

Since 1905, the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) 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 council of churches in the nation and the largest direct-service volunteer organization in the state.

GMCC is a recipient of a national [Compassion Capital Fund grant](#)

year founded:	1905
our family of programs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minnesota FoodShare Metro Paint-A-Thon HandyWorks Division of Indian Work Urban Immersion Service Retreats Project Persevere Discover Parent Groups Born to Learn™ Community Justice Project Center for Families
impact:	294,000 people a year statewide
accountability:	GMCC proudly meets all standards of the Charities Review Council. In addition, GMCC only spends about 10 percent of its annual revenues on fundraising and administration — well below the industry standard.
volunteers:	25,000 annually
service area:	Upper Midwest United States
annual budget:	\$6.8 million
major revenue sources:	260 corporations and foundations, 6,800 individuals, 300 congregations, the United Way, American Indian tribes, and federal, state, county, and city governments fund the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.
staff members:	82 (one-half people of color)
board members:	46 (39 percent people of color)
member congregations:	700 (Minneapolis and western suburbs)
denominations:	25

helping seniors live independently

We rally volunteers to paint the homes of low-income seniors and people with disabilities, helping 130 seniors each year remain independent in their homes and improving neighborhoods throughout the seven-county metro area.

GMCC Initiative: **Metro Paint-A-Thon.**

We annually match 300 seniors from South, Southeast, and Northeast Minneapolis who are struggling to stay in their homes with people who can help with housekeeping, minor home repairs, and outdoor chores.

GMCC Initiative: **HandyWorks.**

nurturing healthy families

We operate weekly support groups for low-income parents. About 130 parents take part to celebrate their children and prevent child abuse and neglect. The parents learn positive child discipline techniques and set job and home-life goals.

GMCC Initiative: **Discover Parent Groups.**

We offer a free school-readiness program for young children using a network of trained volunteers to teach parents how to help their child develop and get ready for school. The Born to Learn™ curriculum prepares infants, toddlers, and pre-schoolers for Kindergarten.

GMCC Initiative: **Born to Learn™**

We offer prenatal, parenting, and nutrition classes to American Indian mothers and fathers who want the best for their children. We also operate apartments for Native parents in need of a safe, affordable place to raise their children. In addition, we counsel hundreds of American Indian families impacted by violence in the home and train recovery coaches to work with urban American Indians who have completed chemical dependency treatment but who need help maintaining their sobriety.

GMCC Initiative: **Division of Indian Work.**

We partner with Hennepin County to reinstate parents cut off from monthly public assistance cash benefits because they haven't found work. We reconnect them with job counselors and report on special mental health and hardship issues. By helping the parents, this initiative helps children in the home keep a roof over their head, food on the table, and stability.

GMCC Initiative: **Project Persevere.**

We operate the Center for Families and welcome all families, especially the growing number of immigrant families from West Africa. The center offers job training, health screenings and referrals, mental health services, parent-child play groups to prepare preschoolers for learning, and help with locating housing.

GMCC Initiative: **Center for Families**

reducing hunger in minnesota

We restock more than 260 food shelves across Minnesota each year by directing the state's largest annual food and cash drive. The effort feeds about 242,000 Minnesota families a year.

GMCC Initiative: **Minnesota FoodShare.**

We operate a food shelf for low-income urban American Indian families, and feed more than 12,500 people each year.

GMCC Initiative: **Division of Indian Work.**

building a caring community

We operate retreats to educate people about urban poverty and turn that knowledge into action. Each year, we train 1,300 volunteers to serve meals at shelters, renovate affordable housing, do chores for low-income seniors, and reach out to children in homeless and battered women's shelters.

GMCC Initiative: **Urban Immersion Service Retreats.**

We award Minnesota faith and community groups training and money to create programs which target the unique struggles of low-income families in their neighborhoods.

GMCC Initiative: **U.S. Compassion Capital Fund Grant**

reducing crime

To reduce repeat offenders and the crimes they commit, we train volunteer mentors to help newly-released inmates avoid re-offending after release. The mentors help ex-offenders navigate through social service and government channels and offer practical advice on job hunting, budgeting, and housing issues.

GMCC Initiative: **Community Justice Project.**

helping kids achieve

We run weekly after-school tutoring sessions for 100 urban American Indian children, emphasizing their culture to help them improve in school and build leadership skills. We also operate a loving home for American Indian foster children.

GMCC Initiative: **Division of Indian Work.**

empowering urban american indians

One unique partner with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches crosses many impact areas. The **Division of Indian Work** empowers urban American Indians with culturally specific prenatal and parenting classes, after-school tutoring, family violence counseling, a food shelf, a loving foster home for Indian children, and recovery coaches to help those who have completed chemical dependency treatment maintain their sobriety.