

# FOCUS

NORTH + AMERICA

## HELPING HANDS

### THE NEED

Supporting the health and education of children is a core component of FOCUS' programs. More than 15 million children in the United States suffer from food insecurity, meaning they are consistently unable to access sufficient nutritious food for a healthy life. Since 2013 FOCUS has reached more than 260,000 children in 250 school districts in 30 cities. The Helping Hands Projects will go to supporting our Childhood feeding initiatives around the country.

### WHAT IS IT?

Kids and youth perform household chores for adults who make a contribution to FOCUS North America to support the Summer Feeding Program

**This is a good project for** Kids 6-18 in a parish youth group and/or Sunday School; project is scalable for large or small groups.

### HOW TO DO IT:

#### Project Key Steps:

- Meet or speak with priest about the project. If needed, speak with parish council treasurer regarding logistics for donations.
- Put announcements in parish bulletin and newsletters and prepare communication to parents explaining the fundraiser in person or via take-home notes or email
- Put up posters/art to advertise project (optional for involving kids, can use kids' hand prints for "helping hands" theme)
- Educate kids on the purpose of the fundraiser and brainstorm with them regarding list of chores and suggested prices
- Art project to decorate envelopes for collecting donations and/or prepare "tickets" for chores (optional, can trace and cut out hands or use hand prints for "helping hands" theme)
- Reminders to kids on how to collect funds (put all donations in specially-prepared envelopes, ask adults to make checks payable to FOCUS or to the parish, etc.)

- › Coordinating teams of teens for larger projects (optional)
- › Performing chores (designated week or other period)
- › Follow up and de-brief with kids about amount raised and purpose

**Project Duration:**

Flexible, can be 2-6 weeks for project with 1-2 weeks advertising in advance and one week after for follow up/thank yous

## IMPLEMENTATION PACKAGE

**Sample Parish Bulletin Announcement:**

Our Sunday School students are offering “Helping Hands” to support FOCUS North America’s Summer Feeding Program for hungry children in need. Our youth will be offering to do extra chores around the house and in turn asking donations to the children FOCUS feeds. Our teens are willing to help with bigger projects around the house (cleaning out a closet or pantry, sweeping the garage) for \$15/hour. Please hire these “helping hands”. For more information or to schedule a teen work team please contact [NAME AND EMAIL AND CELLPHONE]. For more information on FOCUS and the Summer Feeding Program go to [www.focusnorthamerica.org](http://www.focusnorthamerica.org).

**Sample Text to Glue to Donations Envelopes:**

I am offering my “helping hands” to raise money to feed hungry children. Please help me support FOCUS North America. Please make checks payable to “FOCUS North America.”

**Sample Chore Tally Sheet (See Attached):**

I have done the following chores to help feed hungry children. Please make checks payable to FOCUS North America.

**Sample Explanation to Parents:**

Our Sunday School students are offering “Helping Hands” as a fundraiser for FOCUS North America’s Summer Feeding Program for children in need. The idea is that your child will provide extra help around the house – in addition to his or her usual chores. We are asking you to reward that extra help with donations that will help Orthodox Christians feed hungry children.

The children have determined suggested amounts of donations for various types of helping projects. Older children are encouraged to take on more challenging chores (vacuuming out the car, cleaning out a closet, helping with a big clean-up project, shoveling or other outdoor work) and to work in teams at the church or in homes. Please support the kids in these efforts, and please be as generous as you can.

We have asked each child to track his or her projects and to collect donations in a special envelope. Please help your child to return all donations no later than [DATE]. Please make your donations in the form of a check payable to FOCUS North America and include your address on the check.

Contact FOCUS at:

**[www.focusnorthamerica.org](http://www.focusnorthamerica.org)**  
**1-866-267-3083**  
**[info@focusna.org](mailto:info@focusna.org)**