

FOCUS Churches

Annual Report February 5, 2012



From FOCUS Executive Council President, Irving Smith:

2011 was a remarkable year in the growth and life of FOCUS. God's amazing grace was clearly evident in FOCUS – through our common worship and faith journey with member and partner churches, the feeding programs, advocacy activities, gardening with our guests, financial resources, and continued exploration into expanding our covenant base.

Matthew 25:35 says *"For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in."* The FOCUS Breakfast Program expanded into a year round service, adding **Breakfast Express** to our offerings, with the anticipation of serving over 20,000 meals. The FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry provided a record number of families (3,866) groceries totaling 127,578 meals.

FOCUS continues to strengthen its advocacy efforts on behalf of low-income New Yorkers by providing educational forums, scholarships for advocacy training, targeted conversations with key officials around anti-hunger issues such as the public assistance grant, Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance, the reauthorization of the federal Farm Bill, and increasing the minimum wage to a living wage. An active group from the FOCUS congregations is now meeting regularly to plan campaigns and strategies.

The FOCUS financial status is the healthiest that I have seen in recent years due in large to grants, contributions and fundraising events.

FOCUS continues to be blessed and gifted by the commitment of the covenant churches and affiliate faith communities. The Executive Council is intentional in inviting others into this adventure of common ministry. This year we have met with various faith communities to share the mission of FOCUS, including First Church (RCA) Albany, St. Paul's Episcopal, First UMC/Slingerlands, and the Islamic Center of Albany.

FOCUS Sets Priorities for 2012

Worship: *Our source of identity*

Food Programs:

Interfaith Food Pantry

Winter Breakfast

Breakfast Express

FOCUS Advocates:

Working for Long-term

Solutions to End Hunger and Poverty

Communications:

Getting the Word out

Capacity Building:

Strengthening our work together

Ecumenical and Interfaith—

Collaborations & Membership Outreach

FOCUS Covenant Congregations

Delmar Reformed

Emmanuel Baptist

First Presbyterian

First Israel AME

Trinity United Methodist

Westminster Presbyterian

FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry Affiliates:

Congregation Beth Emeth, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA), New Covenant

Presbyterian, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Project Partners: Angels to Each Other—All Saints Catholic, Beverwyck Worship Community, Cathedral of All Saints, First Lutheran/Albany, First UMC/Delmar, Islamic Center of the Capital Region, Journey UCC, and St. Paul's Episcopal

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FOCUS Adopts 2012 Budget

The FOCUS Executive Council approves a 2012 budget of pledged and anticipated income totaling \$284,314.

The budget supports all facets of FOCUS programming and relies on many sources of income. Pledges from FOCUS Congregations, totaling \$55,615, will continue to support the Director of Community Minister position, outreach ministries, project activities, and administration. Other income for these uses will come from fundraising and other contributions. They are projected to provide \$63,705, with a total for the core budget of \$119,320.

FOCUS feeding programs, the Interfaith Food Pantry, Winter Breakfast, and the newly formed Breakfast Express are supported by affiliate faith communities, donations from FOCUS churches, individuals, groups, grants, and a direct contract with NYS Department of Health, Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance funding. Feeding program budgets total \$164,094.

Grants, Gifts, Contributions Support FOCUS Ministries

FOCUS is grateful for donations and financial gifts from congregations, businesses, and foundations: Adirondack Beverages, Advanced Physical Therapy, Advocates for Human Potential, Albany Spring Service, Inc., Beverwyck Worship Community, Congregation Beth Emeth Social Action Committee, Delmar Reformed Church, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Feinstein Family Fund, First Lutheran Church/Albany, First Presbyterian Church/Albany, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA), First United Methodist Church/Delmar, The Fort Orange Club, Hannay Reels, iGive, Journey United Church of Christ, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians JFK Division 1, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Protestant Campus Ministry SUNY Albany, SEFA, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, The Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, Trojan Tele Communications, Westminster Presbyterian Church and the numerous individuals who support FOCUS through donations and fundraising events.

(Names of individual contributors listed 3x/yr. in FOCUS newsletter.)



"In-kind" Gifts and Volunteer Hours Boost Value of FOCUS Contributions

Editor's Note: In addition to contributions of money, FOCUS receives many "in-kind" contributions of goods and services, as well as thousands of volunteer hours. Below are approximations of the monetary value of goods and services and of the number of volunteer hours contributed.

Executive

Office space — Emmanuel Baptist Church — \$2,520
School Supply donations — \$6,500
Volunteer time — 724 hours

Pantry

USDA Commodities — \$22,058.
Total pounds of Food Given Out: 130,355
Donated food and personal care items — \$6,662
Food Pantries of the CD, food certificates — 3,010
Food Pantries of the CD, food supplement — \$2,054
Volunteer time — 3,193 hours

Breakfast

Winter Space — Westminster Presbyterian — \$3,500
USDA Commodities — \$3681.44.
Volunteer time — 2,304 hours

Funding Our Common Ministry

