



GMCC Drop In Services

GMCC (founded as Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches) is a 118-year old organization that collaborates with communities across Minnesota to further justice in the areas of food, youth, and wellbeing.

“SEE YOU NEXT FRIDAY”

A farewell we have become accustomed to hearing. On Fridays, GMCC opens our facility to our unhoused neighbors to provide respite from the outdoors and a variety of services such as access to hot showers and hygiene supplies, case management, digital navigation support, and a hot meal. But people don’t just show up because they are hungry or could use a shower. We have built a community here, and that camaraderie is palpable.

Our Partners:



MINNEAPOLIS
Let Everyone Advance with Dignity

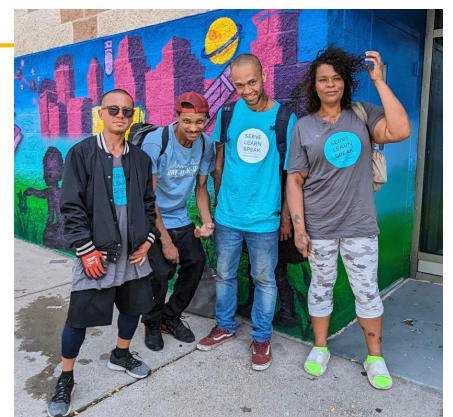


“Please, please keep doing this. This is really helping me.”
- Drop-in Services Client

“We need more spaces like this, where we are asked about the real problems and people talk to us about how to fix them.”
-Drop-in Services Client & Co-Designer

From July - October 2023, we have served 244 individuals with these services.

Through our Friday Drop In services and other programs, we have distributed 2,996 hot meals and 2,615 bags of food to people in need.



The Challenge

GMCC's geographic community (the Phillips neighborhoods of South Minneapolis) struggles with crime, homelessness, substance use disorder, and poverty.

Our Neighborhood:

34% are youth

33% live in poverty

Source: Minnesota Compass

74% are people of color

34% are foreign born

- Violent crime rates are **3x** that of Minneapolis and **14x** that of Minnesota.
- GMCC sits at the physical center of unsheltered communities - Approximately **350** individuals experiencing homelessness live in camps, alleys, and doorways within blocks of GMCC.

House keys alone won't solve homelessness - Unsheltered individuals often experience many complications to overcoming homelessness. What's more, humans require community to thrive. **GMCC Drop In Services** address unmet needs with care, patience, and non-judgment and provide a safe, supportive community for individuals experiencing homelessness.

In Fall 2023, we hired 8 individuals who have experience with homelessness to participate in a co-design process - a series of facilitated, deep-dive conversations - to better understand the most pressing needs and complexities of our clients' situations.

Services

Food including hot, prepared meals and takeaway food bags.

Trauma-informed mental health support: Our partners lead healing circles, one-on-one and small group discussions, affinity circles, and exercises to facilitate healing from trauma.

Hygiene kits and sanitation facilities: We provide access to hot showers, menstrual products, clean clothes, and hygiene supplies.

Case management: We facilitate case management, including help seeking employment, finding shelter, and applying for social services in partnership with LEAD Mpls and other organizations.

Recovery support: Access to one-on-one peer recovery support from certified coaches with lived experience.

Computer access and digital navigation support: Digital access allows individuals to obtain better healthcare, access basic needs support, and find employment opportunities.

Access to supplies like winter gear, coats, tents, and sleeping bags.

