

UPPER MERION AREA
**COMMUNITY
CUPBOARD**

WWW.UMACC.ORG

October 2023

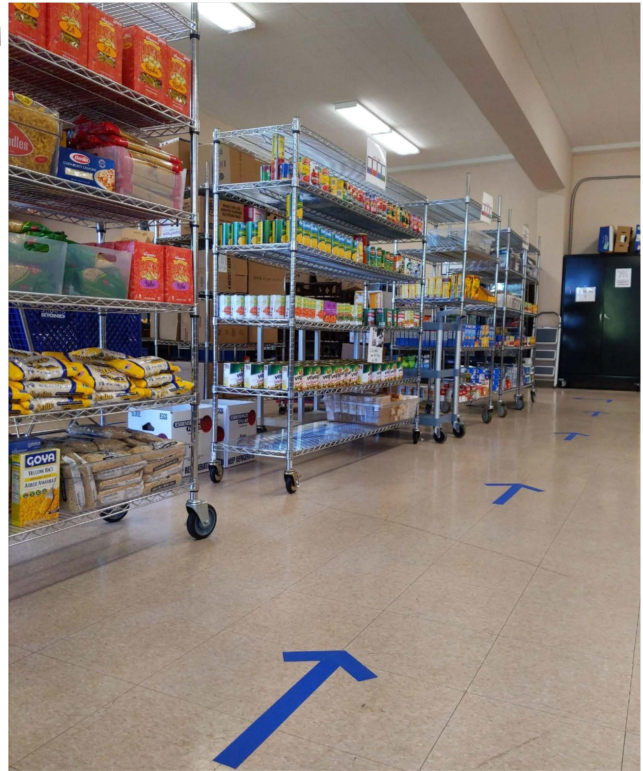
It's been a busy few months at UMACC as we've undergone some major changes to our distribution model. We are now a full-choice (client-choice) pantry, which means that patrons select all food items themselves from the shelves and refrigerators/freezers. Previously, we operated within a hybrid model with patrons filling out a menu sheet for their dairy, meats, produce, and personal hygiene items.

This change required a new shopping layout, more shelving, new glass door refrigerators and freezers, and updates to our storage spaces. We had a successful opening on September 19th with the new model and have received positive feedback from both volunteers and patrons.

Embracing a client-choice model of food distribution has the following impact:

A Patron Focused Approach

A full-choice model increases client dignity as families see and select their own foods. Selecting food directly from the shelves helps to eliminate language and literacy barriers (which we encountered frequently with our menu order sheet). There are fewer barriers between patrons and volunteers as more of the pantry space is shared and open to everyone.



A Simplified Approach

Increasing the shopping area within the pantry (through added shelving and new refrigerators/freezers) has simplified our restocking and donation intake processes. Less time is spent moving stock from storage to shelves. While we still utilize storage areas, our shopping shelves now fit more product, eliminating the need to constantly restock throughout distribution.

A Future Oriented Approach

We recognize that UMACC is a mid to large size pantry, and our weekly operations must be sustainable and scalable for the coming years as we continue to welcome new families. This new model of food distribution will allow more volunteers to step into leadership roles at the pantry. Less time will be spent on the menu each week, and more time can be dedicated to interacting with patrons, seeking new food sources, and planning for future growth.



A New Way to Support the Cupboard

UMACC can now accept gifts of (appreciated) stock from those who wish to donate in this manner. The UMACC opened a Schwab Nonprofit Brokerage Account through a local financial advisor, who has agreed to waive any fees associated with stock transfer and liquidation.

Our account number is 1186-7971 and the Schwab DTC# is 0164.

Gifts of appreciated stock from a taxable account has a two-fold benefit:

The donor does not pay capital gains tax on the appreciated value.

The donor receives a tax deduction for the full value of the stock at the time of transfer to the UMACC Brokerage Account.

Please consult your tax advisor to determine how these opportunities may impact your financial situation. If you want to explore donating stock to the UMACC, please contact our treasurer, Kathy Knoebel, at: UMACC.Treasurer@outlook.com or call (610) 996-1455.

Interested in Volunteering?

As we gear up for the holiday season, we are looking for more individuals to join our amazing volunteer team! We have a great crew of dedicated, compassionate, and hardworking volunteers. The work is purposeful, and the community is strong. As we see a rise in the number of families visiting the pantry, there are plenty of opportunities for volunteers to contribute in a meaningful way and take ownership of the work that we do. Visit our website to learn more or go directly to our UMACC Signup to join a shift.

To learn more: <http://umacc.org/volunteer>

To sign up: <https://signup.com/go/BToRzNb>

UMACC Wishlists



We put in a Target order every week for much needed diapers and baby wipes. Many of our families have babies and small children. Would you consider putting in an order through our Target registry? Our most needed sizes right now are size 7 diapers and pull-ups sizes 2T-3T and 3T-4T.

[UMACC Target Registry](#)

Thank you to everyone who has donated through our Amazon Wishlist. If you would like to donate, here is the link to our most needed wishlist items:

[UMACC Amazon Wishlist](#)



Upper Merion Area Community Cupboard
191 Town Center Rd
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