

FOCUS

✦ BRIDGEPORT ✦

How can you serve your neighbors in need?





Our Challenge

Food Insecurity in Bridgeport

“In Bridgeport, about 30% of residents reported food insecurity... according to the city’s 2023 equity profile from DataHaven.”



Scale of
Poverty

23%

According to DATA USA, 22.9% of residents (33.1k out of 145k people) live below the poverty line.

Sources:

- [Coastal Connecticut Times](#)
- [DATA USA](#)



The Consequences of Food Insecurity

“Food insecurity is associated with various chronic conditions including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays, asthma, depressed immune function and increased hospitalizations, etc.”

- BMC Public Health volume 23, Article 1323 (2023)



Our Challenge

Homelessness in Bridgeport

“According to a recent survey conducted by the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, there were over 3,000 individuals experiencing homelessness in the state of Connecticut in 2021. In Bridgeport specifically, homelessness has been a persistent issue...”



**Scale of
Homelessness**

239

In 2021 there were a total of 239 sheltered homeless individuals in Bridgeport, 190 of whom were in emergency shelters and 49 were in transitional housing.

Source:

- [City of Bridgeport, CT Homelessness Care Response](#)
- [City of Bridgeport, CT Homelessness Survey](#)



I was a stranger and
you took me in.

Matthew 25:35

What We Can Do

A new FOCUS Center in Bridgeport



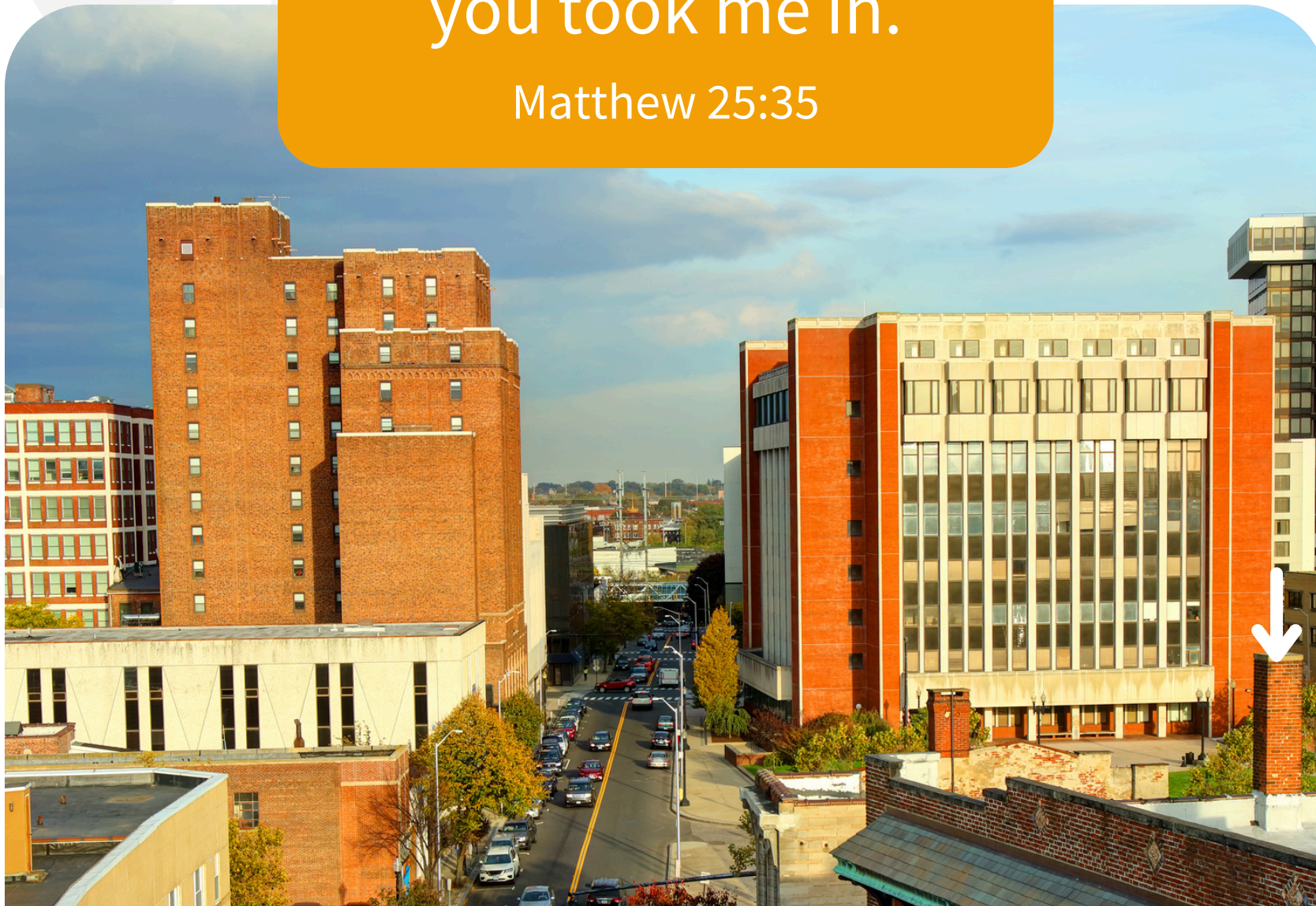
Meals & Other Services

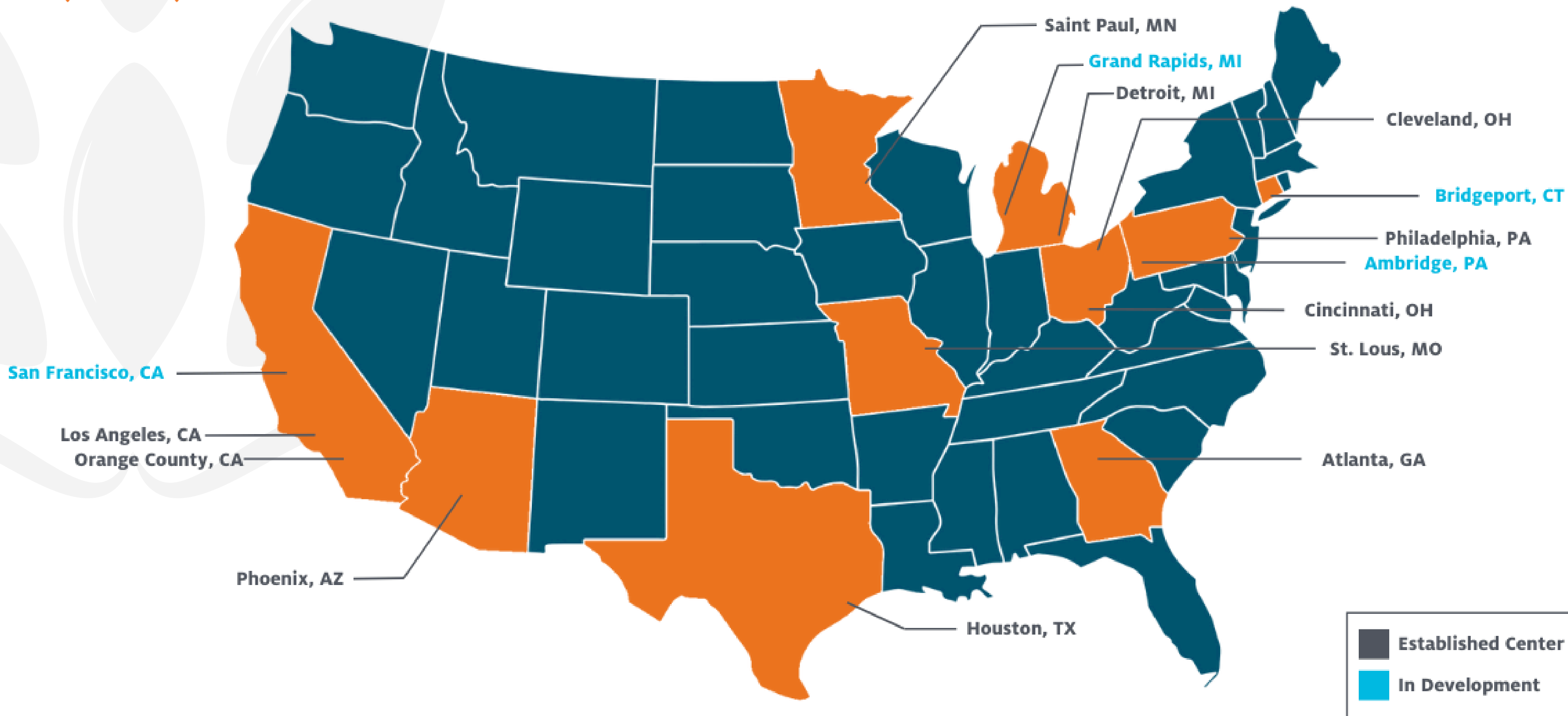
A place for our neighbors in need to receive a meal and food pantry items, take classes, etc.



Community & Shelter

A place for our neighbors in need to be part of a loving and supportive community.





FOCUS Gateway City

Inspiration for our work in Bridgeport



Sunday Supper

Hot meals three Sundays a month, averaging 50-60 guests. 1,448 meals served in 2024.



Food Pantry

Over 952 pounds of food distributed in 2024 (canned goods, cereal, pasta, etc).



Clothing & Basic Needs

Over \$1,276 in clothing distributed in 2024, plus bus tokens and tickets.



Haircuts

Free haircuts during Sunday Supper started in 2024.

FOCUS Cleveland

Inspiration for our work in Bridgeport



Homeless Shelter

28 beds, hosting men for 11 months on average.



Transitional House

12 beds, hosting men for 19 months on average.



Meals & Basic Needs

61,619 meals, 5,752 pounds of food, and \$160,242 of clothing and essential items.



Case Management

On-site support connecting men with counseling, health care, and other services. Plus job and life skills.

What is a FOCUS Center?

Basic Overview

Staff

Director, etc.

Team

Advisory Board

Location

Where we serve

Donors

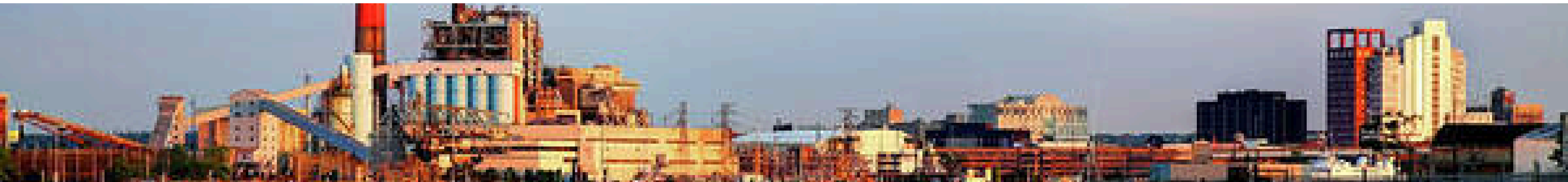
Wide range

Partners

Nonprofits, etc.

Parishes

Volunteers, etc.



Why FOCUS?

The benefits of our team



01

Assembly of Bishops

FOCUS is a ministry affiliated with the Assembly and blessed to do this work.

02

Operational Support

Financial and auditing services, tech and communication support, etc.

03

Growing Network

12 Centers and Programs across the country, with 4 new Centers in development this year.

04

Risk Mitigation

A National Office that steps in to keep operations afloat during difficult times.

Why Now?

God's Providence is at Work



Need

Food insecurity and homelessness are major problems across Bridgeport.



Team

Faithful Orthodox Christians are ready to work together in service.



Funding

\$45,000 in matching grants available to support our next steps.

Calendar Overview

Key Dates and Deliverables



January

Kickoff Meeting

Initial meeting with the community and establishment of Exploratory Committee

**February-
August**

Exploratory Committee

Workings Groups meet every two weeks, fundraising begins, idea develops, etc.

August

EC Phase Ends

Matching funds are raised, programs defined, etc. so FOCUS Board can declare a new Center

October

Initial Staffing

First Center Director is hired and initial operations begin, Advisory Board established

FOCUS Bridgeport

The plan for this new Center.



Support for Students

Exploring a partnership with the Beardsley School.



Community Meals

Monthly meals for students and their families, potentially growing to a weekly rhythm.



Wrap-Around Services

Enrichment opportunities for kids, services for parents, partnerships with nonprofits.



Special Events

Back-to-School, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc programs with special events and offerings.

Our Progress

Work of Exploratory Committee

Twenty-seven faithful from ten local parishes have been helping to shape the ministry and build support.

Progress



Funds Raised

\$16,429

Parishes, families,
businesses, etc. have
been answering the call.

How You Can Help!

All donations are doubled up to our \$45,000 goal



Scan to contribute.

FOCUS North America
PO Box 645039
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-5039

Please include FOCUS Bridgeport
in the memo line.

Send a check.



Excel in the gifts
that build up the
Church.

1 Corinthians 14:12

Stay In Touch

Our work is just beginning!



Visit our Website

Visit focusna.org/bridgeport for more details as they develop.



Reach Out with Questions

Email: schristoforou@focusna.org

Call: 917-524-7483