



FOCUS

CHURCHES OF ALBANY

Doing
Justice
Walking
humbly with
Loving
God Mercy
Doing justice, loving mercy, walking humbly with God since 1967!

Covenant Congregations

Delmar Reformed
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First Church in Albany
First Presbyterian
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Westminster Presbyterian

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Congregation Beth Emeth
Albany Unitarian
Universalists
Islamic Center of the
Capital District
New Covenant Presbyterian
Sikh Community
St. Andrew's Episcopal

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Dear Friends:

December 2016

"Larry" began coming to the Breakfast Club in the winter of 2014-15, after losing family connections due to his depression and alcohol abuse. He said that staying sober was what he wanted to do, but it was so difficult while living either outside or in a shelter, year round.

In April of 2016, staff and volunteers at the Breakfast Club noticed he was showing up sober and yet still living outside. He was clearly meeting an enormous challenge. He told us he was enrolled in a substance abuse treatment program during the daytime while living on the street and had been sober for one year.

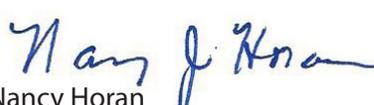
Larry requested assistance at Breakfast Club to apply for permanent supportive housing through one of the many service agencies that visit with our guests. By August, 2016, he was in his own rental unit. He has now been sober for 19 months. Many things that seemed impossible for him to achieve are beginning to become realities.

It all began with a friendly greeting, a warm inviting place, and a hot meal.

The hospitality you help to make possible opens a door to many other possibilities for those in need, whether in the FOCUS Interfaith Pantry or the Breakfast Club. Consider the following:

- \$40** provides 6 days of meals for 1 person, including fresh produce and milk.
- \$50** buys a hot breakfast and nutritious bag lunch for 25 people
- \$75** provides one day of hot breakfast for our average of 120 guests
- \$100** buys ingredients for 47 healthy meals from the pantry, nearly 16 days
- \$120** will provide a family of three with meals for six days from the pantry
- \$225** buys hot breakfast for 3 days for 120 guests

In the meantime, we'll also keep advocating for a living wage, an end to intolerance and racism and the root causes of poverty and hunger. We invite you to donate to our common work, where charity and justice walk hand in hand. Peace, shalom and salaam to you and your family!


Nancy Horan
President, Board of Directors


Rev. Jim Ketcham
Executive Director

P.S. Join us for the FOCUS Churches 50th Anniversary Celebration at 10 AM on Sunday, February 5 at First Presbyterian Church (362 State Street) in Albany. Rev. Rick Spalding, formerly of Westminster Presbyterian Church, will preach. More anniversary events to follow - watch your email, the FOCUS Churches website: focuschurches.net or our Facebook page.

"Let the hungry be well fed. Let the well-fed hunger for justice." Kate Braestrup

FOCUS



Winter 2016 Appeal

- \$25 Supporters \$50 Responders \$100 Friends
 \$250 Sustainers \$500 Partners Other _____

If you send us a check, use the enclosed envelope and make check payable to FOCUS Churches of Albany
Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

If you desire to make your gift in honor of/In memory of/In celebration of...a particular person or event, simply check the box and give us the information. We will list the person or event you are celebrating in an upcoming issue of the FOCUS newsletter.

- In Memory of... In Honor of... Celebrating... Grateful for...

Thank you very much for your continuing support of the work we do together in FOCUS.
We are honored by your contributions and work hard to be good stewards, using your dollars carefully to develop compassionate programs, providing food as well as advocacy that promotes long term solutions to hunger, including economic justice.