



**FOCUS**  
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends,

“What a great morning!” One of our guests, who was sleeping outside due to being homeless, arrived at our FOCUS Breakfast Club with great enthusiasm. While asleep that night, someone generously left a \$50 bill beside him. Another guest told me that today is his birthday. When I wished him a special day, he replied, “It’s already a great day – I just got a free birthday breakfast!”

At FOCUS, we are blessed to have many opportunities to celebrate with our neighbors and guests. It’s great to hear about housing-insecure guests finding a place to call home. Or someone finding a job. Or guests joining our advocacy partners and participating in rallies for social justice. Amid these joys, we continue to offer bags of groceries from our food pantry, hot meals at our Breakfast Club, legal assistance for local immigrants fleeing war and poverty, and rental assistance for persons facing eviction.

Thanks to you: our awesome volunteers, donors, covenant congregations, interfaith affiliates, board members, and neighbors, FOCUS is a place where we can “act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God.” (Micah 6:8) We hosted Muslim Soup Kitchen Day, thanks to our friends at Al-Hidaya Center. During the late summer, we collected and distributed many school supplies to children we serve. We began our third year of increasing fresh produce giveaways thanks to Soul Fire Farm and generous donors. At Delmar Reformed Church, we hosted a Brooks BBQ fundraiser. We helped our neighbors to access Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds, to avoid evictions.

I am grateful to our very dedicated staff who navigated changing circumstances with grace during 2022: Lorraine Houk who oversaw both the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry (at Emmanuel Baptist Church) and the First Church in Albany Food Pantry; Belinda Quaye, who manages our office and supports our volunteers; Wells Wellington, who serves as our Breakfast Program Coordinator; Ronald McClenos and Julius Sales, who serve as Associates; VISTA Fellows Elham Malik and Noah Tubbs; and James Blount, who had served as our Coordinator for both Outreach and Breakfast during the first half of the year.

With your support, we continue to explore new ways to be in solidarity with our neighbors. We remain committed to racial justice, food security, immigration rights, and fair housing for all. Together, let us enter 2023 in faith.

Sincerely,

Fred Boehrer  
Executive Director

## FOCUS COVENANT CONGREGATIONS

DELMAR REFORMED CHURCH  
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH  
THE FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





# PEOPLE WE HAVE SERVED

## Interfaith Food Pantry

We served 68,757 meals to 3,768 people  
(a 17% increase from the previous year).

## School Supplies Drive

We distributed 65 filled backpacks and  
additional supplies to local families.

## Public Health

We hosted public health information sessions about  
COVID vaccines, monkeypox, and diabetes in  
collaboration with Albany County Dept. of Health and  
students from the University at Albany MAPS Program.

## Breakfast Program

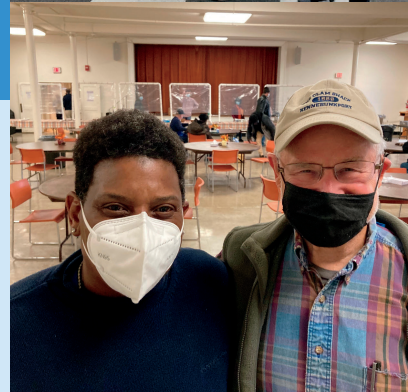
We served 13,090 meals to 7,111 people  
(a 65% increase from the previous year).

## Winter Clothing Drive

We distributed 75 winter coats to women,  
children and men at our Breakfast Program

## Immigration

We co-sponsored several legal immigration  
clinics and hosted a statewide gathering of  
immigrants to advocate for the Excluded  
Worker Fund.



## GRANTS, ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Adirondacks Beverages  
Albany District Links  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
CDPHP  
Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region  
Community Foundation of New Jersey  
Capital Area Council of Churches (CROP Walk)  
David G. Hannay Charitable Fund  
Delmar Reformed Church  
Emmanuel Baptist Church  
Food Pantries of the Capital District  
The First Church in Albany  
First Presbyterian Church  
First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany  
Hannay Reels

Kenneth Halverson Charitable Gift Fund  
Network for Good  
Paul and Patricia Gioia Foundation  
Regional Food Bank  
Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Seymour Fox Memorial Foundation  
Sisters of Charity BMV  
Sneeringer Family  
Stewart's Foundation  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Troy Savings Bank  
Union Dutch Reformed Church  
Unity Church in Albany  
Van Bethuysen Trust  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

## "IN KIND" GIFTS & VOLUNTEER HOURS

### Interfaith Food Pantry

USDA Food: 51,700 lbs.  
Donated Food & Personal Care  
Items value: \$2,275  
Food Supplement value: \$4,801  
Volunteers: 39  
Volunteer Time: 2,886 hours

### School Supplies Project

Volunteers: 16  
Volunteer Time: 42.5 hours

### Breakfast Program

USDA Food: 3,740 lbs.  
Donated Space at Westminster: \$5,040  
Volunteers: 46  
Volunteer Time: 3,128 hours

### BBQ Fundraiser

Volunteers: 12  
Volunteer Time: 36 hours

*Thank you to our awesome volunteers who serve our guests with compassion and dignity!*

### 2022 Revenue: \$362,599

Donations: \$123,422  
FOCUS Covenant Churches: \$66,535  
Affiliate Congregations: \$7,671  
Appeals / Fundraising: \$50,660  
Grants / Other sources: \$114,311

### 2022 Expenses: \$345,775

### 2023 Projected income:

Donations: \$102,932  
FOCUS Covenant Churches: \$70,135  
Affiliate Congregations: \$8,761  
Appeals / Fundraising: \$40,000  
Grants / Other sources: \$155,000

*We are truly grateful for the continuous support of an anonymous benefactor who has enabled  
FOCUS to continue to meet the needs of our vulnerable neighbors.*



# FOCUS ACTIVITIES 2022

**WORSHIP TOGETHER:** Remembering who we are and to whom we belong: Combined Summer & Winter Worship Services, including Easter Sunrise Outdoor Worship and Blue Christmas Service.

**FOOD PROGRAMS:** Food Pantries at First Church in Albany and at FOCUS Churches of Albany (Emmanuel Baptist Church site), and Breakfast Club (soup kitchen) at Westminster Presbyterian Church. We offered both hot and cold breakfast, served meals both indoors and outdoors, and offered meals both to-go and sit-down dining.

**FOCUS ADVOCATES:** We link community organizing with direct service to promote housing for all and compassionate immigration policies. We advocate an end to racism, poverty and food insecurity.

**ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIPS:** We distributed halal meals during Muslim Soup Kitchen Day (thanks to the Muslim Soup Kitchen Project at Al-Hidaya Center). Holiday food baskets were distributed to 119 FOCUS families in December.

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

## PROGRAM PARTNERS

Poor People's Campaign of the Capital Region  
South End Community Collaborative  
Center for Law and Justice  
Muslim Soup Kitchen Project (Al-Hidaya Center)  
Council of Churches (NYS and Capital Area)  
United Tenants of Albany  
RISSE  
United Way of Greater Capital Region  
Columbia County Sanctuary Movement  
Excluded Workers Fund  
Welcome Chapel Missionary Baptist Church  
VOCAL-NY  
NAACP (Albany Chapter)  
Albany County Department of Health  
CDPHP  
Albany County Department of Social Services

Pathways to Health (St. Catherine's Center)  
WERC (Women's Employment Resource Center)  
Legal Aid Society  
Albany County Public Defenders' Office  
Academic Community Engagement Office at Siena College  
Pathstone Employment Program  
Equinox  
USCRI  
Albany Code Blue Safety Committee  
University at Albany - MAPS Program  
Wizard's Wardrobe  
City of Albany: Department of Youth & Workforce Services  
Albany County Coalition for the Homeless

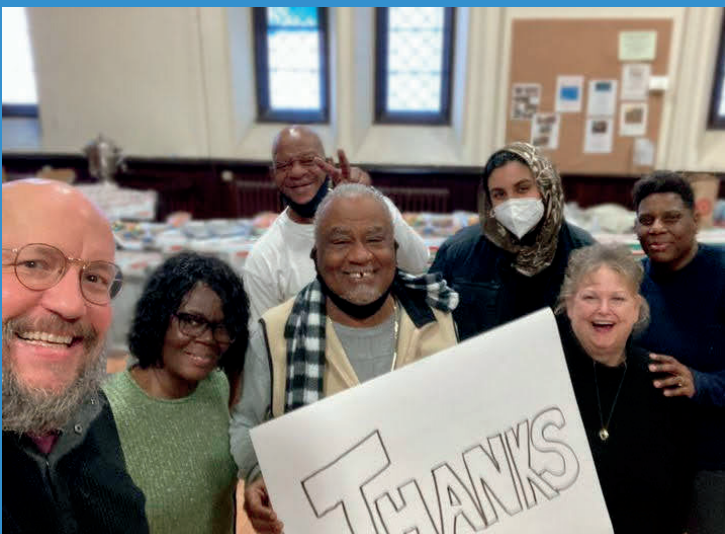






# FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY



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