

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