



L I F E I N F O C U S

FOCUS

NORTH  AMERICA

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



FOCUS

NORTH + AMERICA

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We are all struggling with something, and those who come in to FOCUS need to know they're loved. God loves everyone, the whole of humanity, limitless love, and FOCUS gives us the opportunity to express His love for us—FOCUS is just a natural outgrowth of what the Church really is!



JERRY JONES
FOCUS Volunteer

REFLECTING ON 2013, I am humbled by the growth of this ministry. Through God's grace, we had a remarkable year. We more than tripled our revenue over 2012, allowing us to reach more men, women and children than ever before.

As I traveled across the country visiting FOCUS Centers, one thing was plainly clear: our work is not "ours". It is the work of communities—of the people we serve and passionate, committed volunteers and donors who make this ministry possible.

FOCUS Cleveland is a case in point. In late summer of 2013, a 12-bedroom home went up for sale just a few doors down from St. Herman House, our men's homeless shelter. We recognized an opportunity: the house would be ideal for men to transition out of St. Herman's and its proximity would allow residents to still be part of the St. Herman family. It was too good to pass up, but would we be able to raise the money needed in just a few short months? The answer

was yes, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of donors who helped us meet our goal of \$193,000. A vision quickly became reality because of the faith and support we received from the Cleveland community. The house was purchased and will open its doors in 2014, offering safe, furnished, low-rent housing for men who are working their way back to independent living.

I am thankful to the faithful staff of FOCUS whose work isn't "work" but rather a testament to their love for Christ. I also thank our board of directors, our many volunteers and our donors who live their faith in FOCUS.

Our nationwide back-to-school initiative is another example of Orthodox Christians joining together through FOCUS to help those in need, as we distributed backpacks, clothes and shoes to more than 193,000 disadvantaged schoolchildren in 28 cities. This wouldn't have been possible without the participation of dozens of Orthodox

parishes, hundreds of volunteers, and our many community partners. Thank you.

In Pittsburgh, we neared completion of our free medical clinic, the first Orthodox Christian clinic of its kind.

While the project has faced hurdles, we've been blessed with dedicated staff and volunteers determined to make this clinic a reality. It will open its doors in the spring of 2014 and will be staffed by area physicians who volunteer their services.

We continued to introduce Orthodox youth to a life in Christ through service to the poor with our YES Program. YES—Youth Equipped to Serve—is building Christ-centered community in and among youth and the poor. In 2013, the program grew to include service opportunities for teens and their families.

In Orange County, Saint Louis and Minneapolis, our work continued with life skills classes for men, mobile meals, community dinners, job training and free clothing and groceries.

As I retire, I thank God for the opportunity to serve with FOCUS. I am thankful to the faithful staff of FOCUS whose work isn't "work" but rather a testament to their love for Christ. I also thank our board of directors, our many volunteers and our donors who live their faith in FOCUS. ✝



BRIAN GERICH
Chairman of the Board
FOCUS North America



Living life “in focus” is something that we all try to do. Are we living life to the fullest? Are we living correctly? What are we doing with our time? Do we put our God-given talents to good use? What are we doing to follow Christ’s commandments and win our salvation? Here at FOCUS North America, we are deeply committed to the call of Christ to serve those in need. But we also understand that through helping others, it’s often our own lives that come into focus and are transformed the most.

Poverty in America is not hard to find. We are inundated with news clips, statistics and astronomical numbers about the millions of people living below the poverty line, pervasive unemployment and homelessness. Yet, in our busy lives we often overlook the person in need who is standing right in front of us: the single mother, up at 6am, preparing her children for school, reaching into the cupboard and hoping that the cereal box hasn’t gone empty yet. The young man trying to break the generational cycle of poverty by holding

down two minimum wage jobs. The handicapped shut-in who can’t get to the grocery store or pharmacy. The family that has to consider cutting back hours at work to care for a sick child. Will they be able to pay the rent or mortgage this month? Where will they go if they can’t?

Most of us pass by these people every day, not realizing that we have the ability to change their lives. Or maybe we do know that we have this potential, but we just don’t know how to help.

The “FOCUS Nation” exists to bring people together – those in need with those who want to help – to serve and care for one another. Our centers and programs provide a comprehensive support network to individuals and families, providing them with the resources and opportunities they need to live sustainably and self-sufficiently. That means a friend to take care of a sick child while the parents are at work; an evening job training workshop to help people move up and out of a minimum wage job and into a career; a safe place to take

children to play and gather with friends and family; basic healthcare, affordable housing and a resource center with food, clothing, school supplies and other basic necessities.

But more than that, FOCUS gives us the opportunity to practice what is preached, to use the blessings that God has given us, to multiply our talents and put them to good use by helping others – changing their lives and possibly transforming our own in the process.

Please take some time to read through the following pages to learn about the many ways that FOCUS is growing, addressing the root causes of poverty in America and standing as a beacon of Orthodox Christian faith and love to those in need throughout our nation – and how you can join us. ✝

In Christ,



NICHOLAS CHAKOS
Executive Director



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2013

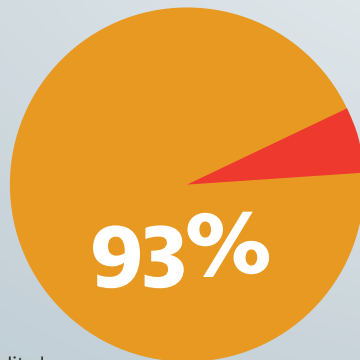
Assets

Cash	\$ 632,006
Receivables	1,127
Prepaid expenses	-
Investments	-
Pledges receivable	47,849
Property and equipment	340,648
Other assets	31,056
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,052,686

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 54,461
Payroll liabilities	11,768
TOTAL LIABILITIES	66,229
Net assets	
Unrestricted	572,803
Temporarily restricted	413,654
TOTAL NET ASSETS	986,457
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,052,686

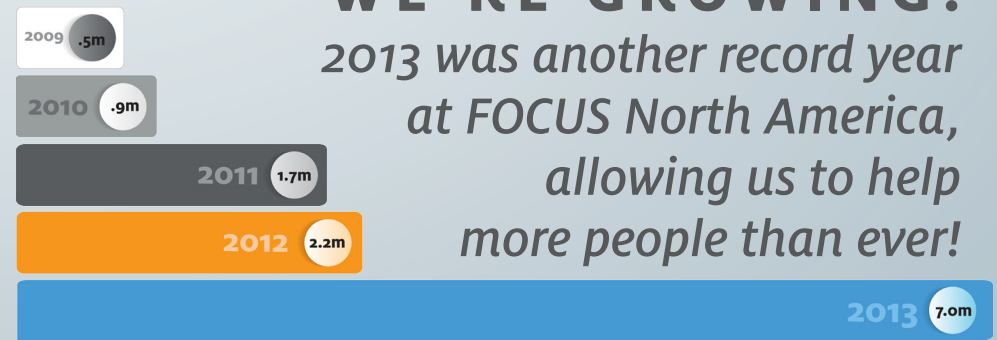
93% of all donations go directly to programs helping those in need! We work hard to keep our overhead at 7%.



FOCUS is a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity and holds the BBB Wise Giving Alliance National Charity Seal.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
REVENUES			
Contributions	\$ 944,990	\$ 413,654	\$ 1,358,644
In-kind contributions	5,327,934	-	5,327,934
Registration fees	78,212	-	78,212
Investment income	454	-	454
Event income	164,453	-	164,453
Other income	57,653	-	57,653
Net assets released from restrictions	116,593	(116,593)	-0-
TOTAL REVENUES	6,690,289	297,061	6,987,350
Expenses			
Program services	5,967,930	-	5,967,930
Management and general	257,558	-	257,558
Fundraising	159,441	-	159,441
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,384,929	-	6,384,929
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	305,360	297,061	602,421
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	267,443	116,593	384,036
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 572,803	\$ 413,654	\$ 986,457



WE'RE GROWING!
2013 was another record year at FOCUS North America, allowing us to help more people than ever!

IMPACT @ FOCUS

Thanks to your continued support, FOCUS has made a significant difference in the lives of so many! And each year as we grow, we are able to serve even more people in need.

WHAT WE DO	2012	2013
 <p>FOOD FOCUS provides fully prepared meals to the homeless and supplemental food pantry items to families.</p>	<p>51,024 hot meals served</p>	<p>128,985 hot meals served</p>
 <p>OCCUPATION FOCUS' job training and creation program works with unemployed and underemployed people to give them skills and sustainable professions.</p>	<p>562 people trained/employed</p>	<p>1,087 people trained/employed</p>
 <p>CLOTHING FOCUS collects and distributes gently used clothing, furniture and household items.</p>	<p>128,030 articles of clothing distributed</p>	<p>331,883 articles of clothing distributed</p>
 <p>UNDERSTANDING FOCUS brings Orthodox Christians together to offer hands-on volunteer opportunities, combining our individual strengths for the greater good of our underserved communities.</p>	<p>6,000 volunteers</p> <p>30,053 volunteer hours</p>	<p>7,466 volunteers</p> <p>39,511 volunteer hours</p>
 <p>SHELTER FOCUS operates homeless shelters, renovates and repairs homes and provides assistance with securing permanent housing for homeless families.</p>	<p>408 people given shelter and housing support</p>	<p>907 people given shelter and housing support</p>

Back to School with FOCUS!

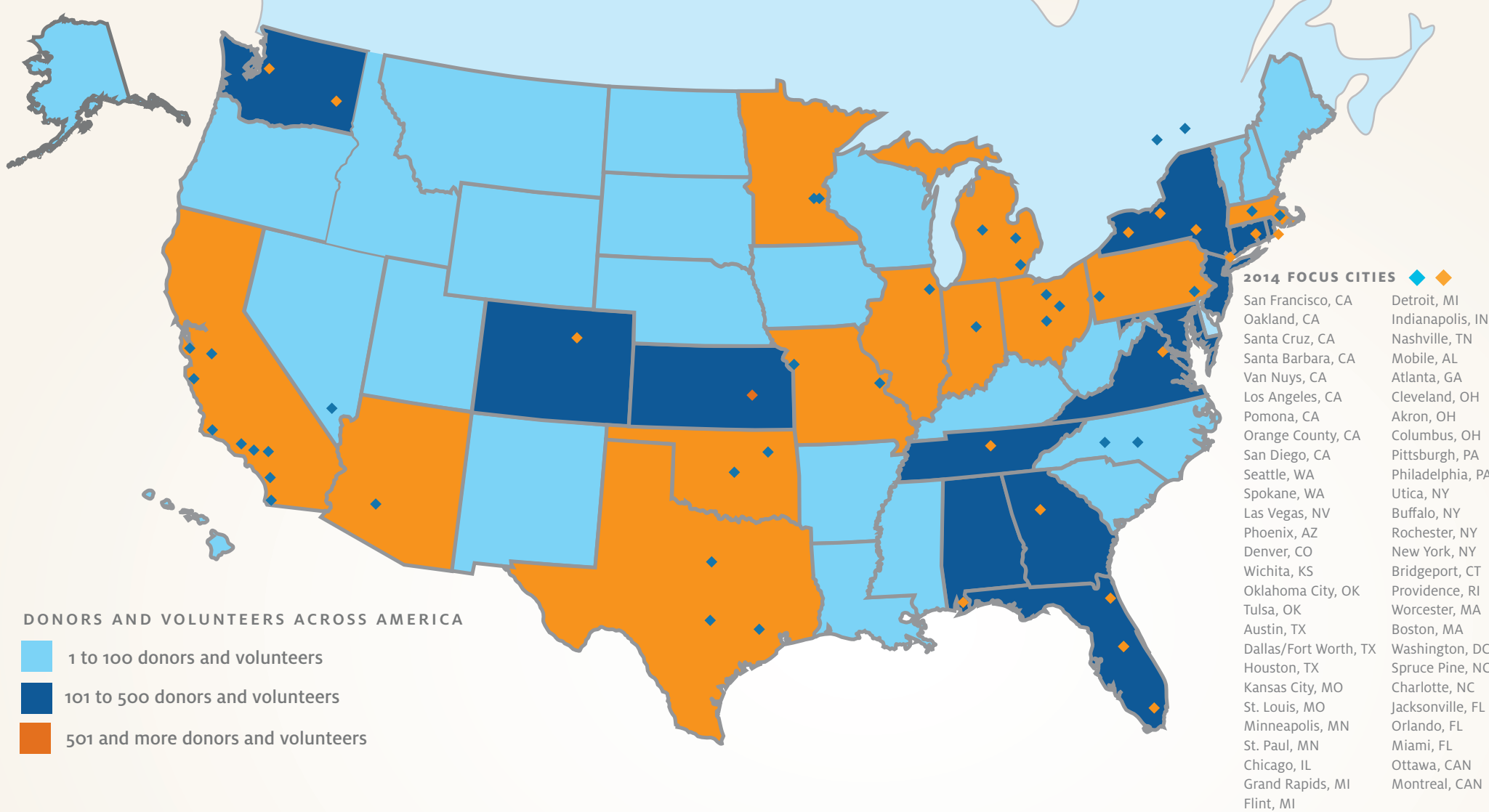
Facilitating the education of children who come from homeless and working poor families is a key activity of FOCUS. For the past five years, FOCUS has been a significant partner with school districts throughout the country in providing disadvantaged children with educational support services while we assist their parents through vocational training, finding jobs, and securing permanent housing.

Each summer, FOCUS' program *Operation Lace Up* helps families in need get ready to go back-to-school by providing children with medical and dental check-ups, school supplies, new backpacks and new athletic shoes so that they can attend school ready to learn and succeed.

Once these children are in school, FOCUS provides many of them with nutritious food to ensure they stay properly fed—especially during targeted times of the week and month when family cupboards may be bare.

Through 2013, FOCUS' *Operation Lace Up* has helped more than 193,000 children from homeless and working poor families!





FOCUS is in all 50 states and Canada!

From California to New York, Minnesota to Florida, FOCUS has donors, volunteers and activities in all 50 United States – and Canada! FOCUS North America is a growing movement of Orthodox Christians, united in faith and joined by a desire to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions to poverty in communities across America. Call or email to get connected and join with FOCUS in your town today!



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ST HERMAN HOUSE • CLEVELAND

ON A BITTERLY COLD DAY in January 2013, Nate was dropped off in front of St. Herman House-FOCUS Cleveland. He was homeless and suffering. He was an alcoholic, a chain smoker and had chronic chest pains.



Nate had struggled with alcohol abuse since the age of eleven; his addiction had proved ruinous to health, family, marriages and employment. When he arrived, he was despairing. He had been down this path too many times.

The St. Herman House is a 28-bed men's shelter. Here at "The House", FOCUS Cleveland gave Nate a bed, showed him the love of Christ and helped him begin the long walk toward sustainable addiction recovery, a job and a permanent home.

Nate began to attend meetings four days a week at an addiction recovery program across the street from The House. Once sober, Nate's congenial nature emerged. Three times a day, St. Herman's opens its doors to serve a hot meal to the community. Nate oversees hospitality for the morning meal. He attends the daily prayer services and weekly Bible Study. His heart issues and chest pains are under control. He quit smoking. In many respects, he is ready to move on. Yet, like all of us, he will need support. St. Herman-FOCUS Cleveland



will allow men to take the first steps toward independent living. Residents will pay rent, stay sober and abide by the house rules. They'll have structured independence, but still maintain access to all that FOCUS Cleveland offers—meals, daily prayer, job and life skills training, and community support.

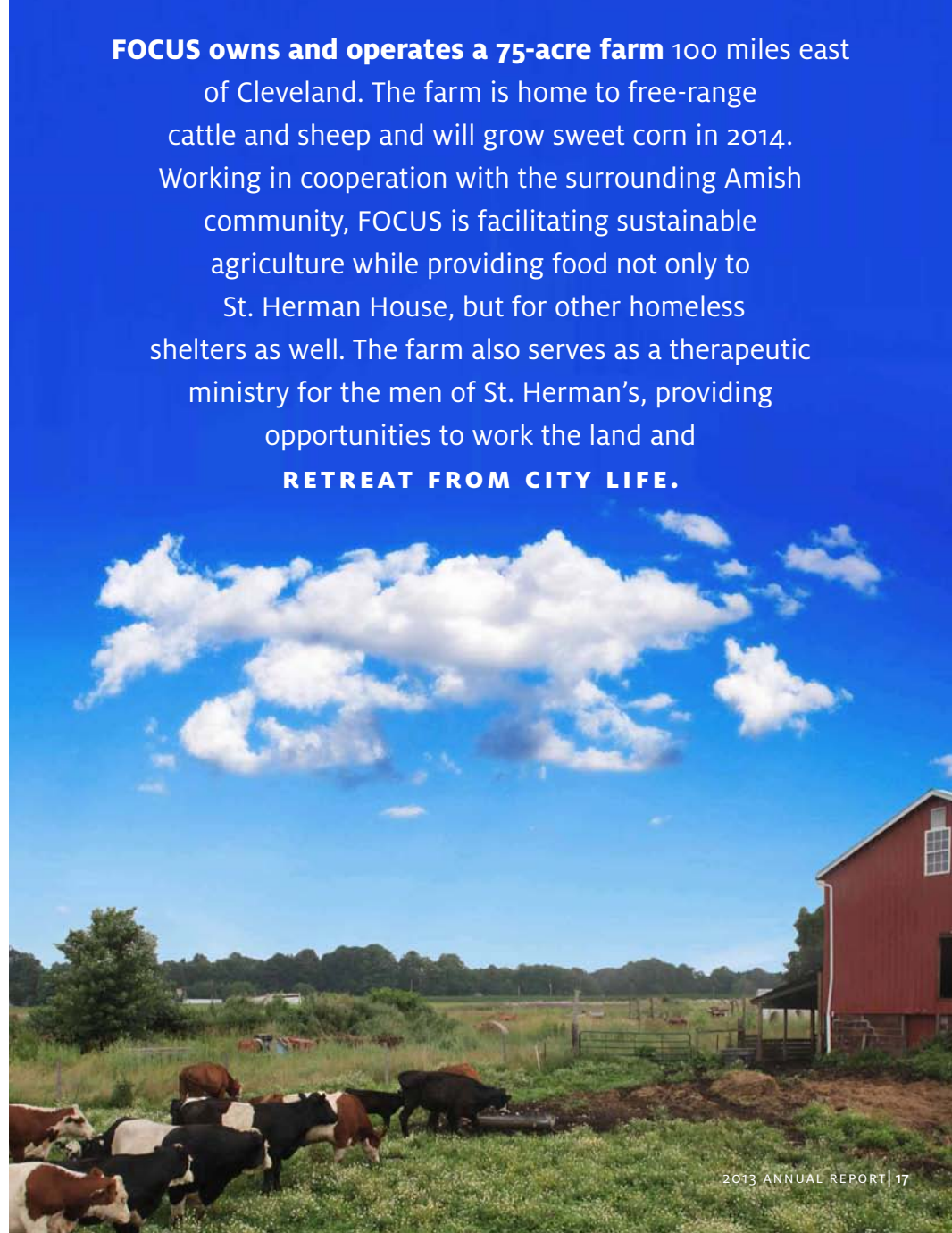
To better prepare men for independent living – the eventual day when they will move out into apartments and homes –FOCUS Cleveland began a jobs program in 2013. The men at St. Herman's are hired to provide janitorial services to local organizations, Orthodox parishes and businesses. The program enables the men to earn an income, build confidence and will make it easier for them to find employment in the future.

has become a family to him. Nate needs and wants to stay connected as he works toward independence.

To help Nate and others like him, FOCUS Cleveland purchased a 12-unit home a few doors down from St. Herman's. The home, which will open its doors in 2014,



FOCUS owns and operates a 75-acre farm 100 miles east of Cleveland. The farm is home to free-range cattle and sheep and will grow sweet corn in 2014. Working in cooperation with the surrounding Amish community, FOCUS is facilitating sustainable agriculture while providing food not only to St. Herman House, but for other homeless shelters as well. The farm also serves as a therapeutic ministry for the men of St. Herman's, providing opportunities to work the land and **RETREAT FROM CITY LIFE.**



Wherever you are, you can live life in FOCUS.

Say YES

YES—Youth Equipped to Serve—exposes junior high and high school students to the realities of poverty, engages them in weekend service opportunities and equips them to become leaders in their church, school and community. YES also leads one-day service trips for teens and their families. And you don't have to travel—YES comes to you. If your parish or youth group is interested in a YES trip, please contact us.

Serve

If you live near one of our FOCUS Centers—Orange County, San Diego, Minneapolis, St Louis, Indianapolis, Cleveland and Pittsburgh—contact us for ways you can actively serve. We also have hands-on, professional opportunities in other cities. In 2014, FOCUS will implement activities in 50 cities! Contact us to find out if we're in your community!

Donate

A hot meal. Warm clothing. A bed to sleep on. Job readiness classes. Everything we offer is made possible by your donations. Whether it's \$10 or \$100, your support is valuable. Please consider becoming a monthly donor to support the ministry of FOCUS.

Transform a Life

We start by helping others, but more often than not, it's our own lives that are transformed. By uniting to help those in need, we put our God-given talents to good use and draw nearer to Christ by following his commandments.

Prepare

Is your parish interested in ministering to the poor? Looking for ways to begin? Invite FOCUS to your parish and we'll lead a 1-day training on how to develop your parish outreach.

FOCUS North America
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www.focusnorthamerica.org
Email: info@focusna.org

Like us on Facebook  Like Follow us on Twitter 

Sign up today for a YES trip near you!

YES

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The YES Program works with FOCUS Centers and Orthodox parishes nationwide to provide opportunities for youth and young adults to engage in formative service activities over a weekend. Through their experience, participants come to see that they are valued, capable, and equipped to respond to poverty by being God's servants in their own communities.

16 trips last year and over 400 participants

Sign up at: www.yesnorthamerica.org

FOCUS

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PO BOX 645039

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-5039



YES

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Inspired by the desire of families to serve together, we are now offering a day trip during which, parents and children can work side-by-side in outreach activities. Please contact us if you would like YES to come to your parish and spend a day of service learning with your families.

The program is for children ages 11-high school. Email Katrina: kbitar@focusna.org for more info!

