

Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches

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The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) operates a family of social service programs helping struggling Minnesota families remain self-reliant.

Year founded: 1905

Size: Largest council of churches in the nation with 700 member congregations representing 600,000 individuals

Impact: 358,000 people a year statewide

Annual budget: \$7.7 million

Accountability: Meets all standards of the Charities Review Council

Overhead: About 12 percent of annual revenues spent on fundraising and administration – well below the non-profit standard

Major supporters:

- 377 corporations, foundations and American Indian Tribes
- 8,382 individuals
- 700 congregations
- United Way
- Federal, state, county and city governments

Service area: Twin Cities metro area and the Upper Midwest, including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota and Illinois.

Staff members: 95

Board members: 46

Volunteers: 25,000

Denominations represented: 25

Outcomes:

- Fighting hunger
- Helping seniors live independently
- Nurturing healthy families
- Empowering urban American Indians
- Ensuring school success
- Reducing crime
- Building a caring community

Programs:

- Center for Families
- Community Justice Project
- Compassion Capital Fund/Church and Community Initiatives
- Discover Learning Centers/Supplemental Educational Services
- Division of Indian Work (DIW)
 - Healing Spirit
 - Health Services
 - Strengthening Family Circles
 - Youth Leadership Development Program
- HandyWorks
- Metro Paint-A-Thon
- Minnesota FoodShare
- Parent Support and Early Childhood Initiatives
- Project Persevere
- Urban Immersion Service Retreats

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UNITING PEOPLE OF FAITH—SERVING PEOPLE IN NEED

Fighting hunger

Minnesota FoodShare restocks 300 food shelves across Minnesota each year by directing the state's largest annual cash and food drive. The effort raises the equivalent of 35 million pounds of food, more than half of the 61 million pounds of food distributed at Minnesota food shelves annually.

Division of Indian Work operates a food shelf — Horizons Unlimited — for low-income American Indian families and feeds more than 18,000 people each year.

Helping seniors live independently

Metro Paint-A-Thon rallies volunteers to paint the homes of low-income seniors and people with disabilities. The annual undertaking helps 100 seniors continue to live independently in their homes, improving neighborhoods throughout the seven-county Twin Cities metro area.

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

Nurturing healthy families

Parent Support and Early Childhood Initiatives promotes positive parenting and healthy families by acknowledging each parent's potential. Parents learn the appropriate developmental milestones of their children, positive child disciplines techniques and set work and home-life goals.

DIW's Strengthening Family Circles offers prenatal, parenting and nutrition classes to American Indian mothers and fathers who want the best for their children. We also operate apartments for American Indian parents in need of a safe, affordable place to raise their children. Additionally, we counsel hundreds of American Indian families impacted by violence in the home.

Project Persevere partners with Hennepin County to reconnect "hard to reach" clients cut off from monthly public assistance with their job counselors. We also educate the clients on job training, education and child-support services.

Center for Families provides a home, meeting spaces and "virtual offices" for a variety of family-oriented organizations, especially those serving the growing number of immigrant families from West Africa. The Center offer job training, health screenings and referrals, physical and mental health services, help with locating housing and parent-child play groups to prepare preschoolers for learning.

Ensuring school success

Discover Learning Centers partners with a dozen faith-based and community-based groups to provide Supplemental Educational Services to children to help them improve in school.

DIW's Youth Leadership Development Program encourages well-rounded success by providing American Indian youth with after-school tutoring, mentors and recreational and cultural activities.

Reducing crime

Community Justice Project trains volunteer mentors to help newly-released inmates avoid becoming repeat offenders 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,

Building a caring community

Urban Immersion Service Retreats operates retreats to educate people about urban poverty and turn that knowledge into action. Each year, we train more than 1,000 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.

Compassion Capital Fund/Church and Community Initiatives increases the capacity of faith-based and community groups to serve the unique struggles of low-income families in their communities through workshops and technical assistance.

Empowering urban American Indians

The Division of Indian Work is a unique partner that crosses many impact areas. In addition to those programs already mentioned, DIW provides culturally specific youth instruction in conversational Ojibwe, family violence counseling, a caring home for American Indian youth in the foster care system and on-going support for those transitioning out of that system and instruction in the traditional Native uses for tobacco smoking with the goal of smoking prevention by American Indian youth. We also train recovery coaches to work with urban American Indians who have completed chemical dependency treatment but who need help maintaining their sobriety.