

## CUMAC Past to Present

CUMAC has been feeding people and changing lives for over 30 years. It began in the late 1970s when, then Paterson schoolteacher, Hugh Dunlop recruited his church congregation to collect food for his obviously ailing students. As they met that need, a greater need in the city of Paterson became obvious, and a small pantry was born to provide emergency food to the local community. In 1985, CUMAC was incorporated as the Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community Ecumenically Concerned Helping Others (CUMAC/ECHO) – a name meant to show that, while we are an outreach, urban ministry of the United Methodist Church, we serve all people in need without discrimination.

Though we shortened our public name to just CUMAC—the name the community knows us by—we have grown immensely in our 30-plus years of operation. Physically, we began in a borrowed church closet and now own our 28,000 square foot facility; organizationally we developed from a single-purpose, volunteer run group into a multi-service agency with a staff of 20 and over 1700 volunteers who put in nearly 30,000 hours of service annually.

Unfortunately the high cost of living in northern NJ, coupled with unemployment, low-wage jobs, medical or other hardships continues to keep even basic needs out of reach for many in our community.

We continue to serve.

### **Our mission:**

**CUMAC**  
*feeds people and changes lives.  
It works to alleviate hunger  
and its root causes  
for those in need in  
Paterson, Passaic County  
and northern New Jersey.*

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CUMAC's work is made possible by:

- Generous contributions from individuals as well as corporate, civic & faith groups
- Proceeds from our Thrift Shop sales and fundraising events
- A Passaic County Human Services grant
- Various government, corporate and private foundation grants
- Support from the Greater NJ Conference of the United Methodist Church
- Food from FEMA, USDA and the NJ State Food Purchase Program, as well as food drives run by the North Jersey Media Group, the Postal Workers Union and countless schools, scouting groups, houses of faith, civic clubs, workplaces and individuals.

The mission of CUMAC is an Advance Special of the United Methodist Church.



**CUMAC**  
Feeding People & Changing Lives

# CUMAC

Feeding People & Changing Lives



Providing food, clothing,  
job-training, education,  
caring and advocacy for  
those in need in Passaic  
County and beyond

Street Address: 223 Ellison Street

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2721

Paterson, NJ 07509

Phone: 973-742-5518

Fax: 973-742-8115

E-Mail: [info@cumacecho.org](mailto:info@cumacecho.org)

Web site: [www.cumacecho.org](http://www.cumacecho.org)



[Facebook.com/cumacfeedspeople](https://www.facebook.com/cumacfeedspeople)



[Twitter.com/cumacfeeds](https://www.twitter.com/cumacfeeds)



## YOU CAN HELP!

### **Donate Money.**

Think about how much it costs to feed your family. CUMAC feeds thousands of families a year. We simply could not do it without your support!

Call for a list of our immediate needs, but cereal, rice/pasta, canned vegetables or soup and high-protein items such as stews, tuna or beans are essentials.

### **Volunteer your time and talents.**

Opportunities are available for individuals or groups who would like to come once or on an ongoing basis to contribute to our work.

The Community Closet welcomes contributions, and sometimes holds a special drive in response to a crisis.

### **Donate clothing, furniture or house wares.**

### **Organize a food drive.**

Motivate your classmates, colleagues, civic group, faith community, family and/or friends to collect food. We'll help with the logistics.

Do you throw out paper and plastic grocery bags, or soda can tabs? We can use them! Start a collection and find out how they help fight hunger.

### **Organize a "free" drive**

*Pick-up of large donations is available, but please make an appointment in advance as our trucks are very busy. If you could drop your items off at our warehouse, it would greatly magnify the benefit of your contribution.*

### **Donate Food.**

**Food Depot:** CUMAC serves as the largest warehouse facility for Passaic County agencies, housing food and non-food items for close to 60 area nonprofits. We serve as the drop off point and distribution center for local food pantries that cannot store or manage large shipments of food from corporate or government agencies. In addition, our refrigerated truck and cargo van do pick-ups and deliveries of perishable food for the 40 agencies of the Emergency Food Coalition. CUMAC also plays a coordination role in major area food drives such as the Postal Workers' Food Drive in May and the North Jersey Media Group's Action Against Hunger Drive in October.

**Community Closet:** CUMAC offers free clothing, household items and furniture to victims of fire, domestic violence or other disasters. Additional stock is sold in the thrift shop to afford our clients and other area residents an opportunity to move toward self-sufficiency by offering high-quality, yet low-cost clothing, household items and furniture. Proceeds provide critical cash flow to support our programs.

**Seasonal Projects:** CUMAC runs a number of seasonal projects in order to respond to specific community needs. Examples include distribution of school supplies in the late summer, special food collections for Thanksgiving, and a Wish List program to provide gifts to children in need during the winter holiday season. Faith communities also host Empty Bowls events year round for CUMAC. Each event is an ecumenical service with 3 goals: (1) to bring together various religious groups to educate participants regarding hunger in NJ; (2) to create a sense of community responsibility and encourage action toward the alleviation of hunger; and (3) to raise money to support CUMAC's work.

## PROGRAMS

**Food Pantry / Referral Office:** After a 62% increase in need over 5 years, CUMAC now provides groceries to over 2600 people on average each month. The food we distribute is purchased for a nominal handling charge at the Community Food Bank of NJ, collected via large-scale food drives, and donated by generous individuals, groups and businesses.

**Pathways to Work:** CUMAC provides training opportunities in the warehouse, Thrift Shop, Referral Office and Administrative Office for individuals hoping to learn necessary job skills and move on to gainful employment.

**Tutoring and Literacy Center (TLC):** CUMAC's newest program, TLC is run in conjunction with the Southwest Paterson Cooperative Parish of the United Methodist Church. It is an opportunity for local youth to receive homework help, participate in extracurricular activities and socialize in a safe environment. We view the prioritization of education as critical to children's success.

**Advocacy:** While offering direct services is our primary mission, we take an active roll in pushing for systemic change related to the root causes of poverty & hunger in Passaic County and throughout the State of New Jersey. Our Executive Director worked in conjunction with many other hunger agencies to earn the first-ever inclusion of a line item in the NJ state budget to directly address hunger, and we have organized community efforts to encourage the continuation of that funding and expansion of other resources.

**Please contact our office if you are interested in supporting CUMAC's programs in any way.**