

FOCUS

NORTH + AMERICA

2020 ANNUAL REPORT





BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

For more than ten years, FOCUS has been blessed with being able to serve communities across the country.



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On the cover: William, Eleni and Isabelle Engelbrecht (from Aliso Viejo, CA) serving neighbors in need at one of FOCUS Orange County's Six (spell out numbers under 10) Emergency Food Distributions. The Engelbrechts attend St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church in San Juan Capistrano.

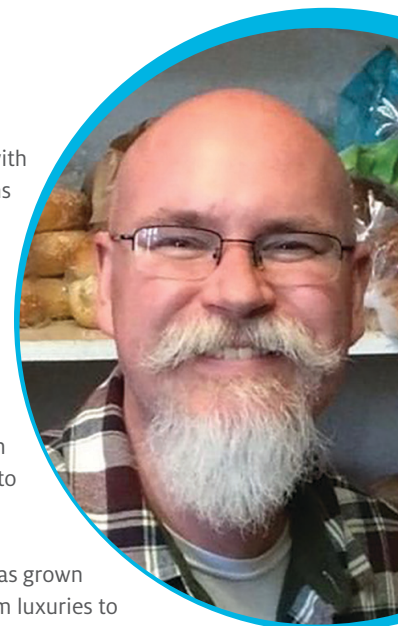
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Our World has Changed

Our passion and goals have not

Dear Friends,

Glory to Jesus Christ! It is inspiring what the Lord will do with the faith, love, and open hearts of Orthodox Christians over the course of ten years! In 2008-2009, the Lord brought together a small group of people who desired to find creative ways to serve the most vulnerable in our communities through the combined gifts and talents of faithful across all Orthodox jurisdictions. Through food, clothing, shelter, job training, tutoring, medical care, and most important – community, fellowship, and understanding, the Lord has touched so many lives through those that have shown up and said “yes” to Christ’s call to serve.



Our society has changed over the last decade. Our nation has grown by 21.7 million citizens. Smartphones have transitioned from luxuries to necessities. Stock markets have risen, fallen, and risen again. Children have grown into adults. Families have experienced new methods of staying connected as we have moved physically further apart. Just this year, we have re-learned to appreciate the moments we have together - even while struggling through the effects of a global pandemic. We have witnessed 10 years of society growing and shifting both in its ability and in need. As the shape of our communities and regions have changed, FOCUS North America has remained committed to connecting resources with opportunity. Orthodox communities have found creative ways to support ministries and services dedicated to helping our most vulnerable neighbors - the at-risk, the marginalized, and the poverty-stricken. Neighbors to neighbors, we live out our faith by loving God and others as active witnesses to the building of God’s Kingdom in our own backyards.

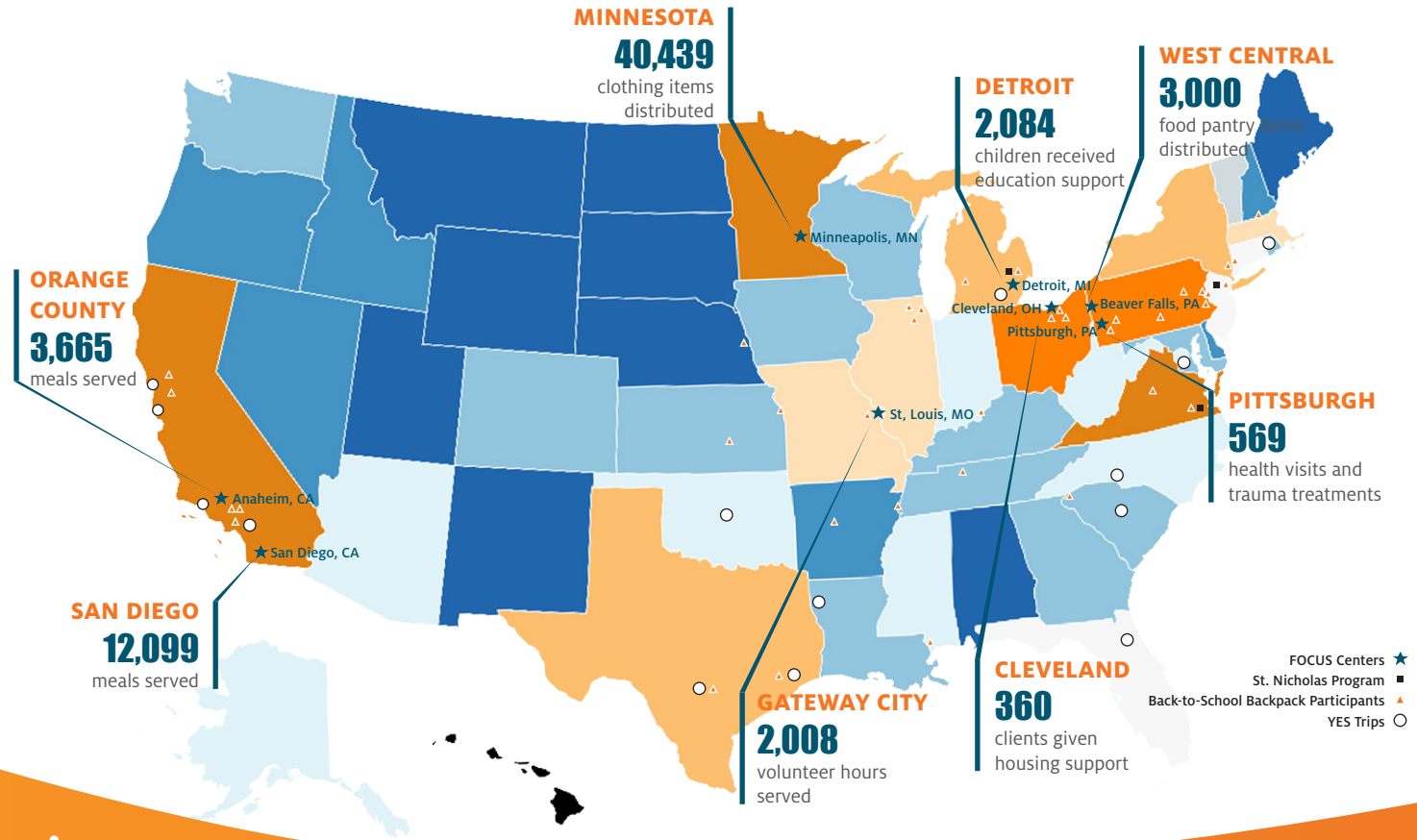
I am blessed and honored to be part of FOCUS North America’s family of dedicated servants and volunteers. As our world continues to change, the Holy Spirit will also continue to reveal opportunities for us to respond in service to one another’s needs. Through service we can actively build God’s Kingdom here and today. With direct impact in seven metropolitan areas and inspired leaders in all 50 states, FOCUS is excited about what the Lord continues to reveal within our communities today, tomorrow, and for another ten years.

Your brother in Christ,

Kenneth Kidd
Executive Director

2019 REACH AND IMPACT

Gifts by State



A Decade of Compassion

Volunteer opportunities:	11,733
Nutritious prepared meals served:	466,068
Food pantry items given away:	104,887
Personal hygiene items distributed:	18,599
Clothing and household goods distributed:	83,751
Clients assisted through jobs programs:	700

"I've met a lot of people and I hear their stories. You see how grateful they are: 'thank you, thank you, thank you so much for being here, thank you.' It makes your heart feel light to be able to help people."

Joni Volitich
volunteer

CELEBRATING 10 OF SERVICE YEARS

We would like to thank everyone who has made our ministry a reality as we celebrate what we have accomplished thus far.

FOCUS started in 2009 with the recession in full force. Now, ten years later, the needs are not diminished. We are compelled to serve the poor who live in our own towns and feel so deeply that this work is fundamental to being called Christians. As we look back at all we have learned & seen thus far, we ask you to join us for another ten years and beyond.

"In a way, the creation of FOCUS may be the most important thing to happen in the Orthodox Church in many years. In my time as chairman, it was always heartening to see the transformation in lives of families in churches. They're doing it because they love God and love the poor. FOCUS is a witness to the vitality of the action of the Orthodox Church."

- Charles Ajalat, Founder

"FOCUS is a way to involve everyone. It's a way to take people beyond writing a check to actually having an encounter. Everything we do, by nature, is local and personal. Each moment of service is an individual interaction, but there is a benefit added when you are able to also collaborate. When we share these experiences, nobody feels at a loss in how to engage in this work."

- Lory Easton, Board Member

"Every one of you involved has changed how I see the world. I am a senior in high school and you all have taught me how to truly embrace the faith through almsgiving. Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity."

- Anastasia, Community Partner



1977
St. Herman House of Cleveland established

2004
Orthodox Youth Outreach (later renamed YES) has its first weekend service-learning experience

January 2009
Fr. Justin Mathews chosen to lead FOCUS

November 2009
YES holds first weekend trip as part of FOCUS; Polamalu Family adds hustle to FOCUS Board & Tackles Poverty

December 2009
FOCUS opens its first center: FOCUS Kansas City; Grants existing programs much needed funds

January 2010
FOCUS endorsed by Metropolitan Maximos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh



February 2012
Nick Chakos joins FOCUS as Executive Director

March 2011
FOCUS grants bolster feeding program in Southbridge, Massachusetts

January 2011
FOCUS Pittsburgh launched as a source of hope for the Hill District

July 2010
FOCUS volunteers & supports go from urban to rural ministry in Appalachia

May 2010
FOCUS opens three new centers: FOCUS Orange County, FOCUS Gateway City, & FOCUS Minnesota; Blessed by Holy Synod of Orthodox Church in America



January 2013
St. Herman House becomes FOCUS Cleveland with Paul Finley as the new center director

September 2013
FOCUS launches Back-to-School Backpack programs in 28 cities; FOCUS recognized as exceptional charity by the BBB

October 2015
FOCUS incubates startup - Shower-To-The-People - in St. Louis

November 2015
Renovation Angel partners with FOCUS to support growth of nation-wide service opportunities

June 2017
Seraphim Danckaert joins FOCUS as the third executive director; refocuses attention on the needs that exist every day in our communities



December 2018
Social media helps connect new donors with FOCUS; Local high school adopts FOCUS Detroit as their charity of choice

July 2018
Metropolitan Tikhon (OCA) & the Holy Synod visits FOCUS Gateway City: "It was beautiful to see broken and wounded people receiving the hospitality of other broken and wounded people."

July 2019
Kenny Kidd moves into Interim Executive Director role - later appointed as FOCUS' fourth Executive Director

June 2019
FOCUS House, the permanent ministry location of FOCUS Minnesota, is officially blessed and opens to the public

MORE THAN A
DECADE
OF IMPACT

New Faces, Same Heart

New servant leaders guiding FOCUS programs

FOCUS is a fellowship of unique individuals who stand united across the nation to carry out our common mission - to serve the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned by providing Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter. Many of you who make up our fellowship are volunteers, who dedicate their time & talents to improving our programs. Many of you are neighbors, who graciously embrace vulnerability and welcome strangers in times of need. Many of you are clergy, who invite us to speak and lead community projects at your parishes. No matter whose face we shine a light on, we are blessed to be united by the understanding that every face we encounter is an icon of who we are truly serving at heart - Christ. Here are some of the newest faces we are happy to have serving alongside all of us at FOCUS:



Adam Murphy *FOCUS Detroit, Director*
Re-joined FOCUS December 2019

Adam Murphy is a creative thinker, social mover, musician, artist, home chef, fan of BBQ'd meats, and serious poutine critic. He has worked for FOCUS North America's national office, Catholic Charities of Boston, The Telos Project, the CrossRoad Summer Institute, Orthodox parish ministry, and several ministries directed at the engagement and education of youth and young people throughout North America. Adam completed his Masters of Divinity at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA, and holds a Masters of Arts in Theology from Boston College.



Irene Basdakís *FOCUS Orange County, Director*
Joined FOCUS May 2019

Irene has lived & served the community in Orange County for the past 40 years. Originally from Massachusetts, Irene's pursuit of education at Salem State University is what led her to move to CA, where she studied Business Administration and later went on to receive her Juris Doctorate. As a member of the FOCUS team, Irene is dedicated to serving FOCUS North America's mission in Orange County and surrounding communities in California.

Our New Executive Director

Introducing Kenneth Kidd

Kenneth (Kenny) Kidd is a native of Charleston, WV, and has a long history of service in non-profit organizations and Orthodox Christian ministry. He joined FOCUS North America as Development Director in 2017, bringing with him 15 years of nonprofit management and service experience, including 5 years of work in homeless outreach/ services and ten years in international Orthodox Christian missions. A social worker by education, it remains important to him that he uses his gifts to meet individuals where they are and encourage experiential life-giving encounters with others - for donors, volunteers, staff and the people they are called to serve, so that together we might work to build God's Kingdom wherever we find ourselves. Kenny received Holy Chrismation into the Orthodox Church at Holy Spirit Antiochian Orthodox Church in Huntington, WV, on Holy Saturday, 1997. He has a Master of Social Work degree from West Virginia University.

We recently wished many blessed years to FOCUS leaders who have moved on to new opportunities:

Eric Shanburn

During his time as director of FOCUS Detroit, Eric's dedication and leadership helped Orthodox Christians throughout Detroit connect to their faith through practicing meaningful and compassionate service. Eric is now BSW Program Coordinator at Concordia University.

Fr. Seraphim Moslener

Fr. Seraphim Moslener streamlined and strengthened FOCUS activities within Beaver and Lawrence Counties, Pennsylvania. As Center Director, Fr. Seraphim organized community breakfasts, school feeding programs, and empowered volunteers to take meaningful action serving local needs. Fr. Seraphim is now the assistant pastor at All Saints Orthodox Church in Bloomington, Indiana.

Niko Petrogeorge

One of the original staff members of FOCUS North America's national development office, Niko played a vital role in sharing FOCUS' mission across the country. He remains connected to FOCUS as an advisory board member for Youth Equipped to Serve. Niko is now Executive Director of the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry.

Fr. Paul Abernathy

Fr. Paul Abernathy served as the Director of the FOCUS Pittsburgh Center. He led the development of a free health clinic and programs centered on trauma-informed service, community development, and a trauma response vehicle program. Fr. Paul is now Executive Director of the Neighborhood Resilience Project.



Be the Kingdom

Update on our 2020 goals

Together we have endured much during 2020 - mostly due to common sense, sequestering, and quarantining ourselves and our families from COVID. Through it all, our supporters and donors have remained steadfast in giving when possible, praying unceasingly, and dedicating themselves to serving the needs of others. In times when the fear of illness seems ever-present, FOCUS and our community centers provide opportunities for all of us to live out the Great Commandment - 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' and 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

We continue to feed thousands of families each week - from bagged lunches to carloads of produce. Since the start of 2020's COVID crisis, FOCUS served over 25,000 sack lunches in Cleveland, 676 tons of fresh produce through our Southern California centers, and another 6,000 meals provided in Minnesota so far in 2020. Our shelters and provision of basic necessities like clothing and hygiene items provide a safety net for those who have unexpectedly found themselves in need. Social distancing quickly shifted YES leadership training weekends for youth and college students to an online experience, yet our current situation is not stopping participants from returning to their communities to organize outreach, service, and opportunities to share dignity and love. As we approach Fall, our annual back-to-school program will strive to provide resources from a position of safety and sponsorship versus physical 'packing parties'.

With rejuvenated and out of the box programming, FOCUS is even more dedicated to expanding our reach and impact. And through the sacrifice of many and hands of many more, we are accomplishing just that. Thank you for your support and care for your neighbors.

We would love to see how you are engaging the Kingdom in your community. **Send pictures of your own projects to info@focusna.org.**

Want to make a personal difference? Think about putting together simple **care kits of socks, a packaged toothbrush, soap, and other essentials**. Keep a few kits in your car and when you see someone in need, **share dignity, compassion, and the love of God with a simple gesture**.

Leveraging Resources for Greater Use

Bringing faith and community together to restore hope



On behalf of the FOCUS North America Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to thank you and our thousands of volunteers, donors, leaders, servants, and staff who give of themselves and are living icons of Orthodoxy in motion. The following financial overview is a testament to the dedication of our global, national, regional, and neighborhood fellowship. As we strive on a daily basis to connect deserving students and families with food, occupation, clothing, understanding and shelter - we are growing closer to the image of Christ.

The synergistic spirit of FOCUS is evident in the following report. By leveraging resources and the abilities within our community and more importantly relying upon strength from God, we have accomplished miracles in restoring hope, providing dignity, and creating greater potential.

Thank you for letting FOCUS and all involved to be stewards of your treasured talents and resources.

In Christ,

Brian Bullard
Chairman

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	2019	2018
Cash and cash equivalents	\$757,917	\$1,242,574
Accounts receivable	\$3,337	\$2,921
Pledges receivable	\$68,936	\$143,944
Other assets	\$37,405	\$24,747
Assets of discontinued operations	\$14,380	\$20,390
Property & equipment, net	\$966,698	\$1,003,779
Property & equipment of discontinued operations, net	-	\$101,897
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,848,673	\$2,540,252
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	\$22,795	\$10,250
Accrued liabilities	\$40,423	\$44,288
Liabilities of discontinued operations	\$13,122	\$42,662
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$76,340	\$97,200
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,582,431	\$1,897,959
With Donor Restrictions	\$189,902	\$545,093
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$1,772,333	\$2,443,052
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,848,673	\$2,540,252

Statement of Activities

REVENUES	2018	2019
Contributions	\$1,249,292	\$1,711,939
Grants	\$81,500	\$178,646
In-kind contributions	\$599,701	\$602,894
Registration fees	\$28,791	\$37,020
Event income	\$122,208	\$175,055
Program services income	\$51,271	\$89,409
Other income	\$32,222	\$28,361
Net assets released from restrictions	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,164,985	\$2,823,324
EXPENSES		
Program services	\$1,713,268	\$1,504,181
Management and general	\$206,813	\$270,412
Fundraising	\$344,612	\$357,162
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,264,693	\$2,131,755
Changes in Net Assets before Pittsburgh transfer	(\$99,708)	\$691,569
Transfer of Assets to new Pittsburgh not-for-profit	(\$571,011)	(\$63,818)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(\$670,719)	\$627,751
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of Year	\$2,443,052	\$1,815,301
END OF YEAR	\$1,772,333	\$2,443,052



From the whole FOCUS Family, thank you for your support.

We know that through prayer, giving, and service you will continue to be a part of this ministry. Together, we will continue to transform lives & the world through love & compassion.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FOCUS engages people in Christ's call to serve by providing opportunities and resources designed to support communities in need.

PRAY | focusna.org/pray

GIVE | focusna.org/give

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Yes! I would like to make an impact in 2020!

Please accept my generous one-time gift: ☐ **\${X1}** ☐ **\${X2}** ☐ **\${X3}** ☐ **\$_____**

To send your credit card information by mail, please use the opposite side of this form.

Area of support:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Need | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Herman/Cleveland | <input type="checkbox"/> Detroit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gateway/St. Louis | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> Orange County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego | <input type="checkbox"/> Backpack Program | <input type="checkbox"/> YES |

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I would like to make my recurring gift: ☐ **Weekly** ☐ **Monthly** ☐ **Yearly**

Make checks payable to FOCUS North America. Complete and mail this form to PO BOX 645039 Pittsburgh, PA 15264-5039

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