



FACT SHEET

Every year, Minnesota FoodShare organizes the largest food and cash drive in the state to restock more than 260 food shelves across Minnesota. It also acts as a state and federal public policy advocate on hunger issues.

year founded: 1982

our key initiatives:

- The March Campaign: Minnesota's largest food drive
- Advocacy on hunger issues
- Education about hunger in Minnesota

accountability: Minnesota FoodShare is a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC). GMCC proudly meets all standards of the Charities Review Council and only spends about 10 percent of its annual revenues on fundraising and administration — well below the industry standard.

volunteers: Thousands of corporations, congregations, civic groups, and individuals contribute 199,000 volunteer hours per year.

food shelves restocked each year: More than 260

service area: Minnesota

annual budget: \$666,714

major revenue sources: Corporations, individual donors, state and federal grants

staff members: 5

co-sponsors: Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Jewish Community Relations Council of MN and the Dakotas, MN Catholic Conference, MN Council of Churches, MN Rabbinical Association and the St. Paul Area Council of Churches

denominations: Interfaith

A program of the
greater minneapolis | council of churches

UNITING PEOPLE OF FAITH—SERVING PEOPLE IN NEED



SNAPSHOT: A look at hunger

who is hungry?

There were close to 2 million visits to Minnesota's food shelves in 2007; food shelf use is still at record highs. Food shelves distributed 47 million pounds of food in 2007.

56 percent of those who visit food shelves have children. Hungry kids have difficulty learning and have more medical problems and absenteeism than children with healthy nourishment.

20 percent of adult food shelf clients are elderly. More than 50 percent work; in the Twin Cities suburbs, 60 percent of food shelf clients are the working poor.

why so many people?

People using food shelves do not earn enough to cover their basic needs: they average less than \$1,000 a month. Low wages without benefits, child care expenses, skyrocketing housing and fuel costs, and high out-of-pocket medical expenses make working families vulnerable to hunger.

The poverty rate (\$20,650 for a family of four) is an annual income level used to determine federal and state benefits. It has not been updated to reflect today's cost of living. This means many struggling families cannot qualify for housing and child care subsidies or food stamps.

The minimum wage of \$6.15/hr does not even approach self-sufficiency. According to the Minnesota Housing Partnership, a worker who earns the minimum wage in Minnesota would have to work 117 hours a week in order to afford a standard two-bedroom apartment.

feeding hungry minnesotans

We help restock more than 260 food shelves each year by directing the largest annual food and cash drive in the state, known as the March Campaign. The effort provides about half of the food distributed at food shelves each year.

In 2008, the March Campaign raised 9.1 million combined dollars and pounds of food, working with the food shelves across the state and thousands of corporations, congregations, schools, civic groups and individuals.

All of the money raised during the March Campaign goes to purchase food in Minnesota food shelves.

fighting to end hunger in minnesota

Minnesota FoodShare seeks permanent solutions to hunger, mobilizing advocates to address public policy issues which impact the hungry.

Minnesota FoodShare reaches out to Minnesota's low-income children and seniors, providing them with information on how and where to access government food programs.

educating minnesotans about hunger

Through outreach, public speaking, and educational materials, Minnesota FoodShare educates our citizens about the state's very real hunger problem.

how can you help?

Participate in the March Campaign! Visit our website to find your local food shelf. Consider a cash donation to Minnesota FoodShare during the month of March — food shelves have the ability to spread dollars further through co-op buying programs and discounts.

visit our website for more information: www.gmcc.org/foodshare