



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

March 2010

Thankful for the CHUM Food Shelf



Having a place to go to get basic food supplies as we set up our home was great. The people at the CHUM Food Shelf made me feel welcome. They helped me pick nutritious meal items that my kids would eat. Because I have a job I no longer need to use the food shelf, but I know it is there if I ever need it again.

working on the basics; food, shelter, employment, community, dignity

Over the past months, CHUM has worked diligently along with other organizations around the state to reinstate health care coverage for the poorest among us. Many of those affected by this issue are CHUM guests and neighbours to us all. The call to care for our neighbours is especially difficult when we are experiencing difficult financial times in our own lives.

CHUM's advocacy work is an integral part of CHUM's mission as we 'organize for a just and compassionate community'. While the GAMC issue is resolved for now, more issues of injustice will need to be addressing in the next months. Please know that while we are working on these issues, we continue to provide services to our neighbours in need **with your help!**

Upcoming Events/Programs

JRLC Day On the Hill

Thursday, March 25, 2010



Keynote Speaker: **Rabbi Harold J. Kravitz**,
spiritual leader & active voice for social justice and interfaith and civic affairs.

CHUM will **not** be taking a bus this year; however, we will facilitate carpools. If you need a ride or have space in your vehicle, please contact Elizabeth Olson at 218-720-6521.

Meetings with Duluth legislators will be from 12:30 to 1:30 in room 500 South, State Office Building.

Register at <http://www.jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill/register-for-day-on-the-hill>

Young Adults on Faith and Social Justice

Thursday, May 20th 7:00pm 7-8:30pm at Teatro Zuccone

Refreshments and conversation will take place after the panel discussion. To nominate a young adult (age 18-35) to be on the discussion panel, contact Elizabeth Olson at CHUM.

This event is open to community members of all ages!

Advocacy Issues

GAMC SAVED!

On Friday, March 5th the Governor and MN legislators announced a deal to keep GAMC. Thank you to everyone involved in this effort. Please reach out and thank your local legislators for all their hard work.

Thank you for your cards, letters, emails and prayers, which have caused this resolution to the GAMC issue!

MN House Bill Would Give \$500,000 for Food Shelves

House Finance bill #2799 would be a big help to food shelves like CHUM's and others in Minnesota.

Go to <http://www.chumduluth.org/fundingforfoodshelves.htm>

for more information and to learn how you can help!

Minnesota Legislative Report Card on Racial Equity

The Organizing Apprenticeship Project recently released the Minnesota Legislative Report Card on Racial Equity. Here are the Key findings;

- Budget decisions undermined the racial equity progress. The Governor's use of his unallotment authority hit communities of color and low-income families hardest as it deepened their economic hardship.
- The Governor's cut in aid to local governments through GAMC and a \$51 million dollar cut from the Minnesota's renters' credit program, he damaged safety net programs created to advance economic, social and economic justice throughout the state.
- More legislators earned top grades through leading and supporting racial equity legislation than in the past.
- Legislature and Governor showed a huge improvement on passing racial equity bills.

PROGRAM RESOURCES NEEDED

Family Shelter Needs; electric alarm clocks, feminine hygiene products, body lotion, gentle bar soap, deodorant, size 3 and 4 diapers, baby care products, soap, shampoo.

THE FOOD SHELF is accepting plastic grocery bags.

Volunteers Needed for the Letter Carriers Food Drive, May 8, 2010.

Walkers; Teams of 2 people with a vehicle to work with a letter carrier to pick up food between 9 AM and 3 PM. Volunteers can report to the Main Post Office to be assigned a route.

Sorters; Volunteers to unload bags of food from the mail trucks at the Main Post Office 10 AM to 6 PM.

Rovers; Volunteers with a van or pickup to pick up food throughout the day.

To Volunteer; Contact Meg at 727-2391 or chumfs@chumduluth.org.

CHUM Church is looking for individuals or a group to provide musical entertainment for a social gathering of CHUM Church members. The event will take place at Peace United Church of Christ, 1111 N. 11th Ave. E., on either Saturday, April 17 or April 24, at 4:00 p.m. If you're interested or would like more information, contact Meg Kearns.

CHUM is a people of faith working together to provide necessities, foster stable lives, and organize for a just and compassionate community.