

FOCUS

NORTH + AMERICA



ONE FOCUS

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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ONE FOCUS



Whether it's a single mother struggling to feed and clothe her children, a surgeon volunteering his time and services, or a donor in Texas hosting a fundraising event, together we form *One FOCUS*: a singular movement of diverse stakeholders and programs uniquely positioned to provide action-oriented and sustainable solutions to poverty in communities across America. Through the core necessities of life—**F**ood, **O**ccupation, **C**lothing, **U**nderstanding, and **S**helter—FOCUS brings people together, empowers the brokenhearted, and restores lives with dignity, hope and compassion.

FROM THE DIRECTORS

Fellowship. It's the first word in FOCUS' name: *Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve*. A united movement of diverse programs and stakeholders, FOCUS North America exists for the purpose

of moving people from lives of dependency to self-sufficiency. Yet, we are much more than a singular goal or simple catchphrase. Our fellowship brings people together from all walks of life and from all corners of our nation. Unified in this one FOCUS, our staff, board of directors, volunteers, donors, partner ministries, clergy, and those we serve have found an effective and meaningful organization through which, they can offer their unique skills and resources.

The strength of this Fellowship has led to more impact than any of us could have achieved singularly. Rather than apply a single-solution answer to the many problems in our society today, the breadth and depth of the FOCUS movement allows us to design and implement targeted programs that meet the real needs of each city where we operate.

When our Fellowship saw that employed, hardworking people were being excluded from the shifting landscape of healthcare in Pittsburgh, we came together to open the first Orthodox Christian health center in America.

When our Fellowship saw the homeless population in St. Louis living without access to hygiene and shower facilities, we invested in *Shower To The People* an innovative program that has captured the attention and hearts of millions of Americans by providing dignity and hope through the simple act of being made clean.



And when we became aware of the growing crisis of childhood hunger in America, FOCUS launched a sweeping food service program in 8 cities nationwide that directly enables parishes across the country to help children in their own communities.



FOCUS is effective because of your participation—and for that we are most grateful. Our Fellowship, rooted in the genuine, transformative power of Christ’s love knows that

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

Together, in our diverse roles, programs, and geographies, we are *One FOCUS*. We share one ministry, joined by one God, laboring toward the ultimate goal of salvation. For those who have “*no one to help them up,*” FOCUS stands ready to come beside them and invite them into our Fellowship. Just as Christ comes and extends his mercy to us, so we work hard to give a small measure of His compassion to our neighbors who are fighting to find the material and emotional necessities of life.



Please take some time to read through the following pages and learn about the impact that FOCUS has had across America, addressing the root causes of poverty and standing as a beacon of Orthodox Christian faith in action. Thank you for your support and commitment to FOCUS North America!

Nicholas Chakos
Executive Director

Eric Paljug
Chairman of the Board

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT of FINANCIAL POSITION

as of December 31, 2015

ASSETS	2014
Cash	\$471,136
Receivables	9,413
Inventory	-
Investments	-
Pledges Receivable	125,000
Property and Equipment (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	675,212
Other Assets	5,400
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,286,161

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Accounts Payable	\$39,291
Payroll Liabilities	11,480
Line of Credit	44,064
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$94,835

NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	762,802
Temporarily Restricted	428,524
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,191,326
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,286,161



FOCUS is a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity and is the only Orthodox Christian organization to hold the BBB Wise Giving Alliance National Charity Seal.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT of ACTIVITIES as of December 31, 2015

REVENUES	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Contributions	\$1,109,959	\$81,330	\$1,191,289
Grants	-	465,536	465,536
In-kind Contributions	7,590,726	-	7,590,726
Registration Fees	82,866	-	82,866
Investment Income	12,861	-	12,861
Event Income	257,429	-	257,429
Other income	6,744	-	6,744
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	284,524	(284,524)	-0-
TOTAL REVENUES	\$9,345,109	\$262,342	\$9,607,451
EXPENSES			
Program Services	8,910,801	-	8,910,801
Management and General	328,645	-	328,645
Fundraising	210,103	-	210,103
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,449,549	-	\$9,449,549
Changes in Net Assets	(104,440)	262,342	157,902
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	867,242	166,182	1,033,424
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$762,802	\$428,524	\$1,191,326



FOCUS is a CFC-approved charity. Federal employees in any state can give to FOCUS through CFC's Universal Giving (UG) feature, using our CFC #19541.



of all donations go directly to programs helping those in need! We work hard to keep our overhead at 6%.

SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

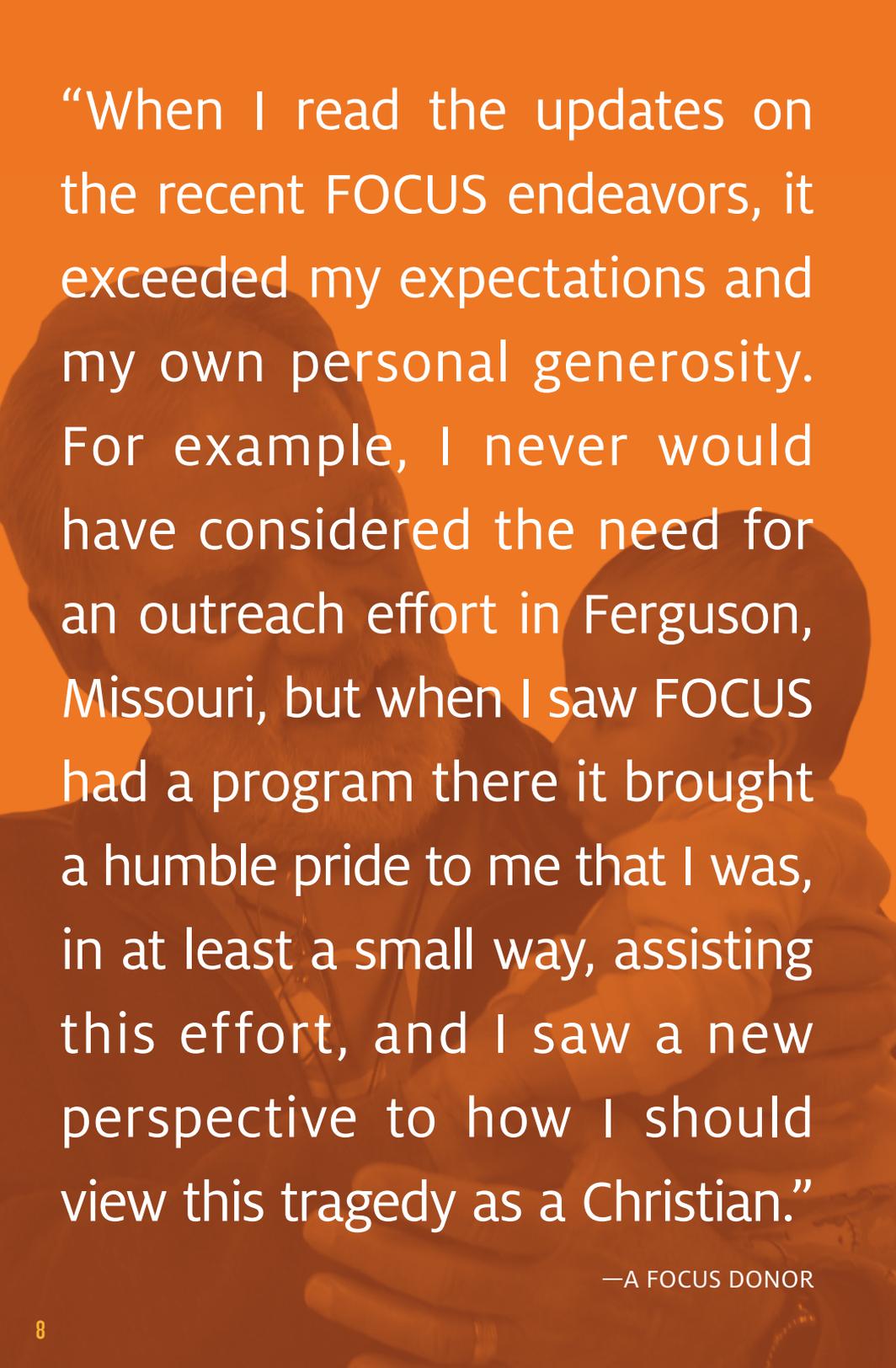
On a dark and cold winter night in Cleveland, two police officers stopped Beverly, a single mother of two who was asking for money on E. 152nd Street. Beverly explained to the officers that her daughters, aged 9 and 11, had not eaten all day. With her paycheck already spent on rent and utilities, she was asking for a few extra dollars to feed her girls. Instead of giving Beverly a ticket for panhandling, the officers took her to FOCUS' St. Herman House, where they knew Beverly would be given bags of groceries to tide her over.

Across America, millions of families face the same struggle as Beverly. An astounding 17 million children are “food insecure” meaning they do not have consistent access to the nutrition they need to grow and succeed in life. Many of these children rely on free and reduced price meals at their local schools. But when school lets out for the summer, they suddenly find themselves hungry with nowhere to go.

In response, FOCUS launched its *Summer Feeding Program* in Phoenix, Arizona—one of America's cities hardest hit by childhood hunger—and served 17,185 meals. In 2016, FOCUS plans to expand the program to eight cities and serve 46,000 meals to disadvantaged children. The program will have direct impact on children who are hungry through no fault of their own while engaging volunteers from parishes to provide children with activities that encourage learning and lifelong health. Visit www.focusnorthamerica.org/summerfeeding for details.







“When I read the updates on the recent FOCUS endeavors, it exceeded my expectations and my own personal generosity. For example, I never would have considered the need for an outreach effort in Ferguson, Missouri, but when I saw FOCUS had a program there it brought a humble pride to me that I was, in at least a small way, assisting this effort, and I saw a new perspective to how I should view this tragedy as a Christian.”

—A FOCUS DONOR

2015

IMPACT/ STATS



1,430

people in training/
employed



151,815

meals served



9,745

volunteers



124,000

clothing/hygiene
& household items
distributed



1,982

people given housing
& housing support



Jake Austin has long been involved with providing assistance to the homeless in St. Louis. On one of his regular walks through town to give the homeless toiletry kits, he was stopped by a man who pointed out that there was nowhere to use the soap Jake was handing out. With a job interview in just two days, the homeless man didn't have any place to shower.

In 2015, FOCUS North America incorporated Jake's Shower To The People, a mobile shower truck that connects to fire hydrants to provide showers, sinks and hygiene supplies to the homeless.

Most of us take it for granted, but for the many people who don't have a home or paid utilities, a simple shower has the ability to not only restore hygiene, but also dignity and hope. "Taking a shower can often be the first step in giving someone the confidence to reconnect with family, apply for a job, or take the next step in getting off the streets," says Austin. "It's hard to get a job if you look and smell like you're homeless."

The Shower To The People program is about more than just getting clean. Through a partnership with a national soap and beauty product company, anyone who showers in the truck will be invited to participate in job training and placement activities. In addition, Shower To The People is part of a collaborative effort to refer the homeless to numerous other services provided by local agencies. To learn more, volunteer, or sponsor a truck, visit: www.showertothepeople.net





ONENESS IN FAITH

A formerly homeless man once asked us, “You’ve given me a job, a home, and brought my family back together. When do we get to pray together?”

FOCUS stands apart from many other social service agencies because we understand the role of faith in restoring a life. FOCUS’ programs never require any faith participation or commitment from those we serve, but we see that people are naturally drawn to—and need—an element of faith to fulfill their transformation to self-sufficiency.

Communal and individual prayer is the bedrock on which our ministry is built. Participants on Youth Equipped to Serve (YES) trips pray for those they encounter during their experience. Many FOCUS Centers are located in Orthodox church facilities or have dedicated chapels. A new mission parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese, St. Moses the Black, grew out of the FOCUS Pittsburgh Center in 2013.

We know that prayer is also a strong component in your homes and parishes. Your prayers for our work and for those we serve are essential in keeping this ministry centered on our mission of compassion and service to each other and to those in need.



Visit FOCUS’ website to add your name to the FOCUS prayer list. You and your loved ones will be remembered daily in the chapel of St. Herman House, where we read prayers every morning and evening.
www.focusnorthamerica.org/prayer-requests

HEALTHCARE

“Without FOCUS I wouldn’t be aware of some of the ailments that I have at this age. And my wife wouldn’t be aware of some of the ailments that she has. FOCUS helped me address those issues and that’s going to help me and my wife live longer and hopefully be together longer.”

—Keith Platt, father, grandfather, husband

While the number of uninsured Americans has decreased over the past few years, the figures are still far too high: more than 33 million Americans were without health insurance in 2014.

Who are America’s uninsured? More than 80% are in low-income working families—those who earn too much to qualify for government programs, but do not earn enough to afford coverage of their own.

Providing healthcare is an important component of FOCUS’ mission because it is very difficult to sustainably transition a person or a family from homelessness, poverty and dependency to a life of self-sufficiency without providing for their health. The FOCUS Pittsburgh Free Health Center specifically targets and serves uninsured working adults. In 2015, the clinic had 428 patient visits, ranging from preventative care to surgery.

We’re excited about the future of healthcare within FOCUS. Our goal is to replicate our Pittsburgh model to other cities, beginning with Minneapolis where we will soon open a mobile health clinic.



YES

NORTH + AMERICA



FOCUS' Youth Equipped to Serve (YES) program provides opportunities for youth, young adults, and families to participate in formative weekends of service, with the ultimate purpose of raising the next generation of Orthodox Christians to lead others serving their neighbors through their daily actions. In 2015, over 400 young people were equipped to become dedicated servants of their parishes, schools, families, and communities. Visit www.focusnorthamerica.org/yes for more info!

FAMILY DAYS

Hosting a YES Family Day is an exciting opportunity to bring your parish families together and expose them to the poverty that exists in their own community. Through guiding and engaging them in active service, families learn why and how to approach the poor and serve their needs. Setting the heart of family life upon a strong foundation of service will allow for the Kingdom of God to be a reality in parish life and in daily family life.

COLLEGE DAYS

YES College Days are single-day service learning experiences designed to expose college students to the reality of poverty that exists in their communities. Through participating in engaging service projects that take students out and into the streets, hosting a YES College Day on your campus will share the message of love and solidarity with others, break down stereotypes, and provide a way for your community to serve Christ through serving others.



We look forward to sharing these new programs with you, along with continuing to add new cities to our annual weekend YES Trips. If your community would like to be equipped to serve, contact YES Director, Katrina Bitar at kbitar@focusna.org.



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