



FOCUS
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

SUMMER APPEAL

JULY 2022

Dear FOCUS friends,

Summer is often an opportunity to slow down, relax and recharge. "Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." (Proverbs 11:25)

Here at FOCUS Churches, we occasionally pause to reflect and catch our breath amid the busy-ness of this season. In June, we began serving breakfast outside, along the State Street sidewalk. There's a lovely spirit of community as our guests, volunteers, staff and passersby mingle. Compared with last year, we are serving more than double the number of guests. We have hosted several community organizations to share information with our guests about rental assistance, healthcare, legal aid, job training and advocacy.

Weekly deliveries from Soul Fire Farm help us to distribute more fresh produce at our Interfaith Food Pantry. In May, we also distributed hot to-go meals to FOCUS guests on Muslim Soup Kitchen Day, thanks to our friends visiting from Al-Hidaya Center in Latham. As our Outreach Coordinator, James Blount represented FOCUS at the local NAACP Health Expo and at the Poor People's Campaign March on Washington D.C. We have been providing rental assistance to prevent FOCUS guests from being evicted from their homes.

We are currently collecting school supplies and backpacks for 150 children (donations may be brought to our Interfaith Food Pantry through August 19th).

We continue to promote justice by addressing the inequalities which pervade our society. Our FOCUS Board is concentrating on three priorities: immigration, anti-racism, and housing. These issues all intersect with our long-standing ministries to address food insecurity. We are exploring ways to have our Food Pantry and Breakfast guests at tables of decision making. We are also co-sponsoring State Street Forum on Faith and Public Life, organized by the NY Council of Churches and Westminster Presbyterian Church.

We are blessed to have this opportunity to be a good neighbor. We cannot engage in this important work without your support. Your financial gifts, your volunteer time, and your prayers help us to walk in solidarity with so many. Your donation will help FOCUS to continue to serve and "refresh" our neighbors who struggle to make ends meet amid these challenging times.

Thank you so much for sharing your gifts with FOCUS Churches of Albany. We wish you many blessings during this summer.

With gratitude,

Rev. Kathy Donley
President, Board of Directors

Fred Boehr
Executive Director

FOCUS Churches

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