

FOCUS Churches

Annual Report • February 3, 2013



From FOCUS Executive Council President, Irving Smith:

Thanks to God's blessings, 2012 was another stellar year in the remarkable life of FOCUS, as seen through the FOCUS Feeding Programs, relationships with our member churches, Financials and Advocacy.

Isaiah 58:10 says " If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday."

The FOCUS Breakfast Program expanded into a year round service; the Interfaith Food Pantry served a monthly average of 375 households, for an annual total of 130,00 meals. A FOCUS objective for 2013 will be to sustain food assistance, year round and full time to low-income and food insecure households.

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

FOCUS continued to look at increasing the strength of our covenant base. Board members met with First Reformed Church in Albany to explore their interest in joining the FOCUS Churches as an affiliate member. In the Summer FOCUS worship was held at First Reformed.

Advocacy grew significantly during 2012. FOCUS Advocates were increasingly active in appealing to State and Government at all levels to take action to end hunger. FOCUS participated in State wide conferences with groups working on increasing the minimum wage. FOCUS has a DVD of "The Line" a film about poverty and real people slipping below the line".

Please! Please! See this film when it is presented at your church. FOCUS received several grants to support its Advocacy Programs. In 2013 FOCUS will increase its efforts to leverage member faith communities to be effective anti-hunger advocates, enabling them to promote just public policies that lift up the common good at the city, county, state and federal level. Thanks to the leadership of Director, Reverend Deb Jameson, the commitment and support of the FOCUS Churches, the dedication of staff and volunteers, FOCUS continues to remain a vibrant needed resource to the poor, marginalized, churches, and surrounding community.

FOCUS Sets Priorities for 2013

Worshipping Together:

Remembering who we are and to whom we belong

Food Programs:

Interfaith Food Pantry

Winter Breakfast

Breakfast Express

Community Harvest Garden

Gardening In A Bucket

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 partnerships:

*Book studies, conferences, Homeless Memorial Service,
FOCUS on Schools supply project*



FOCUS Executive Council

Interfaith Food Pantry Affiliates:

Congregation Beth Emeth • First Unitarian Universalist
Society of Albany (FUUSA) • New Covenant
Presbyterian • St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

2013 Affiliate:

First Church Albany (Reformed)

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, & St. Paul's Episcopal

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FOCUS Adopts 2013 Budget Cites Major Income Sources

The FOCUS Executive Council approves a 2013 budget of pledged and anticipated income totaling \$ 301,036.

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 \$78,000, with a total for the core budget of \$133,601.

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 \$167,435.

Grants, Gifts, Contributions Support FOCUS Ministries

FOCUS is grateful for donations and financial gifts from congregations, organizations businesses, and grantors:

ADIRONDACK BEVERAGES, ADVANCED PHYSICAL THERAPY, ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN POTENTIAL, ALBANY SPRING SERVICE, INC., ANGELS TO EACH OTHER - ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH, BERKSHIRE BANK, BEVERWYCK WORSHIP COMMUNITY, BRICKMAN PRODUCE CO., CAPITAL DISTRICT PHYSICIANS' HEALTH PLAN, CATHEDRAL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CONGREGATION BETH EMETH SOCIAL ACTION FUND, CAPITAL REGION THEOLOGICAL CENTER, DELMAR REFORMED CHURCH, EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH, EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM (FEMA), FEINSTEIN FAMILY FUND, FIRST LUTHERAN OF ALBANY, FIRST UMC CHURCH, DELMAR, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ALBANY, FIRST CHURCH IN ALBANY, REFORMED, FIRST UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF ALBANY, FORT ORANGE CLUB, HANNAY REELS, HIBERNIAN MEN'S DIVISION 5, HUNGER ACTION NETWORK OF NYS, MAGIN AND KEEGAN FUNERAL HOME, JOURNEY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, LARK STREET BID, MAZON: A JEWISH RESPONSE TO HUNGER, NEW COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, NYS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH -HPNAP, PRESBYTERIAN USA HUNGER PROGRAM, ROSETTI ASSOCIATES, RCW, HELDERBERG REFORMED CHURCH, SCALES TEAM, ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY, SEFA, SEFCU, STARK AND BASILA, CPA, STEWART'S HOLIDAY MATCH, THE TROY SAVINGS BANK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, TROJAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEIGHBORS IN NEED, WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, W.J. LYONS JR. FUNERAL HOME.

(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, and thousands of volunteer hours. Below are approximations of the monetary value of goods and services and the number of volunteer hours contributed.

Executive

Administrative space - Emmanuel Baptist Church - \$2,520

School Supply donations - \$6,500

Volunteer time - 724 hours

Pantry

USDA Commodities - \$20,146.

Total pounds of Food Given Out: 112,232

Donated food and personal care items - \$8,975

Food Pantries of the CD, food certificates - \$1,500

food supplement - \$2,912

Volunteer time - 3,133 hours

Breakfast

Winter Space - Westminster Presbyterian - \$3,500

USDA Commodities — \$655.

Volunteer time — 2,500 hours

Funding Our Common Ministry

