

SICM NEWS

Year 50, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2017

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Food Pantry Called Model of Success

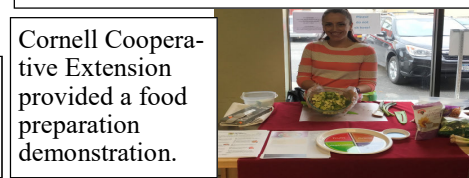
On Wednesday, April 5, the SICM Emergency Food Pantry hosted a celebration of National Public Health Week, featuring speakers from the New York State Department of Health, Rev. Phil Grigsby, and a food demonstration by Cornell Cooperative Extension. State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker offered praise of the SICM Food Pantry, citing its importance in the community. "It's really important to have this—what we in New York are doing to provide people with better health, and improve their quality of life." State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball also spoke, recognizing the impact of the Food Pantry and its offerings. The



L to R: Commissioners Howard Zucker, Richard Ball, Rev. Phil Grigsby, Food Program Director Shennan Jarboe, Deputy Director, Shelly Ford



Food Pantry produce window



Cornell Cooperative Extension provided a food preparation demonstration.

Pantry was featured on the front page of the Gazette, with the headline "Food Pantry Called Model of Success." The article featured quotes from Mr. Ball, including "The transformation of the Schenectady Inner City Ministry is a great example of the power of collaboration and how it can make a real difference in the lives of people in need. Fighting hunger and supporting the wellness of all New Yorkers is also a top priority of Governor Cuomo and remains a strong focus at the Department" of Agriculture and Markets. Commissioner Zucker, in his thank you letter, said, "It was humbling to see the huge need for healthy food in the community and Ellis Medicine, Cornell Cooperative Extension and your food pantry colleagues have been effective in addressing these needs."

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Food Pantry seeks additional supports in the summer to keep up with the demand. For information on how you can help, please see the chart on page 7.

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Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) celebrates the partnership of 50 member congregations "relating the resources of the congregations to the human needs of the city." The SICM newsletters, financial and program information are available from SICM at 1055 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308 (518) 374-2683. FAX: (518) 382-1871.

Email address: information@sicm.us.

Website address is: www.sicm.us.

SICM's finances are audited annually by an independent auditing firm.



Ministry Notes

More Things Seen and Heard: Visible and Less So

I was reminded recently about the many ways that we work in the communities that are often not seen. Of course we are known for the more visible ways: our neighbors getting all sorts of help at the food program (*more than only food, but more on that another time*); summer breakfast and lunch are coming; discussion and action groups on difficult topics; the CROP Walk; and more. I want to share with you some ways in which those who support us help us to help others and our community, in ways less visible.

Not long ago I got a call from a church member who happens to rent out an apartment. It turns out their tenant is an immigrant family. This senior family was in need of assistance. Could we help and guide them to programs and services that could help them? Is there someone they could talk to about the changing climate for immigrants in our country and give them reassurance? I was able to steer them to services, mostly with other programs that SICM partners with.

About the same time a pastor of one of our congregations called about a parishioner who became homeless. This is a long-time member, who had fallen on hard times, who was coming to church and sleeping in a car. The pastor knew was seeking more in-depth information on programs and services. At the end of the call, three places with names and details of how to proceed

had been shared. We are a community with many services, but they are not all in the same place.

Some time ago a pastor called to say that a parishioner could no longer use their car and could we accept it for someone to help them find or keep work? We took in the car, transferred the ownership, assisted at DMV, and then networked for someone to use it. It was an older car but well maintained and reliable. We were able to link up the car with a person really needing it as their car had just broken down and they worked at a place not on a bus line. (*Note: we can do this anytime, give me a call*).

Finally, not long after the election last November, we started getting calls from those who work directly with new immigrants. Many were in tears with all the sentiment stirred up by the election. Do we as a community support diversity? What reassurance is there?

Fortunately, a number of clergy on a multi-faith basis prepared a statement to speak to the issues. Coordinated by Rabbi Matt Cutler and Rev. James McDonald and others, this was put into the media. A number of clergy (including Rev. Sanders and me) signed on. It was an excellent statement that sought to be non-partisan but recognized the passions that had been stirred up by all sides in the election.

But we wondered, was this just 'one and done?' We realized that more was called for. The more people gathered, the larger became the vision. As you may have seen, Schenectady Clergy Against Hate conducted a public event, supported a blood drive, developed a tolerance pledge, and more. Much of the group's work is out of sight, talking with officials and becoming educated on immigration issues. Some congregations will have conversation about becoming a sanctuary congregation. We are honored to be a part of this partnership.

Summer is upon us and I look forward to seeing you at summer meals!

Rev. Phil Grigsby

SCHENECTADY INNER CITY MINISTRY

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Editor: Janet Mattis

The Assembly of SICM includes one clergy and two lay delegates from member congregations: Alplaus UMC, Altamont Reformed, Bellevue Reformed, Bethel AME, Burnt Hills UMC, Carman UMC, Christ Church Episcopal, Church of St. Adalbert, Duryee Memorial AME Zion, Eastern Parkway UMC, Emmanuel Baptist—Friedens UCC, Faith UMC, First Baptist, First Reformed, Sch'dy, First Reformed, Scotia, First UMC, Friendship Baptist, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Holy Name of Jesus PNC, Immaculate Conception, Immanuel Lutheran, Lynnwood Reformed, Messiah Lutheran, Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist, New Consecration, Niskayuna Reformed, Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Refreshing Spring, Rotterdam UMC, St. Anthony's, St. George's Episcopal, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. John the Evangelist, St. Joseph's, Sch'dy, St. Joseph's, Scotia, St. Luke's, St. Paul the Apostle, St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Stephen's Episcopal, Scotia UMC, Society of Friends (Quakers), Stanford UMC, State Street Presbyterian, Tabernacle Baptist, Trinity Presbyterian, Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, Zion Lutheran.

SICM Food Program

The Food Pantry has been a very busy place, with many events, gatherings and day-to-day operations taking place. For more information or to RSVP for any of the following programs, check the SICM website www.sicm.us, Facebook page, or call 346-4445 and speak with Shelly Ford, Deputy Director of the Food Program.



Souper Bowl

We appreciate the participation of congregations, organizations and individuals in our annual Souper Bowl Campaign. This year we received over \$12,000!

Senior Connect continues to be a popular program for introducing seniors to the Food Pantry, or getting them more familiar with the offerings. Participation is always strong, and folks enjoy hearing and learning about healthy food and healthy lifestyles. RSVP is needed; check the SICM website or Facebook page, or call the Pantry for upcoming dates, 346-4445.

Sit-n-Knit is offered on a regular basis for volunteers and guests of the pantry to get together at the Food Pantry for knitting, crocheting, or other handwork. One-on-one instruction is available! RSVP requested, 346-4445.

Volunteer Orientation is being offered on a regular basis for folks who are interested in helping out at the Pantry. Potential volunteers have learned about SICM, the Food Pantry, and the various roles that our volunteers play. These are usually held on a Tuesday morning.

Food/Fund Drives

Sow's Ear Studio and Gallery

SI International

National Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" (Post Office) Food Drive

The Alumni Association of the 109th Airwing

... and more!



Spring Bags were assembled once again for distribution at the Food Pantry to children in the week leading up to their spring vacation. The bags contained all kinds of goodies, including toys, games, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, and healthy snacks. This year over 325 bags went out!

Many thanks to all those who gave:

Christ Community Reformed
St. Joseph's—Scotia
Eastern Parkway UMC
Emmanuel Friedens Baptist
Faith UMC
First Reformed—Scotia Youth Group
Lynnwood Reformed
Messiah Lutheran
Jo-Anne Rafalik
Niskayuna Reformed
Robbie Roessle
Schenectady Senior Long Term Care
Stanford UMC
St. Stephen's Episcopal
Trinity Presbyterian

Donations poured in from many generous individuals, groups, and congregations!



Bag assembly volunteers (L to R): Annabelle Wheeler, Kaitlyn Gerstler, Pat Wheeler, Natalie Monaghan, Grace Beauchamp.



325+ Spring Bags were filled and distributed to children using the Food Pantry during their vacation week, and made many happy!



**Thank
You**



SICM Summer Interns

SICM hires college and older high school students for the Summer Internship Program. The purpose of the SICM internship is to offer students experience working in the various SICM or related programs. These programs directly serve residents primarily in the inner city of Schenectady. The internships enhance the experience of students, especially those interested in pursuing human services, social welfare, education or public health careers. Preference is given to college students.

Interns spend up to ten weeks working either part-time or full-time in SICM's various programs such as the Emergency Food Pantry, Steinmetz Camp, Home Furnishings and in the Summer Reading Program, in conjunction with the Summer Meals program. The Summer Internship Program is a win-win-win-win experience: for the interns, SICM, the community, and the congregations. Interns meet as a group on a regular basis with the Internship Coordinator to discuss and reflect upon their experiences. Without our summer interns, we would not be able to accomplish all that we do! Check the SICM website for more information.

Internships are sponsored by local congregations and individuals. If you or your congregation is interested in supporting an intern financially, the amount is \$2,800 for a full-time position, and \$1,400 for a part-time position. Please contact Janet Mattis for more information at 374-2683, X107.

Summer Food Service

Summer Food Service is coming! Details are still being worked on. We are glad that Dave Taylor has returned as program director! Other staff members include Anna Winters, Olivia Cox, and Sara Doriguzzi. Volunteer groups are welcome—please call 374-2683, X108 or email summerlunch@sicm.us.

Camp@Steinmetz

SICM Summer Day Camp @Steinmetz Park is proud to announce its 4th annual summer program. This six-week program runs from Wednesday, July 5th until Friday, August 11th. The camp embraces each child's individual personality while encouraging creativity through six different theme weeks. This year's themes are:

1. Break the Ice—this week's activities will encourage campers and staff to get to know one another.
2. Becoming Newton—Campers will explore a variety of science topics.
3. When I Grow Up—Campers will develop life skills and explore a variety of different careers.
4. Stamp My Passport—Throughout the week we will discover and discuss the different cultures of the world.
5. Work it Out—This week will engage campers' minds and bodies and will end with a very special field day.
6. LiterARTcy—This combination of art and literacy will challenge campers to be creative and inventive.

This program also includes five field trips to different museums and areas with the Capital District.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

- ◆ We are a FREE program!
- ◆ Faith-based program that embraces all people and their differences.
- ◆ Parental engagement helps to make this a successful program.
- ◆ Staff to Camper ration is 1:6.
- ◆ Trained staff provide a safe and healthy environment for all.



dreamstime.com



SCED (Schenectady County Embraces Diversity): Dialogue to Change (DTC)

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Sign ups Invited to Next DTC Group

SICM is now the sponsor of SCED and the Dialogue to Change (DTC) program. SCED began some years ago as a collaboration of the YWCA, League of Women Voters, the Human Rights Commission, SICM, and others in response to critical incidents on race and diversity. Originally called a study circle process, it is now the DTC program holding structured discussion group circles for adults. Under SICM, SCED is continuing the modified groups for high school and middle school youth from all the county school districts.

The DTC discussion group follows a curriculum that offers a safe, structured way to promote dialogue and understanding that could lead to action while maintaining the confidentiality of the group. The program focuses on the theme “Facing Racism in a Diverse Nation.” It is available for free viewing and download on the Everyday Democracy website <https://www.everyday-democracy.org/>

SICM held an introductory session in early May to better acquaint individuals and congregations with the curriculum. Over 20 attended from various places including Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Glenville, Messiah Lutheran in Rotterdam, St. Kateri Tekakwitha parish, and others. From the event, we are working on an upcoming adult DTC group. Several times are proposed. To sign up, or for additional information, contact Rev. Horace Sanders, Jr., MDIV, Chief Diversity Officer at SICM, at 374-2683, X112 or 772-7321 (cell), or email FearNot@SICM.us.

Community Garden

The food pantry is once again offering plots of land in the Hulett Street garden for community members. Planting began in May, and progress continues with cultivation and maintenance of the garden. Stop by and check it out at 333 Hulett Street!



Staff Changes

We welcome some new faces at SICM, while we bid farewell to others.

Shennan Jarboe enjoyed a few months off after the birth of her son, Kasey, last fall and has made the decision to continue in her role as full-time mother, one she enjoys immensely. While we are very happy that she is able to spend more time with family, her departure from the Food Program and SICM is a great loss to us all. Shennan has been the Food Program Director since 2014, and the Deputy Director before that, dating back to 2012. She has been an integral part of the SICM team, and has been instrumental in bringing about many positive changes at the Food Pantry. We will miss you, Shennan, and hope that you will keep in touch and let us follow the growth and development of your new focus—son, Kasey!

Laurie Bachelder has joined (or re-joined!) the staff at SICM as the Director of Development. Laurie worked for SICM in the past in various areas, including the Damien Center and Summer Lunch. This time around she will be focusing her efforts in the area of Development.

Greg Davenport has joined the Food Pantry staff as the Van Driver. Greg transports Pantry guests and their groceries home every day the Pantry is open. Greg's warm smile and friendly personality are appreciated by all the guests! In his former life, Greg served as the Parks Supervisor for the City of Schenectady.

Barbara Sanchez has also joined the staff at 839 Albany Street, as the Food Pantry Greeter. Barbara welcomes guests upon their arrival to the Pantry, guiding them in the process and answering questions they may have. This is particularly helpful for guests visiting for the first time.

Welcome!

Community Service Awards

At the annual Holiday gathering, the SICM Assembly celebrated two individuals and two initiatives within the SICM community, recognizing the ways that they have gone ‘above and beyond.’ SICM initiated the recognitions first with SICM Food Program volunteer Jim Bedard, who led the renovations at the current building, and many other volunteer efforts.

Bill and Natalie Monaghan of Charlton have consistently demonstrated the ideal qualities of delegates, such as attending Assembly meetings, sharing SICM information with their congregation (First Reformed Church of Scotia), and engaging church members with activities related to SICM. Additionally, Bill and Natalie have been successful in sharing an impassioned message about SICM’s Food Pantry, and have garnered substantial financial support, specifically through the annual Harvest for the Pantry fundraiser. Both remain very involved in the Harvest for the Pantry event, not only actively assisting with the planning but also on the day of the event itself.



Natalie and Bill Monaghan, and Rev. Phil Grigsby



Ron Severson and Rev. Phil

Ron Severson was recognized for his leadership in the area of social justice ministries in his most recent role with St. Kateri Tekakwitha parish. In that capacity, Ron consistently organized parish members for the CROP Walk, coordinated collections of food and school supplies, and in general championed various social justice efforts. Ron has transitioned from St. Kateri back to St. Adalbert where he continues to support and initiate numerous social justice efforts.

The awards recognized two broader initiatives: Community Conversations and the Campaign for Equity in Education. The **Community Conversations** grew out of local responses to national events involving the police and communities of color and the Black Lives Matter movement. Initiated by Rev. Horace Sanders, Jr. at Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church, the conversations have provided a safe space for various parts of the community to gather on these challenging topics.



Rev. Horace Sanders and Rev. Phil



Participants in the Schenectady Campaign for Equity in

The **Schenectady Campaign for Equity in Education** is a coalition effort to advocate for increased support for the Schenectady School District with amounts promised but not provided through a state funding formula. Schenectady, as a number of other urban districts upstate, is promised additional funds to address the disproportionate effects of poverty, race, and disability; and the higher burden of taxation. The coalition continues to monitor how the additional funds are spent to improve outcomes for students.

Congratulations and thanks to all!

SICM Assembly Elects New Secretary

The SICM May Assembly elected Jo-Anne Rafalik as the new Secretary. Returning officers are President Randy McGough, Vice President Rev. Dustin G. Wright, and Treasurer Marsha Mortimore; Past President Shirley Readdean. Don Wheeler, Rev. James McDonald, Sr. Ann Christi Brink, and Rev. Peter J B Carman continue as at-large members. The Assembly thanks Pat Obrecht for her service on the Steering Committee.

Rev. Sanders Recognized for Service

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Rev. Horace Sanders, Chief Diversity Officer at SICM and Pastor of Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church in Schenectady, received an award for Excellence in Christian Formation. He was presented with the award by New York State Council on Churches Executive Director Rev. Peter Cook, at the Second Annual Awards Luncheon sponsored by the NYSCOC for his work with Schenectady County Embraces Diversity.



Pictured here, L to R: SICM Executive Director Rev. Phil Grigsby, Deborah Sanders, Rev. Horace Sanders, Rev. Peter Cook

Congratulations, Pastor Sanders!



FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

Why your cash donation is important to us:

Your \$3.79 buys a **BOX** of cereal.
Our \$3.79 buys a **CASE** of cereal.



Other examples:

	<u>Retail Store Cost</u>	<u>Food Bank Cost</u>
Diapers	\$17.99/box(144)	\$6.40/case (450 diapers)
Juice	\$2.48/bottle (64 oz.)	\$5.60/case (12 64 oz. bottles)
Pasta	\$1.00/16 oz. box	\$.47/16 oz.

SICM purchases food from the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York for \$.16 per pound—that means we have greater buying power to fill the shelves at the Emergency Food Pantry. While we appreciate donations of food items, you can see that your monetary donations go even further.

SICM Summer Appeal to Help Families in Need

Please consider a gift to help support SICM Programs!

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: (____) ____-____ Home ____ Mobile ____

Email address: _____@_____

Preferred method of contact: _____

Please return to SICM Office, 1055 Wendell Ave., Sch'dy, NY 12308

Thank you for your support!



@SICM_NY



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The Last Word

by Randy McGough, President, *SICM Steering Committee*

Michele Obama once stated in describing success—“ We learned about gratitude and humility – that so many people had a hand in success from teachers who inspired us to the janitors who kept our schools clean ... and we were taught to value everyone’s contribution and treat everyone with respect.”

Over the past 50 years SICM has achieved much success with regard to serving the people of Schenectady County. That success has been achieved through the hard work of many individuals including paid staff and the many volunteers who have been associated with the agency. As we celebrate SICM’s 50th anniversary we reflect back on the many successes that have occurred during this time, including the Food Pantry, the Summer Lunch Program, the Summer Camp, The Damien Center, Project Safe, SCED, the Community Land Trust, etc.; and start looking forward to the next 50 years of serving the needs of the people of Schenectady County.

It has been one year since I was selected to fill the giant shoes of our Past President Shirley Readdean. During this time I have come to learn the critical role that SICM has within our community. I look forward to working with the SICM family as it begins work on creating a vision for the next 50 years. In addition, I look forward to many more SICM successes over the coming years.



Happy Summer!

