



FOCUS Board of Directors President, Jeffrey Matthews

Greetings, FOCUS community!

The earth has made its way around the sun again, another year has passed and a new one has dawned. It's a good time to consider where we've been, where we are and where we are headed.

2017 was our 50th anniversary year and we took the time to celebrate beginning with our Annual Winter Worship Service and culminating with our October Gala. Throughout the year we honored our history and some of the key people who helped to shape it, including former FOCUS clergy like Rick Spalding, Jim Miller, Bob Lamar, Ralph Elliot and Deb Jameson as well as ecumenical and governmental partners such as Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard, Congressman Paul Tonko and State Senator Neil Breslin. Most of all we honored the many individuals and communities of faith that have been and are the heart and soul of FOCUS.

2018 marks the start of our next 50 years. What will people celebrate in 2067? This is an opportunity for us to imagine a future that continues to honor our founding values. Each age presents new challenges and calls for new strategies, but the spirit that guides us remains constant. We seek to "do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with our God". We mean to be good neighbors, strong friends and advocates for those who feel powerless. We strive to be people who embody and embrace love and healing and work to build that culture in our community. What part will you play in such a vision?

Even as we've celebrated, we have faced some difficult realities. After the loss of a significant grant last year, the FOCUS board and staff worked hard to find replacement resources to keep our ministry strong. We have been successful in that to a degree and to the extent we were unsuccessful, have had to make adjustments. While some of those have not been easy, we feel confident that we are in a strong position to move ahead with long-standing and new program initiatives. We appreciate the gifts and commitment of our staff, board members, volunteers and community.

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As we seek new ways to go forward, we call on each of you to find ways to support and uphold our ministries today and for the future.

Most of you know that the changes have included the resignations of former Executive Director, Jim Ketcham and former Advocacy Director, Joe Paparone. We wish both of them the very best in their future endeavors and we're glad to note that Joe will continue to partner with FOCUS in his new position with the Labor-Religion Coalition and as a volunteer. During the immediate short-term transition,

Richard Becker has been appointed "Acting Executive Director". We're very grateful for Richard's willingness, abilities and good spirit at this transitional time. During the coming year the Board will be working in a number of ways to enlarge the conversation about our future. We look forward to you being a part of that conversation.

As we progress into our 51st year, let us pray for responsive, respectful and faithful hearts to guide us to be loving neighbors.

Thanks be to God!

FUNDING OUR SHARED MINISTRIES

This was a year in which the FOCUS programs had to deal with the loss of a major state grant for the final quarter of the year. Faced with a potential deficit our donors, including a very significant contribution from an anonymous benefactor, stepped up and supported our Ministry. As a result FOCUS ended the year with a balanced budget after accounting for accrued expenses.

REVENUE totaled \$341,153. These included \$67,588 from the Covenant churches (almost 10% above the initial pledges), \$110,285 from responses to appeals, fundraising, combined worship and organizational contributions, \$13,352 from the Faith Community, \$128,531 from various state and local and private grants and the balance of \$21,397 from other sources.

EXPENSES for the all staff, food and operations of the Interfaith Food Pantry, Winter Breakfast and Breakfast Express totaled \$323,425.

GRANTS, ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Adirondack Beverages
 Bags 4 My Cause - Hannaford
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 Capital Area Council of Churches (Crop Walk Funds)
 Classis of Albany
 Congregation Beth Emeth
 Delmar Reformed Church
 Emmanuel Baptist Church
 First Lutheran Church
 First Presbyterian Church
 First United Methodist Church
 GE Foundation
 Hannay Reels
 Hunger Action Network of NYS

Islamic Center of the Capital Region
 MAZON:
 A Jewish Response to Hunger
 New Covenant Presbyterian Church
 Paul and Patricia Gioia Foundation
 SEFCU
 Sprague Operating Resources, LLC
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
 Stewarts
 The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region
 The First Church in Albany
 The Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 Westminster Presbyterian Church

2017 "IN-KIND" GIFTS & VOLUNTEER HOURS

(In addition to contributions of money, FOCUS receives many "in-kind" contributions of goods, gifts and services.)

PANTRY:

USDA Commodities:	\$ 17,022
Total pounds of food distributed:	\$ 133,113
Donated food and personal care items	\$ 14,103
Food Supplement	\$ 5,482
Volunteer time	2,587 hours

BREAKFAST:

Space at Westminster Presbyterian	\$ 4,500
USDA Commodities	\$ 1,829
Volunteer time	4,896 hours

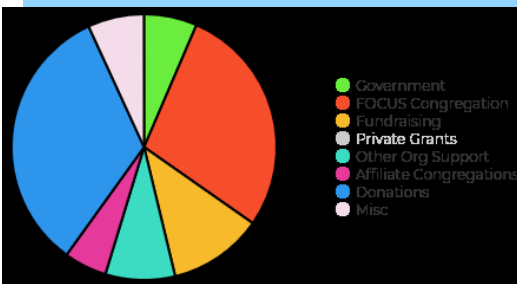
2018 PROJECTED INCOME:

Government	\$ 16,250
FOCUS Congregations	\$ 71,180
Fundraising	\$ 29,000
Private Grants	\$ 4,000
Other Org Support	\$ 21,500
Affiliate Congregations	\$ 13,000
Donations	\$ 83,500
Misc.	\$ 17,195

120 Volunteers provided 7,480 hours of service in 2017, averaging out to 62 hours per person. THANK YOU!



FOCUS Board of Directors: (Back L to R) Rev. Lynn Boddien, Nancy Ost, Rev. Kathy Donley, Andrea Carver, Rev. Jeff Matthews, Stephanie Threatte, Peggy Becker, Richard Becker, Rev. Glenn Leupold, Lillie McClaughlin (Front L to R) Dennis Radliff, Leif Hartmark, David Hannay, Nancy Horan, Rev. Sue Vincent Cox. Not shown, Rev. Chris Vande Bunte,



FOCUS ACTIVITIES 2017

WORSHIP TOGETHER: Remembering who we are and to whom we belong: Easter Sunrise Service, Summer & Winter Combined Worship Services

FOOD PROGRAMS: Interfaith Food Pantry, Winter Breakfast, Breakfast Express

FOCUS ADVOCATES: Working to End Hunger & Poverty, Fight for \$15, Congregation Workshops, Advocacy, Community Organizing, Racism, Immigration & Social Movements

INTERFAITH PROJECTS: FOCUS on School Supplies Project, Gardening in a Bucket for Kids, Holiday Baskets

INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY AFFILIATES: Congregation Beth Emeth, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, Islamic Center of the Capital Region, New Covenant Presbyterian, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

PROJECT PARTNERS: Beverwyck Worship Community, Journey UCC, St. Paul's Episcopal Church