

# FOCUS

NORTH + AMERICA

How can you serve your neighbors in need?



# Our Challenge

## Food Insecurity in San Diego

“Nearly 400,000 people in San Diego County are food insecure, including over 100,000 children. As of 2023, over 12% of the overall population in San Diego County was considered food insecure.”



Scale of  
Poverty

# 11%

“The federal poverty rate is about 11% in San Diego County.”

Sources:

- [Feeding San Diego](#)
- [Poverty in San Diego County](#)





# 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 San Diego

Although homelessness in the city of San Diego dropped by 13.5% from 2024-2025, there is still much work to be done. “Eighty-one percent of individuals counted this year [through the PIT count] said they began experiencing homelessness in San Diego County.”



**Scale of  
Homelessness**

# 9,905

“2025 Point-in-Time Count found no less than 9,905 people experiencing homelessness throughout the county... This year’s number includes 5,714 unsheltered San Diegans and 4,191 individuals in shelters and transitional housing.”

Source:

- [San Diego.gov](https://www.sandiego.gov)
- [RTFH](#)





I was a stranger and  
you took me in.

Matthew 25:35

# What We Can Do

A new FOCUS Center in San Diego



## Dedicated Buidling Space

A place for our neighbors in need to receive as many ministry opportunities as we can provide.



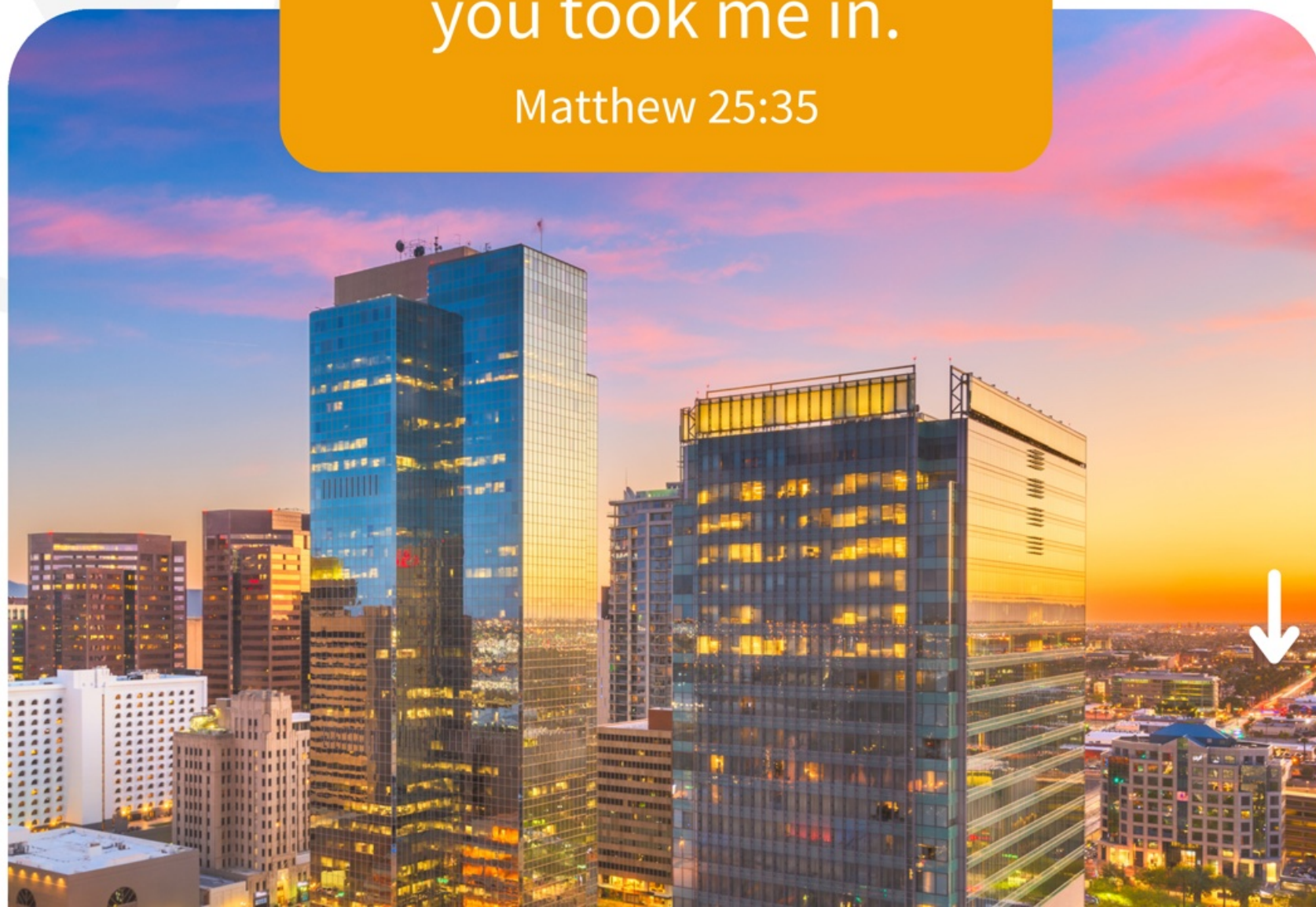
## Meals & Food Pantry

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



## 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 San Diego



## Sunday Supper

Hot meals served three Sundays a month averaging 60 guests per meal.



## Food Pantry

Over \$40,000 of food distributed in 2025.



## Clothing & Basic Needs

Over \$32,000 in clothing and hygiene items distributed in 2025.



## Haircuts

Free haircuts during Sunday Supper started in 2024.



# FOCUS Cleveland

Inspiration for our work in San Diego



## Homeless Shelter & Transitional House

Shelter is 28 beds, hosting men for 11 months on average. Transitional House is 12 beds, hosting men for 19 months on average.



## Additional Property

Recently acquired a 3rd building on the same block with an additional 10 bed capacity.



## Meals & Basic Needs

About 56,000 hot meals served in 2025.  
Distribution of clothing, hygiene items, etc.



## Case Management

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



# FOCUS Philadelphia

Inspiration for our work in San Diego



## Meal Service

130 meals per week served in Aviator Park in Philadelphia and The Upper Room in Norristown. Leftover food is donated to a local hospice in Philadelphia.



## Clothing & Basic Needs

From new and gently used coats, blankets and gloves to hand knit hats and scarves (produced by a local Parish Knitting Guild run primarily by grandmothers).



## Growth

Designated in 2024 with a part time Center Director, serving 30 hot meals per week in 1 location. Expanded to full time Center Director, 150 meals per week in 2 locations, and acquiring a bus for food delivery and mobile ministry. Goal of growing to 300 meals per week by the end of 2026.



# What is a FOCUS Center?

## Basic Overview

**Staff**

Director, etc.

**Team**

Advisory Committee

**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

14 Centers and Programs across the country, with 3 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 San Diego.



### **Team**

Faithful Orthodox Christians are ready to work together in service.



### **Funding**

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



# Next Steps

Creating our Exploratory Committee



## Our Team

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- Twice monthly meetings
- Research and project development

## 3 Big Questions

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1. What are we doing?
2. Where will we do it?
3. How will we pay for it?

## Raising Funds

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- Small monthly donors
- Benefactors
- Institutional support
- Parishes



# Calendar Overview

## Key Dates and Deliverables



**January**

### Kickoff Meeting

Initial meeting with the community and establishment of Exploratory Committee

**February-  
August**

### Exploratory Committee

Committee meets 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 Committee established



# Let's Get Going!

God's Providence is at Work



Make your contribution!



Email me to join the team!