

ANNUNCIATION HOMELESS MINISTRY

Our next serving date at Aviator Park is Thursday, February 29th. By Thursday, February 1st, our signup sheet was filled with volunteers and food donations. This is not unusual, as we are blessed with a very compassionate and giving church family!

As of the end of this February, members of the homeless ministry at Annunciation have been serving for 16 years with Twelve Baskets, formerly known as The King's Jubilee – a Pan-Orthodox Ministry of churches that have served the poor and those in need since 1989. This and our other outreach ministries have demonstrated a need for an Orthodox outreach center that will most likely begin as a feeding center and pantry.

On the last Tuesday of January, an estimated seventy-five Orthodox Christians from a dozen parishes from the area gathered at Annunciation Orthodox Church for a Kickoff Meeting to start developing a new FOCUS Center in Philadelphia.

A 2023 study found that 18.6% of Philadelphia residents experience food insecurity, significantly higher than the 11.8% national average. The problem is particularly acute in Northern Philadelphia, where the rate approaches 40%. Food insecurity is associated with a variety of chronic health issues, including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays, depressed immune function, and increased hospitalizations.



The Orthodox Church has resolved to develop a new feeding ministry to help address this crisis.

“The faithful of Philadelphia have a strong call to serve our neighbors in need,” said Steven Christoforou, Director of Operations & Community Engagement for FOCUS North America.



“We’ve been blessed with a \$45,000 matching grant to kickstart this vital ministry.”

Following the Kickoff Meeting, an Exploratory Committee is assembled to define this new center's programs, determine its location, and secure initial funding (building on the \$45,000 in matching grants).

Please join us in helping launch FOCUS Philadelphia by contributing your time, talent, and treasure.