

"How will you help shine the light of love in places of fear and darkness?"

FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

DELMAR REFORMED CHURCH, EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome to a new year and a new chapter in the story of the FOCUS Churches of Albany. 2019 was an important and pivotal time for us brimming with changes, hopes and determination to minister as God has given us opportunity. Here are some of the highlights. With your help we were able to define 3 strategic ministry initiatives which will be added to our food related ministries. They are: 1. Immigration and Refugee concerns, 2. Anti-Racism and 3. Housing and homelessness. These will be introduced one at a time over the next 3 years so that we have the opportunity to learn about the issues involved as we also discover and initiate specific ministry responses. We'll need the support of the whole FOCUS community as we seek to be more understanding and compassionate partners and allies in the work of justice.

We begin by focusing on immigration/ refugee concerns. A task force of volunteers has already started to imagine ways for us to move forward, beginning with our winter FOCUS weekend of events on February 1 and 2. We are honored to welcome Rev. Ray Schellinger, Global Consultant with the American Baptist Churches and International Ministries. We invite you to listen, learn and take this calling to heart.

How will you support FOCUS as we embrace this calling? How will you help shine the light of love in places of fear and darkness? 2019 was also notable as the year we completed nearly 2 years of interim reflection and leadership. Following an extensive search process last summer, we called and welcomed Rev. Renee Hollinshed to be our permanent Executive Director. She has already begun to make her mark with innovative programs like "FOCUS Fresh" and many new and supportive corporate partnerships. She and our whole staff team have worked to secure several new grants and continue to work with the Board of Directors and other FOCUS leadership to keep us on a sustainable and responsible financial footing. Along with Renee's change in status we've also had other staff changes. We said "thanks and good-bye" to Judy Henningsen, long time food program coordinator and Kathy Moore, our volunteer Comptroller. We welcomed Deb Catozzi who came back to FOCUS initially to share the duties of Breakfast Coordinator with Chaz Martel, but more recently to assume the duties of comptroller. Lorraine Houk and other FOCUS staff members have also taken on new responsibilities and the result is that our ministry carries on and grows as an expression of God's love in our community.

We are grateful to all of the friends – staff, volunteers, Board Members – whose efforts, gifts and grace are the foundation of our offerings. We are God's people together and together we give thanks.

REV. JEFFREY A. MATTHEWS,
PRESIDENT FOCUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Andrea Carver, 2019 FOCUS Volunteer of the Year.



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

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GRANTS, ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Adirondack Beverages	Hannaford Corporation
Advocates for Human Potential	Hannay Reels
Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Paul and Patricia
CDPHP	Gioia Foundation
Congregation Beth Emeth	Sisters of St. Joseph
Delmar Reformed Church	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Emmanuel Baptist Church	Stewart's Foundation
The First Church in Albany	The Community
First Presbyterian Church	Foundation for the GCR
First United Methodist Church	Troy Savings Bank
First Unitarian	Unity Church in Albany
Universalist Society of Albany	Wakefern Food Corp.
Golub Corporation	Westminster Presbyterian Church

2019 "IN-KIND" GIFTS & VOLUNTEER HOURS

PANTRY:

USDA Commodities	25,420 lbs.
Donated Food & Personal Care Value	\$5,215
Food Supplement Value	\$7,043
Volunteer Hours	3191

BREAKFAST CLUB:

Space at Westminster Presb.	\$4,500
USDA Commodities	2,765 lbs
Volunteer Hours	3,994

TOTAL MEALS PROVIDED:

Breakfast Club: 16,862
 # Of People Served: 9,969
Pantry: 98,859
 # Of People Served: 5,409

FOCUS Breakfast Club Volunteers provided 7,185 hours of service in 2019, averaging out to 61 hours per person. THANK YOU!

2020 PROJECTED INCOME:

Donations	\$104,400
FOCUS Congregations	\$71,080
Misc.	\$16,940
Government	\$18,250
Other Org. Support	\$23,000
Fundraising	\$12,000
Affiliate Congregations	\$8,750
Private Grants	\$25,000

We are truly grateful for the continuous support of an anonymous benefactor that has enabled FOCUS to launch and secure additional funding for our new **Focus Fresh** program.

REVENUE: \$261,102
 Covenant Churches: \$70,805
 Appeals/fundraising, etc.: \$68,992
 Faith Community: \$82,256
 Other sources: \$27,645

EXPENSES: \$257,163

FOCUS ACTIVITIES 2019

WORSHIP TOGETHER: Remembering who we are and to whom we belong:

Easter Sunrise Service, Summer & Winter Combined Worship Services

FOOD PROGRAMS: FOCUS and First Church in Albany Food Pantries, Breakfast Club & Breakfast Express, FOCUS Fresh

FOCUS ADVOCATES: Working to end hunger and poverty, advocacy. community organizing, ending racism, immigration and social movements

ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIPS: 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, Unity Church in Albany

PROJECT PARTNERS: CDPHP (sponsors of new FOCUS Fresh), Poor People's Campaign, Capital Area Council of Churches Interfaith Group/Crop Walk