

FOCUS

NORTH  AMERICA

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



IMPACT THROUGH INTERACTION





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mr. Eric Paljug, Ph.D., Chairman
- Ms. Georgia Kazakis, Vice-Chair
- Dr. Julie Papatheofanis, Secretary
- Mrs. Lory Barsdate Easton
- Mr. Brian Bullard
- Dr. Maria Misthos-Cashy

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

- Mr. Charles Ajalat
(Founder)
- Mr. William Hoeft

ADVISORY BOARD

- Mr. Brian Gerich
- Mr. Andrew Natsios
- Mr. Peter Marudas
- Ms. Maria Foscarinis
- Kh. Frederica Mathewes-Green
- Mr. Joel Smith
- Mrs. Theodora Polamalu

600 N. Bell Ave.
Bldg. 1, Suite 115
Carnegie, PA 15106
Phone & Fax: 1-866-267-3083

- facebook.com/FOCUSNorthAmerica
- twitter.com/focus_na
- instagram.com/FOCUSNorthAmerica

IMPACT THROUGH INTERACTION

At FOCUS we directly serve the poor—face-to-face—in order to form meaningful relationships that impact both the giver and the underserved. We offer the homeless and working poor of America jobs, housing, educational resources, healthcare, food, and clothing. But our true impact comes from bringing together volunteers, parishes, and partners to build a community of service that treats the whole person—physical, mental, and spiritual. In forming these communities of service, we are given the opportunity to meet Christ, and through His grace, offer help, hope, and sustainable impact through direct interaction.



FROM THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of FOCUS,

As the newly appointed Executive Director of FOCUS North America, I have a simple message: THANK YOU!

The life-transforming ministries you read about in this Annual Report are only possible because of your prayers, financial support, and volunteer service. Thank you for being a person of action and love. By partnering with FOCUS, you are helping to create a nationwide ministry for the poor, built on Christian relationships.

As I get to know the entire FOCUS family, one thing is abundantly clear. At FOCUS, we believe that people are formed, and ultimately find meaning in life as a direct result of their relationships with others and with God. Our relationships with family, friends, and mentors shape how we learn about and view the world. In many cases, relationships can even directly impact our material success and ability to provide for others.

FOCUS knows that in order to have a real impact on poverty, we cannot address the root causes from a distance. To truly serve, we must meet those who are suffering face-to-face, understand their pain, share in it, and grow together. In short, we must form transformational relationships and walk alongside each of those we serve.

The results of FOCUS' relationship building are clear. In Cleveland, FOCUS helps men who come from homelessness find housing, jobs, and a life of self-sufficiency. In Pittsburgh, FOCUS is building a community network to help people address trauma and provide solutions



to poverty. In Detroit, volunteers are tutoring children, teaching them to study so that they do not fall behind in school. And in Minneapolis, FOCUS continues to provide daily services to the most vulnerable, including children and families, the hungry and homeless, and refugees. It is the support of volunteers and donors like you that allows us to build these meaningful relationships and help each individual address their own unique needs until they are able to stand on their own.

We are grateful to the thousands of volunteers and donors who, with compassion, dedication, and generosity, have sacrificed their time and resources to form relationships with those who are living in poverty and isolation. Unsurprisingly, we often find it is the volunteers whose lives are changed by these relationships.

Each passing year sees FOCUS evolve, innovate, and grow. You are a part of that story, and I am excited to hear from you soon. Thank you for your prayers, support, and commitment to those we serve!

Seraphim Danckaert
Executive Director



CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as of December 31, 2016

ASSETS	2016
Cash	\$680,590
Receivables	11,807
Pledges Receivable	125,000
Other Assets	28,074
Property and equipment (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	593,926
TOTAL ASSETS	1,439,397
LIABILITIES	
Line of Credit	57,155
Accounts Payable	20,619
Accrued Liabilities	45,683
TOTAL LIABILITIES	123,457
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	746,646
Temporarily Restricted	569,294
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,315,940
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,439,397

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

as of December 31, 2016

REVENUES	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Contributions	\$1,082,804	\$245,144	\$1,327,948
Grants	57,000	455,035	512,035
In-Kind Contributions	2,426,079	-	2,426,079
Registration Fees	33,005	-	33,005
Investment Income	2,000	-	2,000
Event Income	226,094	-	226,094
Program Services Income	188,841	-	188,841
Other Income	247	-	247
Net assets released from restrictions	559,409	(559,409)	-
TOTAL REVENUES	4,575,479	140,770	4,716,249
EXPENSES			
Program Services	4,090,374	-	4,090,374
Management and General	142,922	-	142,922
Fundraising	358,339	-	358,339
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,591,635	-	4,591,635
Changes in Net Assets	(16,156)	140,770	124,614
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	762,802	428,524	1,191,326
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	746,646	569,294	1,315,940



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.



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

IMPACT THROUGH JOBS

“Occupation for anyone, whether it’s at a high level or an entry level position, is very much connected to our self worth, to our dignity. When God created man and placed him in the garden he gave him a job to do, to tend to it and to oversee it.”

PAUL FINLEY

Director of FOCUS Cleveland



When Stephen Rattliff lost his job, it started a downward spiral that ended in homelessness. With nowhere to turn, he came to FOCUS Cleveland’s St. Herman House in July of 2016. “I was very financially depressed,” said Mr. Rattliff, “But I was able to hold on and keep my faith in God. Being a part of St. Herman’s has helped me keep hope alive.”

Besides food and a bed, Mr. Rattliff was offered employment through St. Herman’s jobs program. For the past eight months he has been saving his money. “In three weeks I’ll be moving into my own place,” he said.

In 2013, Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church hired the men of St. Herman House to provide cleaning services for their food festival. The men did such good work that the church hired them as the parish’s full-time janitorial and light maintenance service. Word of the excellent work spread fast. “We had one parishioner tell us she’d never seen the church so clean,” said FOCUS Cleveland Director, Paul Finley. Now, in 2017, the men of the St. Herman House provide janitorial and maintenance work at six area parishes and a dozen businesses.



“We’re fulfilling more than a janitorial need for the church. It really becomes part of our outreach to people in need.” said Fr. Alexander Garklavs of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. “I’ve been very impressed with their honesty, diligence, and integrity.”

The jobs program at FOCUS Cleveland allows men to re-enter the workforce after long absences, build verifiable work history, and improve job skills and self-confidence. Your support is helping men like Mr. Rattliff to help themselves transition into self-sustained living.





“It’s pretty clear that one day we will all be judged, not on how much we fast or how often we go to church, but ‘did you take care of the least of these my brethren.’ FOCUS has really provided a great platform to fulfill the calling that Christ has to go and actually feed those who are hungry.”

—FR. DIMITRIOS LEE
ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
WASHINGTON D.C.

2016 IMPACT



118

people sustainably
employed



10,683

volunteers



197,353

meals served



623

patients receiving
comprehensive
healthcare



120,654

clothing items distributed



720

people given housing
& housing support



1,509

children received tutoring
& educational support

TRAUMA INFORMED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder brings to mind soldiers returning home from war, struggling to cope with horrors they have experienced in combat.

When Fr. Paul Abernathy was deployed as a soldier to Iraq in 2004, he was already well aware of PTSD. The soldiers had been told to expect that after just a year at war, many of them would suffer from intense trauma and would need help in order to reacclimatize once they returned home.

Years later, now a seminary graduate and the director of the FOCUS Center in Pittsburgh, Fr. Paul serves the poor in Pittsburgh's Hill District: a neighborhood that is synonymous to many with urban decay. In the Hill District, Fr. Paul sees a community and families suffering from trauma due to gun violence, hunger,



displacement, chronic homelessness, and domestic and substance abuses.

"When I came home from the Army, I could see my own community was traumatized," Fr. Abernathy said. "I have a really good friend; he's the same age as I. When he turned 35, he had lost his fortieth friend to gun violence. That is the equivalent to a platoon in the Army. What are we doing to help our families who essentially spend their whole lives at war?"

Knowing the correlation between the experience of childhood trauma and negative adult behaviors, Fr. Abernathy and FOCUS Pittsburgh promote healing, health, and successful living in the Hill District by directly addressing those traumatic experiences. In conjunction with several partners, FOCUS Pittsburgh leads an innovative Trauma Informed Community Development project. This program brings trauma victims together to create healthy, healing micro-communities on a city block level.

"Oftentimes, interventions come from the macro, and they haven't worked in the community. So let's focus on the micro," said Dr. Matthew Walsh from partner Duquesne University. "We know that when we restore healthy attachment in relationships, it can mitigate against trauma. So let's start on the block level,

and create those healthy communities on the block, which will then grow out."

FOCUS Pittsburgh trains community organizers to identify neighborhood blocks where interventions have potential. The organizers go through a 15-week training that emphasizes behavioral health and then begin to work with residents to meet on a regular basis, forming relationships among neighbors with shared trauma.

Among the first participants in the program is Victoria Ely, whose son was shot in front of their house while putting out the trash. "It's a support system of people with trauma. And they live here with hopes to build a better community. We have to help build each other up. I hope to see little micro-communities all

through this city," she said.

Fr. Abernathy added, "We see people who have been living in radical isolation now find themselves living in community."

To see the impact and people of FOCUS Pittsburgh's Trauma Informed Community Development project, visit: www.focusnorthamerica.org/videos



PARISHES SERVE THEIR NEIGHBORS THROUGH FOCUS



Parishes across the country find meaningful philanthropy and outreach opportunities through FOCUS Centers and National Programs. One such parish is St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, DC. St. Sophia hosted the FOCUS Summer Feeding Program in 2016, serving over 200 fresh meals each day, for ten weeks, to hungry children in their community.

“Our people have really come together and taken this on as their own: that they are feeding kids who wouldn’t normally have eaten a meal. FOCUS is allowing us to fulfill the call that Christ has to go and actually feed those who are hungry,” said Fr. Dimitrios Lee of St. Sophia.

Volunteers gathered from area Orthodox parishes and organizations to help reduce childhood hunger. “I had been following FOCUS’ work for a long time and was excited when I heard they were coming to D.C.,” said Vera Bumbak, a volunteer from St. Luke Orthodox Church in nearby Bethesda. “I decided I was going to help wherever I could.”

Through FOCUS, churches engage their parishioners in acts of mercy, allowing them to directly work with the poor in face-to-face interactions, building meaningful relationships with other volunteers and the community.

Learn how FOCUS can empower your parish to serve the poor by calling us at 866-267-3083.

FOCUS’ Youth Equipped to Serve (YES) program provides opportunities for youth, young adults, and families to participate in formative weekends of service. In 2016, over 400 young people were equipped to become dedicated servants of their parishes, schools, families, and communities.



COLLEGE DAYS

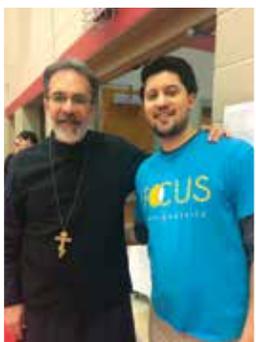
Besides our typical weekend service trips, YES College Days have taken off in 2016 to fill a need for our youth. College Days are single-day service learning experiences designed to expose students to the reality of poverty that exists in their communities. Through participating in engaging service projects that take students out into the community, 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.



WORDS FROM A PARENT

“There is something beautiful about having built up a tradition of YES trips. They are already in their “YES Place” in their heart when they show up. I love to see that it’s really working, and this new generation is truly picking it up and taking it forward.”

—**Elissa Bjelitch**, YES Parent, Youth Worker, and Advisory Board member speaking on the culture of service that has been created by hosting annual YES trips at her parish in Austin, TX.



If your community would like to be equipped to serve, contact YES Director, Katrina Bitar at kbitar@focusna.org or visit www.focusnorthamerica.org/yes for more info!



PO BOX 645039
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-5039

