

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA to be used for programs that address "housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate." The donor's primary concern is to help ameliorate poverty. ABCUSA will distribute grants of up to \$5,000 semi-annually as long as the generosity of this donor continues. A panel will select recipients largely based on the degree to which the funds will be used to directly assist persons in poverty. Ministries must be in relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply.

1. General Information:

Organization Name FOCUS Churches of Albany
Affiliation with ABCUSA Emmanuel Baptist Church, Albany NY
Address 275 State St.
Albany NY 12210
Phone 518-443-0460 Federal Tax ID# 30-0257933
Contact person Rev. Debra Jameson email revdeb@focuschurches.net

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement
- Your most recent annual report or audited financial statement

3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? (Please submit on separate sheet. Maximum of one page.)

4. Total cost of the project \$ 6,346.

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$3,500.

6. Your other funding source(s) FOCUS budget, United Church of Christ "Neighbors In Need" grant (requested)

I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct, and that we will use any granted funds as described. We will supply a 1-page report on the use of the funds and a photo within six months of receipt of the grant.

(Signed) Rev. Debra Jameson Date 2/28/13

Printed Name/Title Rev. Debra Jameson Executive Director

Please note:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline is March 1 for grants distributed on April 15; Sept. 1 for grants distributed on Oct. 15
- Completed applications should be sent to:

Mission Resource Development
American Baptist Churches USA
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Or emailed to: Beth.Fogg@abc-usa.org



FOCUS Churches of Albany is a faith based non-profit established in 1967. The ecumenical membership is comprised of 6 covenant churches, including Emmanuel Baptist Church, one of the founding congregations. Emmanuel Baptist is also the home base for the FOCUS administrative offices and the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry. Emmanuel Baptist provides 3 members to serve on the FOCUS Executive Council, and multiple members to provide volunteer ministry through the FOCUS.

Emmanuel Baptist is an American Baptist Church located in the city of Albany, a block from the state capitol. It is a diverse congregation of about 100 – 120 regular participants, many engaged in serving the needs of the local community. Through Emmanuel's Service to Others Commission and with the support of a number of active members, Emmanuel has been involved in advocacy, working on issues to help alleviate poverty and hunger. Many in the congregation have a strong interest in community gardening and in promoting healthy eating. Members of Emmanuel would be willing to provide volunteer support for this program, and act as medical and governmental consultants.

Food Empowerment Projects 2013

Primary Goals and Objectives: The focus is on food justice and empowerment for low income households. We will implement, and build upon, a 4-pronged project that enables families to obtain knowledge and resources for more choice and control over the foods they eat. We will strengthen families through opportunities that: offer access to fresh produce; the ability to grow vegetables and enjoy locally grown produce; participate in advocacy for just food policies; and sharing in the care of the FOCUS Community Harvest Garden.

FOCUS Food Empowerment Project has 4 specific components:

1. Gardening In A Bucket – Seed and Seedling Distribution (GIAB) to 375 households at our daily food pantry. GIAB consists of a clay pot with drainage holes, organic dirt and assorted vegetable seedlings, along with instructions. We will distribute 500 seedlings and 100 seed packets. Similar to GIAB, Gardening in A Bucket – For Kids! is geared toward 7-12 year olds. Staff and volunteers teach kids about urban gardening, paint planting pots and potting seedlings. Outreach is done to youth in participating congregations, pantry children and neighborhood kids. Satellite sites will be located at 2 nearby homeless family shelters, and other city youth programs. We will provide 100 kids 200 seedlings and potting accessories.
2. Food Demonstrations will be conducted on a weekly basis located at the pantry site. Staff will provide expert cooking and nutrition seminars that utilize locally grown foods and other items found in the pantry supply. 200 participants will take home food items, nutrition information, and recipes.
3. FOCUS will advocate for just food policies. We will provide households information and referrals to federal nutrition assistance programs and other local assistance programs; advocate for just and fair public policies to improve the programs that support those in need of food assistance, and similarly, policies that empower economic security for those living in poverty. FOCUS will participate in Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington DC, with the theme of food justice, to bring legislative action participation back to our community.
4. FOCUS Community Harvest Garden is a 600 square foot plot that is utilized for community, production, and harvest. Operating from April to October providing guests and volunteers experience in planning, planting, nurturing and harvesting 700 lbs. of produce for distribution at the FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry.

Timeline for the Project: The food empowerment components run April through September 2013, matching the growing season in upstate New York.

FOCUS Mission Statement:

The FOCUS Covenant

We celebrate, as the FOCUS Churches, our common calling to be God's servant people in a broken and hurting world.

We honor the uniqueness of our member congregations with their diversity of gifts, separate histories, and God-given resources.

We acknowledge that we need to learn from one another, to be enriched by one another's vision of Christian faithfulness, and to join in those areas of Christian mission where we can work more effectively together than by ourselves.

We recognize that our urban location, close to the raw edges of human need, as well as the center of political power, defines the primary thrust of our common mission.

We believe that we are called by God to discern amid the many shapes of need and pain around us, the design of Christ's mandate for our shared ministry.

We covenant, therefore, with God and with one another:

- to engage in a search for faithful and effective forms of ministry;
- to provide a ministry of presence, support, and advocacy for the victims of society's injustice and neglect;
- to speak the truth in places of power on behalf of the powerless;
- to offer new possibilities of wholeness to the lonely and alienated;
- to equip ourselves for the service of Christ through joint educational and community-building ventures; and,
- to celebrate in worship the meaning of our shared mission.

We commit to these purposes our prayers, our time, our talent, and our material resources with the hope that our life and work together in this time and place will demonstrate the liberating and reconciling power of the gospel.

Covenant Churches: Delmar Reformed, Emmanuel Baptist, First Presbyterian, Israel AME, Trinity United Methodist, Westminster Presbyterian.

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

FOCUS Churches 275 State St., Albany NY 12210

www.focuschurches.net (518) 443-0460 email: info@focuschurches.net

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

