



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

SPRING APPEAL

APRIL - MAY 2022

Dear FOCUS friends,

Spring is a time of new life and new possibilities. Challenges yield celebrations. Long hours of darkness become filled with sunshine. Worry is replaced by hope.

Your financial support of FOCUS Churches of Albany allows us to continue to share joy and hope with our guests and neighbors. While some community organizations stopped offering services or shut down, we have remained open and even expanded our offerings.

During the past month, the number of our breakfast guests has almost doubled. Our FOCUS Breakfast is a special place where all are welcomed to enjoy a hot meal at 7am in downtown Albany, including many people who are housing insecure. Our Interfaith Food Pantry is open five days a week, and we serve breakfast three mornings a week. Lorraine Houk directs our FOCUS food programs, in addition to coordinating the First Church Food Pantry, and Belinda Quaye provides great support for our dedicated volunteers. Yolandue Sturdivant and Ronald McClenos assist our guests, volunteers and staff by serving food and stocking our shelves.

While overseeing our Breakfast Program, James Blount is also serving as Coordinator of our new Outreach Program. Thanks to generous donors, James is able to meet with our guests and help them with rental assistance, healthcare, and job training. Some of our FOCUS guests testified at a statewide Truth Commission to address housing and food insecurity. We appreciate our partnership with the NYS Poor People's Campaign (PPC) for this special event. FOCUS is partnering with PPC for a June 18th bus trip to Washington DC to raise our voices with low-wage workers and improve voting rights.

FOCUS co-sponsors free legal clinics for Afghan evacuees who recently arrived in Albany. These clinics, hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church, are a beautiful example of how we "welcome the stranger."

We hope you can join us for our Brooks BBQ Fundraisers on Tuesday, April 19th and Wednesday, June 15th. Both are from 3 to 6pm and at the Delmar Reformed Church parking lot. All chicken dinners will be served "to-go" for just \$15 each. To pre-order, please call (518) 443-0460 ext.1 or go to our website: focuschurches.net.

Please consider ordering some to-go dinners for your family, friends and neighbors. Thanks!

Because of supporters and volunteers like you, we are able to distribute healthy food in a socially distant manner through our food pantry, hot breakfast & lunch programs, and gardening efforts. Thank you so much for sharing your gifts with neighbors and guests of FOCUS programs. We wish you many blessings during these seasons of Easter and spring.

With gratitude,

Rev. Kathy Donley
President, Board of Directors

Fred Boehr
Executive Director

FOCUS Churches

275 State Street
Albany, New York 12210
focuschurches.net
info@focuschurches.net
(518) 443-0460

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!