



# FOCUS Churches

ANNUAL REPORT • FEBRUARY 1, 2015

## FOCUS Executive Council President, Nancy Horan:

**As I reflect on 2014 in FOCUS, it is clear that we have continued to answer God's calling. Early in the year, we welcomed First Church in Albany**

as a new covenant partner in this shared ministry. Thanks to dedicated staff and volunteers, the FOCUS food programs continued to respond to the needs of our community. The Interfaith Food Pantry served an average of 331 households each month; guest average at Breakfast Express was 55; and the average number of guests per morning at the Winter Breakfast was 115. The Community Harvest Garden and the Gardening in a Bucket provided fresh, healthy foods.

Our advocacy efforts have

expanded and become an integral part of FOCUS' mission as we speak out and work for long term solutions to end hunger and poverty. FOCUS was represented at many actions and events this past year such as the Thanksgiving Press Conference, Ecumenical Advocacy Days, and the People's State of the State. FOCUS collaborated with other groups including the Faith and Hunger Network and worked with community organizations on the issue of raising the minimum wage. Meetings with elected officials

at the breakfast program have been regularly scheduled.

While these important efforts and others have continued, we have been open to the spirit's leading, discerning God's will for us in the ministry of FOCUS. As a result, there are some new initiatives a head in 2015.

Thanks to a grant from the American Baptist Foundation, FOCUS has launched a new program called "Hungry for Justice" which seeks to engage 18-29 year-olds in anti-hunger advocacy. Participants have already



been involved in a number of advocacy actions. Events and meetings will be scheduled throughout the coming year and we hope others will be joining the group.

The second initiative is the development of a grocery collaborative over the next year, which the Executive Council approved after reading Toxic Charity by Robert Lupton and hearing about work being done in the Atlanta area. The collaborative would not replace our current programs, but would provide an alternative, most likely in the South End, which is considered a food desert. Planning has just begun and more information will be included in upcoming newsletters.

It has been a privilege to serve as President and I look forward to sharing in this ministry in the coming year."

*Nancy J. Horan*

## FOCUS Sets Priorities for 2015

### **Worshipping Together:**

*Remembering who we are and to whom we belong:  
Easter Dawn, Summer Services, Winter Gathering*

### **Food Programs:**

*Interfaith Food Pantry                      Winter Breakfast  
New "Grocery Collaborative"      Breakfast Express*

### **FOCUS Advocates:**

*Working for Long-term Solutions to End Hunger & Poverty  
New "Hungry for Justice" Project*

### **Ecumenical & Interfaith partnerships:**

*FOCUS on Schools supply project,  
Gardening in a Bucket for Kids, Holiday Baskets,*

### **Interfaith Food Pantry Affiliates:**

*Congregation Beth Emeth • First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA) • Islamic Center of the Capital Region  
New Covenant Presbyterian • St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*

### **Project Partners:**

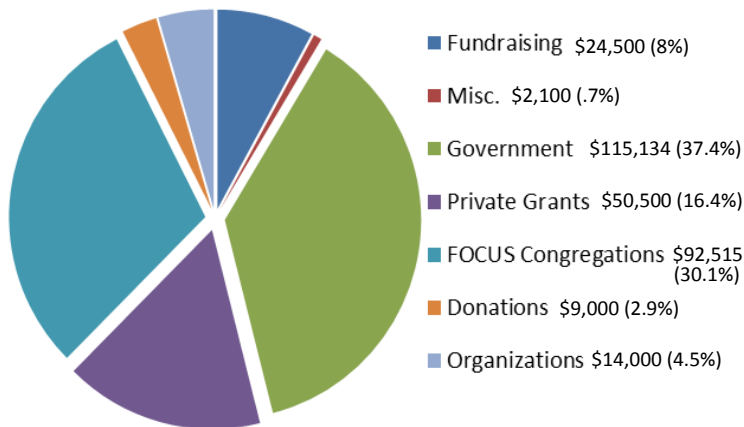
*Angels to Each Other—All Saints Catholic, Beverwyck Worship Community, Journey UCC, & St. Paul's Episcopal*





**2015 Executive Council:** Delmar Reformed: Dennis Radliff, Peggy Becker, Rev. Dave Corlett; Emmanuel Baptist: Nancy Horan, Andrea Carver, Rev. Kathy Donley; First Church Albany: Peter Pagery, Rev. Susan Cox, Rev. John Paarlberg; First Presbyterian: Sheryl Sheraw, Rev. Glenn Leupold; Trinity United Methodist: Stephanie Threatte, Richard Moneymaker, Rev. Jeff Matthews; Westminster Presbyterian: Allan Tedrow, Rev. Frances Rosenau, Rev. Jim Reisner

## 2015 Projected Income



## Funding Our Shared Ministry

**The FOCUS Executive Council approved a 2015 budget of pledged and anticipated income totaling \$ 307,741.**

The budget supports all facets of FOCUS programming and relies on many sources of income.

Pledges from FOCUS Covenant Churches, totaling \$65,315, will continue to support the Executive staff, outreach, project activities, and administration. Other income for these uses will come from fundraising, grants and other contributions. They are projected to provide an additional \$83,491, with a total for the core budget of \$148,806.

FOCUS feeding programs, the Interfaith Food Pantry, Winter Breakfast, and Breakfast Express are supported by affiliate faith communities, donations from FOCUS churches, individuals, groups, grants, and a direct service contract with NYS Department of Health, Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance funding. Feeding program budgets total \$158,934.

## Grants, Organizational Gifts, Contributions

ADIRONDACK BEVERAGES  
ADVANCED PHYSICAL THERAPY  
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH--  
ANGELS TO EACH OTHER  
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA  
AMERICAN BAPTIST FOUNDATION  
CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF  
CHURCHES/CHURCH WORLD SERVICE  
THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR  
THE GREATER CAPITAL REGION  
CONGREGATION BETH EMETH  
DELMAR REFORMED CHURCH  
ELCA DOMESTIC HUNGER PROGRAM  
EMMANUEL BAPTIST BENEVOLENCE  
FEINSTEIN FAMILY FUND  
FIRST CHURCH ALBANY  
FIRST LUTHERAN ALBANY  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF ALBANY  
GE FOUNDATION MATCHING GIFTS  
HANNAY REELS  
HENRY V. LABARBA AND ASSOCIATES

ISLAMIC CENTER OF THE  
CAPITAL REGION  
JOURNEY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
MAZON: A JEWISH RESPONSE  
TO HUNGER  
NEW COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA  
HUNGER FUND  
SEEDS FOR PEACE  
ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
STEWART'S HOLIDAY MATCH  
TROY SAVINGS BANK CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION  
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
TROJAN TELE COMMUNICATIONS  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST JUSTICE  
AND WITNESS MINISTRIES  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
**(INDIVIDUAL DONORS REPORTED  
2X ANNUALLY IN 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, gifts and services

### Executive

FOCUS Administrative Office space:

Emmanuel Baptist—\$2,500

School Supply donations—\$6,500

Volunteer time—1,081 hours

(including advocacy, fundraising, Executive Council and school supply project)

### Pantry

USDA Commodities—\$27,656.

Total pounds of Food Given Out—131,656

Donated food and personal care items—\$6,913

Food Pantries of the CD, food certificates—\$1,600

food supplement—\$2,912

Volunteer time—2,887 hours

### Breakfast

Space at Westminster Presbyterian—\$4,500

USDA Commodities — \$1,244.

Volunteer time — 4,084 hours

**278 Volunteers provided 7,910 hours of service in FOCUS Programs in 2014.**  
(Averages out to 28 Hours per person)