



## The Interfaith Outreach Food Shelf is now a SuperShelf

Interfaith Outreach provides a dignified experience to all who engage with our food shelf. Interfaith partnered with the SuperShelf team to transform the food shelf to become even more respectful and user-driven.

SuperShelf is a collaborative effort with the University of Minnesota, Health Partners, and The Food Group to focus on creating a welcoming environment for the community to access healthy foods at local food shelves.

During the multi-year planning processes, Interfaith invited all current clients to co-create the new SuperShelf. A group of nine clients were selected to be on the SuperShelf Advisory Group considering the various ages, household sizes, and ethnicities of the participants. This diverse perspective was a key part of the transformation process.

For more than four decades, providing food at no cost to community members has been a critical service. Now, the SuperShelf allows Interfaith guests with even better access to healthy food in a welcoming environment. Changes include:

- Increased the variety of healthy, culturally-specific foods
- Redesigned the layout to make the healthiest choice the easiest choice, at eye level
- Changed the displays to include new, bright white, smaller shelves
- Placed fresh produce up front at the entrance
- Increase of types of items (many different kinds of proteins, grains, fruits, etc.)
- Added brighter, color-coded signage in the four most commonly spoken languages: English, Spanish, Russian and Somali

Going forward, the Interfaith Outreach Food Shelf now looks and feels much more like a grocery store shopping experience. We have had overwhelmingly positive responses from guests, and the 1:1 connection with volunteers is deeply appreciated by shoppers. The newly remodeled SuperShelf reopened September 2021.