

## People of Faith Are Called to Compassion and Care

*by Pastors Representing 40 Duluth Congregations*

Right now our country is engaged in a great debate about health care. As clergy in the Duluth community, we do know that opinions are diverse and strongly held. However, there is a health care issue here, in Minnesota, which we hope people of faith will agree needs addressing.

The issue of General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) is our state's public health insurance program for our poorest and most vulnerable adults. Eligible persons must have an annual income of less than \$7,800. In 2008, this program served 77,000 Minnesotans. Most of the people on the program struggle with mental illness (70%) and/or chemical dependency, and many (40%) have chronic physical disabilities. ***This program will end early in 2010 without legislative action early in the upcoming session.***

It is our hope that a strong majority of Minnesotans will see this as unacceptable and ask their legislators to take action necessary to restore this program. While many currently receiving GAMC may be eligible for MinnesotaCare, it requires premium payments GAMC recipients cannot afford. In addition, hospital reimbursements for MinnesotaCare are unlikely to cover the kind of emergency treatment for which



Michael K. Anderson

*Enjoying community at the  
CHUM Center*

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

# Fast Facts



Adults who qualify for GAMC live on \$203 to \$677 per month which is not enough income to pay for rent, food and clothing – much less health insurance premiums.



Due to the instability of people living in poverty many are enrolled in GAMC after receiving medical care for serious, often life-threatening, conditions. Coverage begins as soon as they apply, allowing hospitals and other health care providers reimbursement for expensive emergency care.

## People of Faith...

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GAMC is needed. With the elimination of GAMC, Minnesota hospitals will lose over 150 million dollars. Locally, St. Mary's & St. Luke's hospitals estimate a 14.8 million dollar loss over the next two years. Some of these costs will be paid by those of us who have medical insurance.

As people of faith, we believe the elimination of this program is unacceptable. We believe God calls people to compassion and care, and is especially concerned with how a society treats its most vulnerable citizens. *Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord pleads their cause (Proverbs 22:22-23a).* This belief is widely shared among all faith traditions. As citizens of Minnesota, we take pride in our traditions of compassion, care and courage. We encourage you to contact your legislator and ask that GAMC be restored. If you have friends and relatives in other parts of Minnesota, ask them to contact their legislator requesting action on GAMC.

*Testimonies from people who are losing GAMC can be found online at [www.chumduluth.org/getinvolved](http://www.chumduluth.org/getinvolved).*

## Did You Know?

According to the most recent survey on hunger and homelessness conducted by the United States Conference of Mayors, 40% of adults requesting emergency food assistance were employed. If you know someone who is food insecure, whether they are working or not, please invite them to visit CHUM's Duluth Emergency Food Shelf. For Food Shelf hours, visit [www.chumduluth.org/chumfoodshelf.htm](http://www.chumduluth.org/chumfoodshelf.htm)

# Recession Impacts CHUM

*By Jim Soderberg, Executive Director*

One of the more impressive CHUM stories of recent months is how leadership and staff have come together to navigate difficult economic challenges. Revenue is down while service statistics are increasing. We are especially seeing an increase in the number of families and children turning to us for help. It is a daunting task to do so much more with less.

Two years ago the Board took a strong leadership role in insuring that our strategic plan, developed as the crisis first emerged, reflected this new reality. Guidelines were put in place to set programmatic and budget priorities. CHUM's operating reserve was frozen and a temporary line of credit negotiated to take its place protecting the value of the principal. A layoff policy was adopted to ensure maintenance of our core programs. And an already tight operating budget has been held flat even as we serve many more people.

CHUM is receiving an outpouring of community support. Individual contributors continue giving even as people are anxious about their own economic futures. And growing numbers are volunteering their time and talents to help maintain, and in some cases increase, our level of services. A year ago CHUM hired Elizabeth Olson to help us develop state of the art volunteer programs. This investment will not only help CHUM weather any economic storm, but will move us towards becoming the community we are called to be.

CHUM is also strengthening our advocacy efforts around policy and budget debates that disproportionately impact the people we work with. Allen Richardson brings years of organizing experience to tap the power of our congregations to be the conscience of the community as difficult public policy decisions are made.

We thank all of you for your support and guidance through this difficult time. The test of a community is always in how we meet such challenges. A test of our faith is doing so in ways that realize the potential for hope and rebirth latent in these desert times. The CHUM community is proving itself to be a vehicle of grace and hope at a time when many of our neighbors are desperate for both.



Kim Randolph

# Upcoming Events

## **CHUM 14th Annual Holiday Concert**

Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 7 PM

Performances by Bill Bastian, Echoes of Peace Choir, Three Altos

Accompanist: Lon Weaver

Mitchell Auditorium (College of St. Scholastica)

*Free will offering*

## **CHUM Church Christmas Pageant**

Sunday, December 13, at 3:30 PM

Peace Church (1111 N. 11th Ave. East)

*All are invited.*

## **Kevin Reacted in a Panic**

*by Kim Randolph, Stabilization Services Director*

Kevin is a quiet and kind man who is currently in treatment to learn how to live a sober life. He also suffers with allergies so severe he has to examine every bite of food he receives in the soup line. Eating a piece of chicken can send him to the hospital, unable to breathe. He takes daily medication to control his asthma, yet still relies on an inhaler to keep the air passages to his lungs open.

He is unable to support himself financially because of his mental illness, although he has made many attempts at employment over his lifetime. He has been denied Social Security disability income because of his honesty regarding his abuse of alcohol.

When he learned of Governor Pawlenty's budget process that gutted the General Assistance Medical Care program in Minnesota, Kevin reacted in panic. His medications alone cost \$500 per month. When asked what will happen without GAMC, Kevin explained he will have to use the emergency room for his health care - repeatedly.

The CHUM Center hosts a concentration of low-income people. Mental illness, chemical dependencies, pregnancies, cancers, infections, injuries, abscessed teeth, etc are always present. Without GAMC low income Minnesotans will have to use an expensive emergency room for their primary health care.

Even ignoring the human suffering and potential waste of life, where is the fiscal logic in this? The governor may make his budget bottom line look better with these cuts but he is failing real people in Minnesota with this move.



## Tax Preparation Program

AARP volunteers Paul Glaesemann, Tom Uecker and Dick Larson will once again provide tax preparation assistance at CHUM on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning mid-January. During the 2009 tax season they assisted 400 people, resulting in \$430,000 in returns.

*Call 720-6521 for an appointment*

## Tim Amonson: *We Will Miss Him!*

CHUM's Emergency Food Shelf fills the needs of our neighbors who live with food insecurities through the help of volunteers. Each month through 400 hours of service, volunteers welcome and interview shoppers, pick up and deliver food, stock shelves, clean the building or anything else necessary to keep the Food Shelf going.

One of those volunteers, Tim Amonson passed away last February after volunteering for more than 20 years.. "When ever Tim came in everyone would stop what they were doing," laughed Food Shelf Director Meg Kearns, "to see if he had picked up popcorn at ACE Hardware to share." For 3 hours every Wednesday and Friday Tim would patiently and joyfully interview clients and help them make food choices. Everyone he met enjoyed his unusual sense of humor.

Upon Tim's death Food Shelf Office Manager, Terri Bunnell said, "Tim was a good friend and great volunteer. He would go out of his way to make people comfortable. People would often wait for Tim to interview them even when there was a long line. Tim will be greatly missed and never forgotten."

Each volunteer brings unique talents; all are appreciated by the Food Shelf community. "All of us are deeply saddened by Tim's death." stated Kearns. "We are grateful for the gift of his presence and the kind and gentle way he offered service."



*Food Shelf volunteer bagging sugar to be distributed to single adults as part of their supplemental food package*

# Thank You Donors!

Thank you for your financial and/or in-kind gifts to CHUM. Each of you plays an integral part in CHUM's work throughout our community in assisting and advocating for people in need of basic human services like food and shelter while affecting the changes necessary to eliminate poverty.

## Gifts in Tribute

The following gifts were received between May 1 and October 15, 2009. If we have missed listing your gift, please accept our apology and contact us at 218-720-6521

### *In Memory of Cross*

Fr. James Crossman

Robert & Hiroko Williams

Mr. Tim Robinson

Bill & Suintina Spehar

### *In Memory of Allen*

Ms. Rosemary E. Hampton

### *In Memory of Lee Jiracek*

Glenn & Laurel Resman

### *In Memory of*

### *Msgr. Patrick McDowell*

Robert & Susan Anderson

Anonymous

Ms. Phyllis Antognozzi

Randy & Marian Arras

Ms. Sue Anderson

Robert & Sandra Arola

Mr. Bill Betzler

Joe & Dorothy Boese

Gregory & Julie Ann Ciurleo

Ms. Phyllis Y. Annoni

Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery

Gary & Jeanette Benusa

M. M. & J. F. Biron

Ms. Marion C. Boyer

Ms. Constance C. Branigan

Charles & Helen Browne

George & Patricia Burgraff

Ms. LaVerne Capan

Mr. Roger Carlson

Keith & Elizabeth (Bit) Clark

Mr. William Conger

Dennis & Chris Cossalter

Frank & Marie Couture

G.R. & Margaret Crolick

Robert & Lorraine DeRoche

Joseph & Ann Dierkes

Ms. Genevieve M. Dryke

M. E. & Ruth Eide

Dominic & Josephine Eliofo

Ms. Irene Enrico

Raymond & Mary Flaa

Larry & Kathryn Furlong

James Gears

Ms. Petty A. Germ

Raymond & Marilyn Gockowski

Charles & Mary Grubb

Mrs. Constance Hedtke

Dan & Beth Hestetune

Billy & Janice Hilliard

Robert & Marilyn Hollick

Ms. Marcella Holm

Robert & Roberta Hoyt

Richard Jackola & Sue Skule

Joseph & Ruth Jeanette

Jack & Joan Johnson

Ms. Patricia Ann Kellar

Ms. Kathleen Kelly

Ms. Roberta Keuhn

### *In Memory of Angel*

Ms. Judith Sausen

### *In Memory of Ted Kahn*

John & Carol Botten

### *In Memory of Louis & Rose*

### *Karalus*

Ms. Carol Karalus

### *In Memory of Violet Keppers*

John Sanford & Julie Moller Sanford

### *In Memory of Lois Komunen*

Mrs. Beverly Carleton

### *In Memory of Beverly Kraus*

Mr. Jack J. Kraus

### *In Memory of Irv Benson*

Gene & Mary Ann Skadberg

### *In Memory of Jean Isabel Boecken*

Ms. Karen A. Mattson

### *In Memory of Lyle "Buck" Kutz*

James Flaherty & Beth Flaherty Rush

### *In Memory of Rosemary Larson*

Mr. Anthony Larson

### *In Memory of Larry Brown*

Mark & Barbara Brown

### *In Memory of Ann Lockwood*

Ms. Tricia Mattson

### *In Memory of Constance*

### *Buffington*

Shalom Kropfl

### *In Memory of Laverne Lofdahl*

Ms. Marjorie Lofdahl

### *In Memory of Bill Dollen*

Leslie Dollen & Bradley Snelling

### *In Memory of Eugene Marquette*

Ms. Joan Mattson

### *In Memory of Stuart Evenson*

Mrs. Joan C. Mork

### *In Memory of Norm Mattson*

Ms. Joan A. Mattson

### *In Memory of Annie Finnegan*

Mr. Peter G. Finnegan

### *In Memory of Ms. Amanda Feiro*

Ms. Shirley Hoppenyan

### *In Memory of Laila Girgio*

Rami & Susan Guirguis

### *In Memory of Ms. Clara Kozlowski*

Larry & Betty Lendacky

### *In Memory of Doris Godden*

Peter & Pamela Franklin

William Hardesty & Georgette Sarkela

Thomas & Marsha Hystead

### *In Memory of Randall G. & Pamela*

### *J. McDowell*

Ms. Dina C. McGath

### *In Memory of Robert Hart*

Ms. Edwina C Wright

### *In Memory of Mr. Tim Medlin*

Danny Oneill & Susan

Hawkinson

Spike & Jan Pufall

### *In Memory of Roy Hoover*

Mrs. Marjorie Hoover

Ms. Nancy L. McParlan

Eugene C. & Laura Kowarsch  
Stanley & Shirley Kuberka  
Ms. Patricia La Plante  
Richard & Marjorie Larson  
Ms. Kathleen Leding  
Hugo & Helen Leider  
Mrs. Dorothy Lempi  
Mr. William E. Leneau  
R.G. & L.M. LeSavage  
Ms. Mary H. Lewis  
Ms. Margery J. MacNeill  
Ms. Karen A. Mattson  
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Ms. Mary Wagner Zbaracki  
Raymond & Joyce Zimm  
Jacob & Mildred Zollar

*In Memory of Anthony "Tony" Annoni*  
Ms. Phyllis Y. Annoni

*In Memory of Erling & Ethel Nelson*  
Gordon & Helen Carlson

*In Memory of Robert Ness*  
Ms. June E. Ness

*In Memory of Sylva Hunt Nickoloff*  
Mrs. Constance Hedtke

*In Memory of Laetitia Olsen*  
Robert & Sandra Arola  
Charlene Miller  
William & Irene Moser

*In Memory of Katherine Papaik*  
Gary & Barbara Dossier

*In Memory of Alice Pothast*  
Gary & Gloria Pothast

*In Memory of Alberta Reinsch*  
Steven Davis & Terese Tomanek

*In Memory of Scott Miner*  
James & Luciya Miner

*In Memory of Bruce Smith*  
Susan E. Alexander & Vincent F. Senski

Roger & Barbara Boettcher  
Shawn & Nanette Higgins  
Robert & Roberta Hoyt  
Arnold & Donna Johnson  
Wayne & Lynn Lepak  
Haakon & Elisabeth Lie  
Edward & Peggy Pluimer  
Ernest & Marjorie Schober  
Mr. Ralph Stintzum  
J. R. & Bonnie L. Williams

*In Memory of Stella Sorbo*  
Ms. Charlene Tuurie

*In Memory of Peter Joseph Stattelman*  
Michael & Jennifer Stattelman

*In Memory of Rita Storch*  
Mr. Neil Storch

*In Memory of Edward & Eileen Wegerson*  
Ms. Candace Wegerson

*In Memory of Troy Will*  
Ms. Cheryl Davis

*In Honor of CHUM Staff*  
Jack & Sharon Kemp

*In Honor of Kathleen Abel*  
Ms. Lydia Holsten

*In Honor of Bob & Sue Anderson*  
Bob & Betty Josephs

*In Honor of Lori Wold & Ann Terhark*  
Stanley & Mona Wold

*In Honor of John Beryl Bredeson*  
John & Eleanor Collins

*In Honor of Duluth's Firemen*  
Anonymous

*In Honor of Shari Flessness*  
Charlene Miller

*In Honor of Charles Flynn*  
John & Carol Botten

*In Honor of Kathryn Foltz*  
Mr. Gunnar Johnson

*In Honor of Rosemary Frye*  
Ms. Deb Anderson  
Don & Kandy Anderson

*In Honor of Kristen & Mike Gablers*  
Benjamin Wolfe & Barry Kay

*In Honor of Vergie Herpel*  
Ms. Jeroldyn Wagner

*In Honor of Angela Hood*  
Roderick Hood & Kathleen Hood

*In Honor of Meghan & Matt Howard*  
Ms. Sommer Alexander  
Darwin & Joann Britzman  
Ms. Kari Brockmueller  
Mr. Kevin T. Lally  
Micah B. & Megan L. Nagel  
Jeff & Jenna Platek  
Nicholas Watts & Kathleen M Haas

*In Honor of Eileen Jiracek*  
Glenn & Laurel Resman

*In Honor of Carol Johnson*  
Mr. Glenn Triggell

*In Honor of Ingrid Johnson*  
Mr. Gunnar Johnson

*In Honor of Sr. Timothy Kirby*  
Clifford & Diane Peet

*In Honor of Kathie McLaughlin, CSJ*  
Anonymous

*In Honor of Mark McNelly*  
William & Mary Stroozas

*In Honor of Dorothy Olson*  
Jackson & Jeanette Huntley

*In Honor of Sara Russell*  
Greg & Louise Russell

*In Honor of John & Julie Sanford*  
Paul & Ann Sanford

*In Honor of Sharon Soeller*  
Ms. Cynthia Storm

*In Honor of Vern & Karen Stocke*  
Ms. Gail M Tate

*In Honor of Lon Weaver*  
William & Sharon Johnson

*In Honor of Tom & Prudy Wilson*  
Michael & Elizabeth Edmunds  
Ronald & Nancy Edmunds  
Robert Ulland & Mryna Wells-Ulland

If you are receiving two Horizons please let us know.



*Fast Fact*

Children from food insecure households are likely to experience irritability, fatigue and difficulty concentrating, causing school performance to suffer.



**Churches United in Ministry**

102 West Second Street

Duluth, MN 55802

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*14th Annual*

## ***Holiday Concert***

**Saturday, December 5 at 7 PM**

**William Bastian**

**Echoes of Peace Choir**

**Three Altos**

**Lon Weaver**

*Your support helps feed  
and shelter over 7,000  
year!*

**Mitchell Auditorium**

At the College of St. Scholastica

*Refreshments Served Following the Concert*