

# FOCUS

GRAND RAPIDS

How you can share a table with our neighbors in need





# Our Challenge

## Food Insecurity in Grand Rapids

“The food insecurity rate for Kent County is 15% overall, but households with children in Kent County experience a much higher food insecurity rate of 23%.”



Scale of  
Poverty

# 19%

According to the 2022 US Census, 19% of Grand Rapids residents live in poverty, above the statewide rate of 13%.



# 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 Grand Rapids

In January 2023, Grand Rapids counted 1,239 people in its annual PIT Count. In 2018, the PIT Count was 723, an increase of 72%. In 2020, 8,026 people in Kent County experienced at least one episode of homelessness, a 33% increase since 2016.



Scale of  
Homelessness

**1,007**

The number of people in Kent County who experienced chronic homelessness in 2020, a 4% increase since 2018.



I was a stranger and  
you took me in.

Matthew 25:35

# What We Can Do

A new FOCUS Center in Grand Rapids



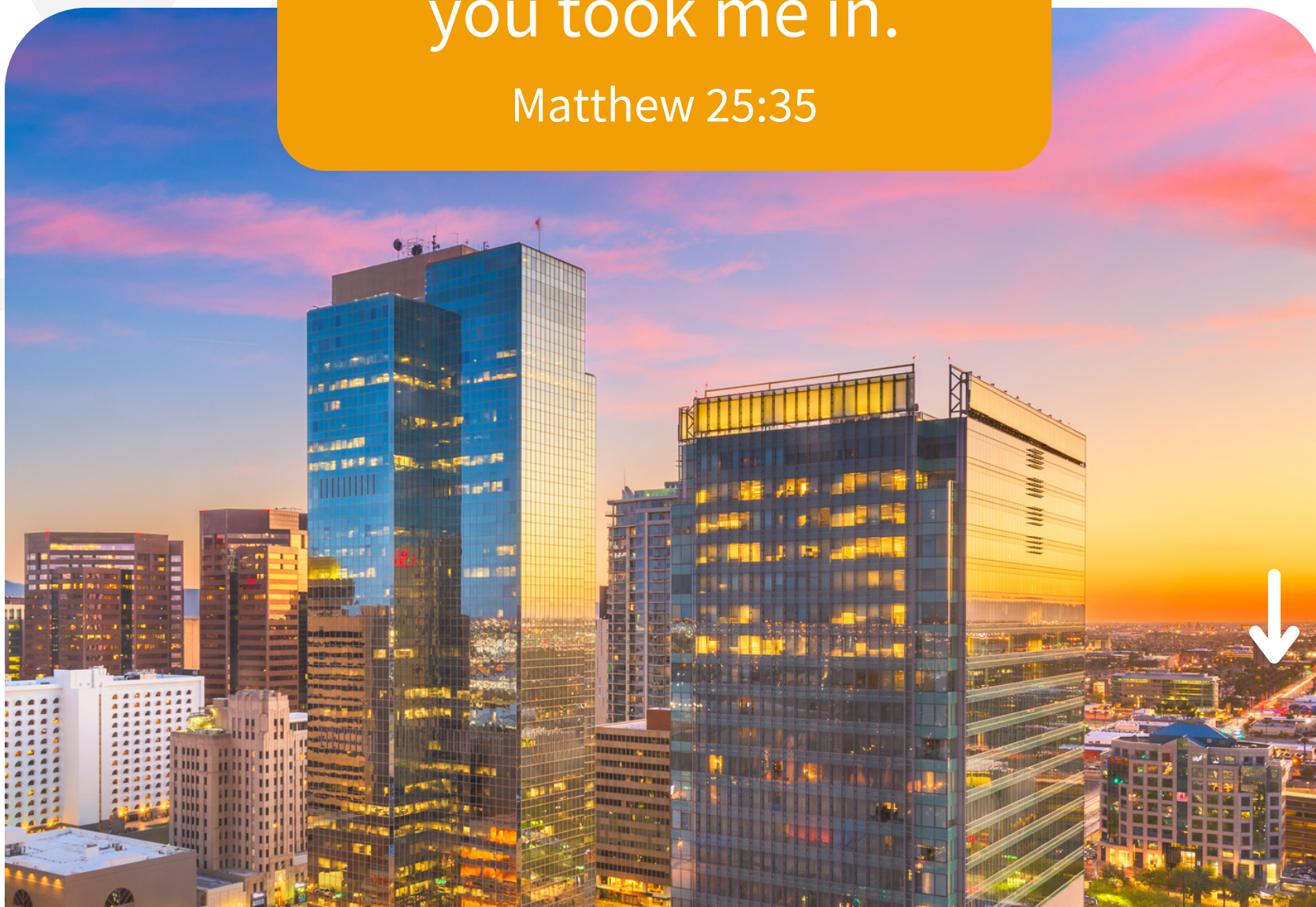
## Meals & Food Pantry

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 Grand Rapids



## Sunday Supper

Hot meals served three Sundays a month averaging 50-60 guests per meal.



## Food Pantry

Over \$48,000 of food and hygiene items distributed in 2023.



## Clothing & Basic Needs

Over \$10,000 in clothing and over \$2,300 in bus tickets distributed in 2023.



## New Initiatives

Free haircuts during Sunday Supper, addictions support from for Orthodox Christians, etc planned in 2024.

# FOCUS Cleveland

Inspiration for our work in Grand Rapids



## 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

59,000 meals served in 2023. 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.

# What is a FOCUS Center?

## Basic Overview

**Staff**

Director, etc.

**Team**

Advisory Board

**Location**

Where we serve

**Donors**

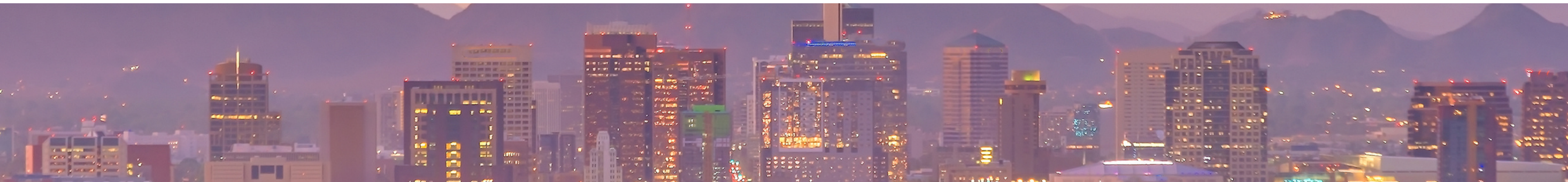
Wide range

**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

7 Centers across the country, with 5 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



01

### **Need**

Food insecurity and homelessness are major problems across Grand Rapids.



02

### **Team**

Faithful Orthodox Christians are ready to work together in service.



03

### **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



February

### 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 make G.R. a Center

October

### Initial Staffing

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

# Let's Get Going!

God's Providence is at Work



Make your contribution!



Email me to join the team!