



## DEAR FRIENDS,

About twenty-four years ago, I was part of a local group planning a peaceful vigil near the Capital. We needed to make final preparations for our event. Rezsins Adams encouraged us to stop by the Focus Breakfast Club, where we could gather around a table, enjoy a hot breakfast, make plans, and then walk to our public gathering. It was my first visit to the Focus Churches of Albany. I saw guests, volunteers and staff engaging each other in a warm and friendly environment. I agreed with Rezsins that this was, indeed, a special community. Little did I know that years later I would have the opportunity to be in a leadership role at Focus Churches. I am honored to serve as Executive Director for this special community.

In March, Executive Director Rev. Renee Hollinshead responded to COVID-19 by leading our transition to safely distribute food at our pantries and breakfast program. Before Rev. Renee left, she established our FOCUS Fresh Program and connected us with Soul Fire Farm. We now distribute more fresh fruit and vegetables among our pantry guests. In the spring and summer, Richard Becker served as Acting Executive Director.

During this second term of his interim leadership, Richard initiated a reopening committee to safely resume indoor dining for our breakfast program. Kris Wilhelm, our resident public health expert, provided great guidance as we maneuvered through protocols to develop a safe plan.

In 2020, Lorraine Houk, our long time Pantry Coordinator, embraced new responsibilities to become our Assistant Director. Matthew Jackson and Yolande Sturdivant joined FOCUS as Breakfast & Pantry Associates. Carlie D'Annunzio became our Bookkeeper and Tamek Anderson joined us as Breakfast Program Coordinator. Long-term staff, like Becca Leet and Karen Kendall, continued to serve our mission through the year. Betsy Gorman, our Communications Director, spreads the word. The room brightens when Belinda Quayle, our Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, warmly greets our volunteers.

In November, we reopened indoor dining at our Breakfast Program, safely gathering as guests, volunteers and staff. In December, we began preparing to-go hot breakfasts and lunches for a young adult job training program. During 2020, we have all experienced both unplanned joys and challenges. Instead of greeting each other with hugs and handshakes, we are keeping at least six feet from each other. Our smiles are hidden behind face masks. And yet . . . We are an Easter people, a community filled with hope. We believe in resurrection amid times of worry and despair. I have been able to experience this spirit of hope at FOCUS, thanks to our many guests, volunteers, supporters, board members, and staff. With your support, we continue to explore new and creative ways to meet the needs of our neighbors. We remain committed to racial justice and food security and to addressing immigration and housing issues in Albany.

Together, let us enter 2021 in faith.

**FRED BOEHRE,**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**FOCUS**  
CHURCHES OF ALBANY

275 STATE STREET, ALBANY NY 518.443.0460  
INFO@FOCUSCHURCHES.NET/WWW.FOCUSCHURCHES.NET



# FOCUS CHURCHES OF ALBANY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## GRANTS, ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Adirondack Beverages	Hannaford Corporation
Advocates for Human Potential	Hannay Reels
Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Regional Food Bank and Food
CDPHP	Pantries of the Capital District
Congregation Beth Emeth	Sisters of St. Joseph
Delmar Reformed Church	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Emmanuel Baptist Church	Stewart's Foundation
The First Church in Albany	The Community
First Presbyterian Church	Foundation for the GCR
First United Methodist Church	Troy Savings Bank
First Unitarian	Unity Church in Albany
Universalist Society of Albany	Wakefern Food Corp. (Shoprite)
Golub Corporation	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Paul & Patricia Gioia Foundation	

**Total meals provided at Breakfast Program:**  
**11,718 (# people served: 6,343) Total meals**  
**served at Food Pantry: 71,307 (# people served:**  
**3,813) Breakfast Club 65 Volunteers provided**  
**4,381 hours of service in 2020, averaging over 67**  
**hours per person. THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**

## 2021 PROJECTED INCOME:

Donations:	\$146,200
FOCUS Covenant Churches:	\$66,571
Affiliate Congregations:	\$22,000
Appeals/ Fundraising:	\$54,351
Other Sources:	\$21,118

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES 2020

**WORSHIP TOGETHER:** Remembering who we are and to whom we belong: Summer & Winter Combined Worship Services

**FOOD PROGRAMS:** FOCUS and First Church in Albany Food Pantries, Breakfast Club & Breakfast Express, FOCUS Fresh

**FOCUS ADVOCATES:** We link community organizing with direct service to promote housing for all and compassionate immigration policies. We advocate an end to racism, poverty, and food insecurity.

**ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIPS:** Holiday Baskets were distributed to our FOCUS guests.

**INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY AFFILIATES:** Congregation Beth Emeth, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany, Islamic Center of the Capital Region, New Covenant Presbyterian Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Unity Church in Albany

**PROJECT PARTNERS:** CDPHP (FOCUS Fresh sponsor), Poor People's Campaign, Capital Area Council of Churches Interfaith Group/Crop Walk, Pathstone Senior Community Service Employment Program, and Equinox.

## 2020 "IN-KIND" GIFTS & VOLUNTEER HOURS

### PANTRY:

**USDA for Pantry - 19,550 lbs.**

**Donated Food & Personal Care Items value - \$2200**

**Food Supplement value - \$15,631.72**

**Volunteers: 20**

**Volunteer Time - 1,958 hours**

### BREAKFAST:

**Space at Westminster - \$4500**

**USDA for Breakfast - 2,622 lbs.**

**Volunteers: 65**

**Volunteer Time - 4,381 hours**

### EMPTY BOWLS:

**Volunteers: 30**

We are truly grateful for the continuous support of an anonymous benefactor who has enabled FOCUS to continue to meet the needs of our vulnerable neighbors.

**REVENUE: \$296,254**

**Donations: \$126,200**

**FOCUS Covenant Churches: \$69,631**

**Affiliate Congregations: \$14,044**

**Appeals / Fundraising: \$49,351**

**Other sources: \$37,028**

**EXPENSES: \$264,933**