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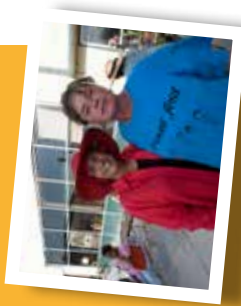
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Enrollment for the coming
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Learn more at:

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FOCUS

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FELLOWSHIP of ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS UNITED to SERVE

Orthodox Hierarchs and youth alike emphasize the importance of philanthropy and servant leadership by supporting and serving at FOCUS centers.

SERVE

A NEWSLETTER OF FOCUS NORTH AMERICA

FALL 2018



Servant Leadership In Action

FOOD OCCUPATION CLOTHING UNDERSTANDING SHELTER

Whoever wants to become great among you

MUST BE YOUR SERVANT

and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man **DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” **Mark 10: 43-45**



This past July, during the OCA's All American Council, FOCUS Gateway City in St.

Louis was blessed with a visit from the entire OCA Holy Synod of Bishops, led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon.

During a week of busy meetings, the Synod's visit and participation was a first hand witness of FOCUS' ministry to the poor, demonstrating how important philanthropy is in the Orthodox faith. We are inspired to be led in service, through the example of church leaders who not only teach, but also *show* us this truly fundamental aspect of the Christian Gospel.

“Having the OCA Holy Synod at the FOCUS Center was inspirational to all of the volunteers, many of whom represent jurisdictions other than the OCA and do not regularly have the opportunity to meet and engage with its clergy and hierarchs,” said Kenny Kidd, FOCUS Director of Development.



Besides a visit from the hierarchs, dozens of **teens also had a chance**

to serve in St. Louis. The teens volunteered at the FOCUS Center's food pantry and community garden and participated in a reflection about serving in the Orthodox context with Youth Equipped to Serve (YES). We unpacked perceptions and stereotypes the kids may be confronted with when facing issues of poverty, homelessness, and suffering. In the end, we left with hope and faith that we can stretch ourselves to serve the true image of Christ in each other, instead of serving a false image of ourselves.

Your Gifts in Action

Children served this summer:

5,851

Summer meals served in Detroit

2,425

Backpacks, filled with school supplies distributed to children in 50 cities across the US

3,500

Summer meals served in Orange County, CA

588

Summer meals served in West Central Pennsylvania

1-866-267-3083

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