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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard Celebrates One Year of Serving the Community**

*Local food pantry brings together community members to fight food insufficiency*

King of Prussia, PA – June 6, 2019 – It's been one year since the Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard (UMACC) opened its doors to address immediate food insufficiency needs of local families and individuals. On June 19, volunteers are inviting community members to celebrate this milestone and learn more about food insufficiency at an open house at UMACC's location in the Valley Forge Presbyterian Building (parking entrance off of Independence Road).

UMACC was developed last year by members of the Upper Merion area community who recognized the abundance of resources and compassion available in the area to ensure no one goes hungry. It was formed as a collaborative and empathetic community response of local schools, municipalities, businesses, faith-based establishments, and caring neighbors. The Cupboard opened with the goal to strengthen the most vulnerable neighbors through food supplementation and, in doing so, nurture a stronger and better community.

As UMACC marks its one-year anniversary, it has served 170 families, reaching more than 400 local patrons. Throughout the year, 100-plus community members have volunteered to help UMACC sort, stock, inventory, bake, host and deliver food to patrons. During this time, UMACC has seen a significant increase in community awareness and empathy regarding food insufficiency, as organizations and individuals have come together to address these challenges.

The open house celebration is sponsored by the King of Prussia District and will be held from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. on June 19. Patrons, volunteers and interested community members are welcome to tour the facility, enjoy refreshments, including hot dogs, cake and Kona Ice, and learn about the ongoing challenges of food insufficiency and how to help address these needs.

"It has been amazing to see how the people of our community and local organizations have responded with such generosity and compassion for their fellow neighbors. As we continue to build bridges and relationships, we trust that these invaluable efforts will be just the first steps toward a stronger, healthier,

more compassionate, and more interconnected local community. What has been accomplished ought to be celebrated, indeed! But, let us not forget that there is more work to do. Our vision for the year ahead is to better mobilize our food efforts for the sake of those who cannot easily come to us, and to begin conversations about how to address other layers of need within the community,” said Pastor Tim Dooner, UMACC Founder.

Anyone interested in volunteering at UMACC can visit [www.umacc.org/volunteer](http://www.umacc.org/volunteer) to find available openings during Tuesday and Thursday pantry hours. Individuals or businesses who are interested in donating to UMACC can do so at [www.umacc.org/donate](http://www.umacc.org/donate) (PayPal accepted).

### **About the Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard**

The Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard (UMACC) was founded to help support families and individuals who are food insufficient within the community. UMACC is a collaborative effort between schools, municipalities, businesses, faith-based establishments, and caring neighbors with the goal to strengthen the most vulnerable neighbors through food supplementation and, in doing so, nurture a stronger and better community. Learn more at [www.umacc.org](http://www.umacc.org).

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