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Common Grounds Café

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@Common__Grounds – www.commongroundscafe233.com – (401) 228-8790

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Common Grounds Café aims to integrate the Providence College *campus* with the Smith Hill *community* while serving ethically sourced goods and specializing in local products. Common Grounds Café will serve as a catalyst for positive change within the surrounding neighborhoods. Operated in partnership with and under the auspices of an established local non-profit, the Smith Hill Community Development Corporation, this student-based initiative is supported by many entities and individuals within the Providence College community. Our primary goal is to effectively use retained earnings to identify, organize and implement community improvements through programs and services, inclusive of, but not limited to, those that foster economic development and support affordable housing.

*“Where Campus
Meets Community”*

Hours of
Operation:

M-F 7am to 6pm
Sat. 8am to 3pm



Like our page on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for updates!

Supporting us is easy!
Just search for Common Grounds Café on GoFundMe.com and make a contribution amount of your choice to help us make a difference

THE STORY

In 2012, several students went on an alternative spring-break trip to Nicaragua and were able to explore the coffee production process. They visited multiple operations, learned of the “Fair-Trade” marketing term, and began cultivating interest in global activism. The students brought their knowledge and energy back to campus and their message quickly spread. At this time, the *Providence College School of Business* began sponsoring the student-run Entrepreneurship Society; simultaneously the *Feinstein Institute for Public Service* and the *Smith Hill Community Development Corporation* also began convening an economic development incubator group as a project of the newly opened Providence College/Smith Hill Annex. These multiple interests coalesced and came together to form the collaboration that is Common Grounds Café.

THE COLLABORATION



PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

THE ASPIRATIONS

As a business, Common Grounds aims to provide the best products in demand at a competitive price and offer personable customer service. As a non-profit organization, Common Grounds has the mission to develop community relations and maximize the use of returns in the most effective way possible. Thanks to the collaborative effort of the parties involved and the transparent design of the business model used, the café is able to pursue these unique goals without compromising its financial security or moral integrity. It is due to this unique mission that the concept of Common Grounds was able to translate so well among various interests and take the leap from an idea on paper to a real, physical establishment: the model is a promising ideal for bringing impactful small-business back to the local community.