

# Troy Area United Ministries



**2018**  
Annual Report

# Troy Area United Ministries (TAUM)

## Mission Statement:

In partnership with interfaith communities and others, we provide a safe and just space for those in need, offering meals, HIV/AIDS services, furniture, education, spiritual counseling and advocacy.

Troy Area United Ministries  
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Troy, NY 12180

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# 2018 Annual Report



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# Statistics Snapshot

## **Furniture Deliveries**

Families .....	378
Adults .....	729
Children .....	893
Pieces of furniture .....	2800+

## **Damien Center Meals**

Children .....	568
Adults .....	5194
Elderly .....	1018

## **Volunteers**

Hours .....	2,000+
People.....	240

## **Computers for Kids**

Students Graduating .....	13
Students in Spring Supplemental Classes .....	11

## **Holiday Adopt a Family**

Families .....	17
Individuals .....	30
Gift cards .....	17

## **Crop Hunger Walk**

Walkers .....	50
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## **Toiletries Drive**

Items.....	721
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# TAUM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rev. Donna M. Elia



A few exciting ideas germinated in 2018 that are underway as we begin 2019. TAUM's Program Committee and subsequently, the Board of Directors, identified the Furniture Program and the Troy Damien Center as priorities for expansion. One of these ideas included expanding furniture program capacity by building a weatherproof storage building on TAUM's property. Having sent the proposal to Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, we were invited to write an impact grant, one that is perceived to potentially transform an organization. We were granted the full amount- \$50,000! We also received a grant from the Stephen McKee Foundation, and are seeking others as well. We anticipate breaking ground this Spring!

In 2018, our Troy Damien Center had a modest neighborhood garden, and with the help of Capital Roots Squash Hunger Program, was able to offer even more fresh produce to our guests. The presence of our garden sparked the idea among some neighbors, of an intergenerational garden with cooking classes. This would bolster our nutritional program, which also got a boost from left-overs we're receiving from Hannaford. We are increasing access to services for those with HIV and other serious illness through our collaborations with Alliance for Positive Health and other providers.

Thank you to our talented staff, and welcome new staff member, Office Administrator Katy Culhane and to our dedicated and wise Board of Directors. Thank you most of all to our donors without whom we could not do this vital and transformative work.

With deep gratitude,

Donna Elia



Volunteers from Regeneron. Two of the 240 people who gave more than 2,000 hours of their time to Troy Area United Ministries in 2018.

# FURNITURE PROGRAM

Tyara Burnett, Director



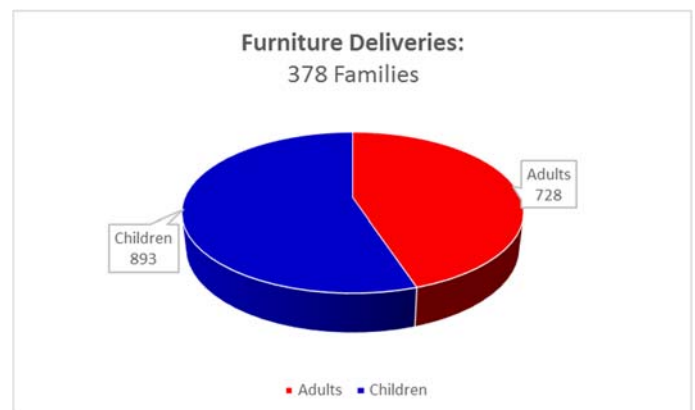
It is always a pleasure to be able to support the families and individuals in need of furniture in Rensselaer County. In 2018 we were able to assist 378 families. One of those families was a family of eight. A father who had lost his wife to a drug overdose and because there were children in the home at the time, his children were spread out between members of the wife's family who were fighting him for custody of his own children. The father was a working man who was losing funds daily to his wife's addiction which cost them their place to live in more than one occasion. After months of fighting for custody, he was able to secure a home for his family so he could have custody of his children under one roof. All this father wanted was to keep his children together so they could love each other. Once he gained custody he knew he would need to furnish the home because there was a CPS case that required him to have beds for each child.

The gentleman signed up with our furniture program and we were able to furnish the family's home with beds, dressers, living room furniture, a dining room table, dishes, blankets, and pillows. It was a great pleasure to take care of this family; they were all so grateful and overwhelmed with you.

It has been a pleasure to serve the 893 children we have provided with beds and dressers. Along with another 728 other individuals with beds, dressers, living room furniture, kitchen sets, etc. Many of the recipients being very humbled by knowing that there are people out there who care enough to give, helping them start over again in life, or give them a second chance when they were at a point where Hope was almost lost.

We gave over 2,800 pieces of furniture to those in need, giving good furniture a new home and keeping it out of landfills. What a great process that helps everyone!

Thank you to all of our Donors who not only give great furniture, but also give an additional monetary donation to assist in helping the program continue to exist! We are forever grateful for your support!





# TROY DAMIEN CENTER

B.J. LaRouech, Program Coordinator

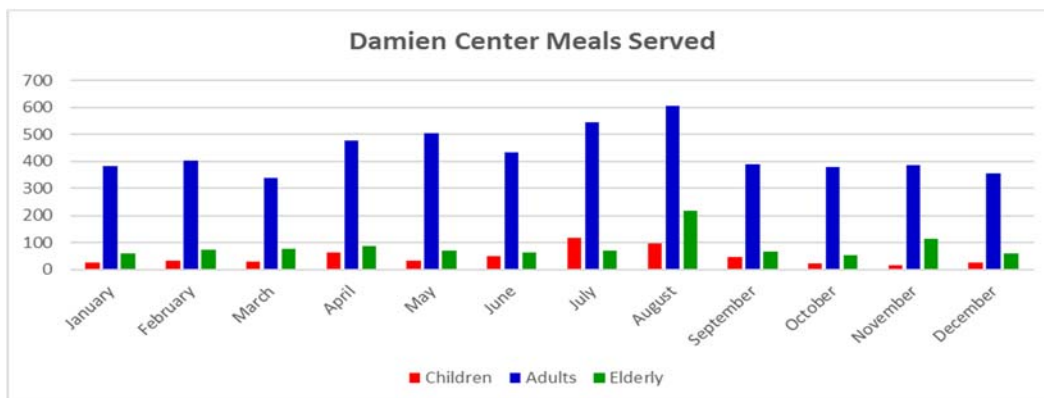
This year our numbers continue to grow. I have the honor of working at the Troy Damien Center. I want to thank everyone who has walked through the doors. Great food is served and some great conversations take place. The P.A.W.S. program is still going strong. They supply people with HIV/AIDS food and supplies for their pets.



Monday evenings we serve dinner, thanks to the Latham Community Baptist Church, St. Michael the Archangel RC Parish, Troy, St. Henry's RC Parish, Averill Park, Church of the Covenant, Averill Park, Center Brunswick United Methodist Church and St. Jude's RC Parish, Wynantskill. We also want to thank St. Francis Fellowship and the Fifth Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church, both of Troy who serve great meals on the third and fourth Tuesday of each month. Thanksgiving Baskets are distributed by the Brunswick Presbyterian Church, providing families who otherwise would not be able to have a nice holiday dinner with their families.

In September, people stepped out to do the AIDS Walk to benefit the Troy Damien Center. Together we raised \$5,992: Thank You! At Christmas time Santa brings gifts for the children. Through TAUM's Adopt a Family Program, with the help of Brunswick Church, Catholic Central High, Class of '72 and TAUM neighbors and friends, we serve families who come to the Troy Damien Center by adopting them and others who are clients of the Alliance for Positive Health.

As a long time survivor, I am honored to be working with a great group of people here at the Troy Damien Center as well as meeting new people that come in for a warm meal and making them part of our family. It makes me feel great to help people.



**Meals Served 2018:**

Children: 568  
 Adults: 5194  
 Elderly: 1018

**Total Meals:**

6780

# CAMPUS MINISTRY

## Darren Gundrum, Protestant Chaplain and Spiritual Advisor



This fall I started the year with weekend orientation activities. At orientation I handed out welcome “College Survival” bags full of fun and positive stuff to start the year. I attended Sagefest, where the Spirituality Center handed out stuffed animals with positive sayings and, with Catholic Chaplain Michelle Thivierge, gave out our schedules to as many people as possible. I lead a group of students on Sage’s Community Day to clean the mural under the Congress Street bridge.

Michelle and I promoted and presented a car clinic: a program to show students basic car maintenance taught by mechanics. I promoted at the college and then participated in the AIDS Walk. Sage students put on a dinner for Damien Center. I started a reflection/Bible study group using a book called Freeway. I joined with Michelle in the Java for Justice programs on Fridays. During exam week, I talked with students and handed out de-stress cards containing quick methods to help them cope with the rigors of exam time. With students, I participated in a college vigil for the victims of the Tree of Live Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. I attended the spring resource fair, and continued to hold office hours and meet with students.



Future events planned for this school year include working with the students on a clothing drive, planning a labyrinth walk for April and possibly another car clinic.



# COMPUTERS FOR KIDS



For the 15th time, TAUM ran its summer Computers for Kids course, which is aimed at teaching teens from Rensselaer County about computer hardware, software, and career development skills.

The program took place at TAUM and was taught by Julien Cheng and Varun Ravichandran.

During the first week, students installed Linux Mint Operating Systems on desktop computers. They were also introduced to a range of productivity suite applications such as Microsoft Word/Google Docs/LibreOffice Writer for document creation, Google Slides for presentation making, and Google Sheets/LibreOffice Calc for spreadsheet work. Every week, students were directed to create and deliver a presentation (as individuals and as teams) to improve their public speaking abilities.

Our curriculum also covered website design, including basic HTML webpages and elements. Students also learned template based web design and hosting from providers like Squarespace and Google Sites. For the first websites they created, they designed logos in GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP). Students were also given basic audio effects and mixing experience with Audacity. During the final 3 weeks, students learned python, MIT's Scratch, and Arduino. With python, they were able to grasp the basic concepts of high-level general purpose computer programming. With scratch, students learned how to manipulate graphical elements. With Arduino, students learned how to program electronic circuits.

Regarding professional development, students were taught how to create résumés, as well as LinkedIn profiles, and cover letters. They practiced having interviews with our instructors. They were also taught how to write business, formal complaint, and formal apology emails.

This year's group continued the tradition of taking tours of Hudson Valley Community College and SUNY Polytechnic's Nanotech facilities. We had great tour guides during both visits, and the program participants enjoyed their time there.

At the beginning of the program, students were given a diagnostic test, scoring an average of 35% and a median of 37%. At the end of the program, students were given the same initial diagnostic test and scored an average of 46% and a median of 49%. Students took weekly diagnostic tests to measure the amount of material absorbed. The instructors wrote weekly progress reports for each student, quantifying qualitative work characteristics such as attendance, punctuality, job performance, attitude towards job, direction following, social skills, initiative, and appearance.

On the last day of the program, parents, board members, and community members were invited to an "Open House" showcasing the work we accomplished over the summer. The participants created presentations for the event, and TAUM provided refreshments. It was a great opportunity for everyone to celebrate their dedicated efforts and to end this year's successful program!

## HOLIDAY ADOPT A FAMILY

An astounding number of people benefitted from this program. Seventeen families (30 individuals) were adopted for the holidays, and another 17 families and individuals received gift cards.



## TOILETRIES DRIVE

Thanks to you, the success of the toiletries drive (in collaboration with Alliance for Positive Health) was over the top! The following items were collected for distribution:

151 Bars of Soap  
4 Bottles of Body Wash  
45 Bottles of Shampoo/Conditioner  
6 Hand Sanitizers  
3 Packages of Baby Wipes  
15 Packages of Feminine Hygiene Products

50 Tubes of Toothpaste  
80 Toothbrushes  
22 Packages of Floss/Flossers  
9 Bottles of Mouthwash  
7 Tubes of Lip Balm

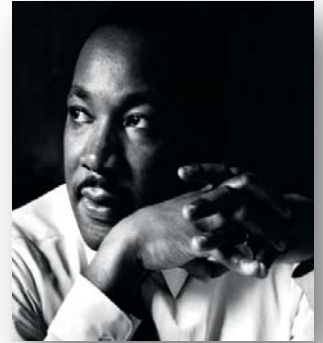
155 Razors  
12 Cans of Shaving Cream  
60 Deoderants  
22 Bottles of Lotion  
21 Packages of Kleenex  
26 Pairs of Socks  
33 Miscellaneous Items

**GRAND TOTAL: 721 ITEMS!**



Vanessa and Marcus Crosby with some of the many donated personal care items from this year's drive.

## Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Events and Scholarship Program



2018 was a ground-breaking year. Rabbi Debora Gordon, the first clergy person from a non-Christian faith tradition preached the sermon: “We who believe in freedom cannot rest.” She moved the congregation to singing. She inspired the congregation by eloquently reminding us in scripture, story and song that the work remains unfinished and we are not permitted to quit! Ms. Pamela Sharpe inspired the congregation by directing the wonderful community choir. Daquetta Jones, our colleague at the YWCA of the Greater Capital Region brought a dynamic message about eradicating racism at the Monday Breakfast. She invited everyone to commit to the mission.

2018 was an unusual year for scholarship recipients though. We had only one applicant, Jashton Geiser, a very worthy candidate, who was awarded a scholarship. We expect 2019 to make up for it!

## CROP HUNGER WALK

Thanks to the committed effort of about 50 people, the 2018 CROP Hunger Walk raised over \$9,000 for local, national and international hunger efforts and disaster relief. Money raised supported disaster assistance and agricultural development. It contributed to clean water in Vietnam and to food security locally. Locally, funds supported food programs at Hope 7 Community Center, Troy Damien Center, Unity House, and YWCA for the Great Capital Region.

2019 will be the 50th Anniversary of the CROP Hunger Walk, and in the last 20 years, our walk alone has raised over \$250,000!



# Our History

## Troy Area United Ministries from 1986 to the Present

Troy Area United Ministries was organized in 1986 as a consolidation of the United Urban Ministry of Troy and the Troy Area Council of Churches, which joined together to work for “a more abundant life for the people of the area.”

The Rev. Seymour Flinn, the Rev. Don Pangburn and others had the vision to combine the social and pastoral ministries of the original organizations into one association.

The growth of TAUM includes becoming local organizer of the CROP Hunger Walk; forming a Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee to include race and community relations, scholarships for youth, forums and dialogues; meeting the dire needs of the poor in Rensselaer County by creating the Furniture Program, welcoming the Troy Damien Center and developing Computers for Kids.

Here, people of faith, justice and care, work together to build the spiritual and social well-being of people in the Troy area. Hundreds of volunteers serve in a year’s time. Our very active Board of Directors represents local congregations and the community at large. About 40 congregations, six denominations, and many individuals contribute.

In 2004, with the help of many supporters through a Capital Campaign, TAUM purchased and renovated its own building at 392 Second Street.

Through this move, TAUM strengthened its programs and became a community center. The Osgood Neighbors meet here regularly, and others use the building as well.

In celebration of TAUM’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Board of Directors ran a Capital Campaign to increase energy efficiency through much needed upgrades, and retired the mortgage.

In 2016, TAUM celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A legacy fund has been established to sustain TAUM’s vital programs well into the future.

On an annual basis, over 2,500 people are served by TAUM’s programs.

# TAUM TEAM

## Board of Directors

**Joseph Fleming**  
President  
**Malinda Kerwin**  
Secretary

**Rev. Dr. Janice Palm**  
Vice President  
**James Conroy**  
Treasurer

## 2018 Board Members

**David Benjamin**  
**Susan Benjamin**  
**Sharon Bonk**  
**Vanessa Crosby**

**Marge Davey**  
**Rabbi Debora S. Gordon**  
**Brian Nelligan**

**Tonja Owens**  
**Kathy Snay**  
**Susan J.W. Steele**  
**Brian Thomson**

**Rev. Donna M. Elia**  
Executive Director

## TAUM Support Staff



**Katy Culhane**  
Office Administrator



**David Kassover**  
Finance Administrator



**Tyrell Pryor**  
Furniture Assistant



**Jennifer Skelton**  
Custodian

**Derek Mauzon**  
Furniture Assistant

# Our Supporters

## Legacy

The following people have committed to leaving a legacy to TAUM:

Jeanne Aurelia	Terri and Walter Kersch
Don and Shirley Bowes	Alexandra Lusak
Pat Carlson	Rev. Dr. Bob Loesch
Vera Jean Carpenter *	Gary and Dale Nelson
Don and Peggy Drew	Rev. Janice Palm
Rev. Donna Elia	Joan and Bob Rogers
Joe and Claudia Fleming	Laura and Dan Rogers
Angelo and Lilajane Frascarelli	Ken and Dorcas Rose
Chandlee Gill	Joan Stry
Rev. Dr. Arthur Hagy, Jr. *	Alice Trost
David Kassoever	Trudi Wybourn

\*Deceased

## Grants

Adopt-A-Pantry - St. Michael the Archangel Parish	NYS Office of Children & Family Services
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS	Stewart's Foundation
WGY Christmas Wish Campaign	The McCarthy Charities, Inc.
City of Troy ESG	The Robison Family Foundation
Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region	The Split Rock Charitable Foundation
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program	United Way of the Greater Capital Region
NYS STEHP	United Mission Fund at First Reformed Church, Schenectady
Regional Food Bank of NENY	

## Denominations

Hudson Mohawk Conference - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Albany Presbytery  
Synod of the Northeast, Presbyterian Church (USA)



# Our Supporters

## Congregations

Baha'i Faith of the Capital District  
Bethel Baptist Church, Troy  
Center Brunswick United Methodist  
Christ Church United Methodist, Johnsonville  
Church of the Covenant United Methodist,  
Averill Park  
Cornerstone Community Church,  
Lansingburgh  
Delmar Presbyterian Church  
Fifth Avenue AME Zion Church, Troy  
First Baptist Church of Hoosick Falls  
First Reformed Church of Schenectady  
First Reformed Church of Wynantskill  
First United Methodist, East Greenbush  
First United Presbyterian Church, Troy  
Greenbush Reformed Church  
Immaculate Conception Parish, Hoosick Falls

Latham Community Baptist Church  
Masjid al Hidaya, Troy & Latham  
Parish of St. John the Evangelist & St. Joseph,  
Rensselaer  
St. Henry's Roman Catholic Parish, Averill  
Park  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Troy  
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Troy  
St. Jude the Apostle Roman Catholic Parish,  
Wynantskill  
St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic  
Church, Troy  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Troy  
Trinity Episcopal Church, Watervliet  
United Methodist Church, Berlin  
United Methodist Women, East Greenbush  
United Methodist Women, Johnsonville

## Corporations and Organizations

Amazon  
Anonymous  
Capital Area Council of Churches  
Church World Service  
Collar City Clay Guild  
Commission on Economic Opportunity  
Curtain Call Theater, Inc  
Friends of Senator Breslin  
Girls Organization of Fun & Service  
GoodSearch  
Knights of Columbus  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Leahy Funeral Home  
McDonald for Assembly

Network for Good — Facebook  
Osgood Neighbors  
Pioneer Bank  
Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen  
Regeneron  
St. Peter's Health Partners  
Stephen J. McKee Foundation  
Ten Thousand Villages  
The GE Foundation  
The Rensselaer Newman Foundation  
Truist  
Trustco Bank  
Unity House of Troy, Inc.  
YWCA of Greater Capital Region

# Our Supporters

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Mel & Charlynn Pettit  
Barbara Pettitway

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Florence Rivers  
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Dorothy Russell  
Margaret & Carmen Rutolo  
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Eileen Satrape  
Paula Sawyer  
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Erik Weatherwax  
Barbara Welch  
John Welsh  
James Westbay  
Felicidad Wilson  
Ted & Susan Wright  
Trudi Wybourn  
Tom Zelker  
Margaret Zettle  
Nora Zink

## Save These Dates in 2019:

Crop Hunger Walk – Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

FEAST – Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

AIDS Walk – Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup>

Festival of Music & Chocolate – Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Troy Area United Ministries Day at Ten Thousand Villages –  
Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> (tentative)

*Many thanks to all for your  
kind acts of generosity.  
Troy Area United Ministries  
appreciates all our Supporters!*



Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select TAUM as your charity.  
Troy Area United Ministries will receive 0.5% of all purchases made  
through Amazon Smile...Bookmark it!



Don't forget to follow and "like" us on Facebook at  
**Troy Area United Ministries**

You can find us on the Web at **TAUM.ORG**

Your employer may Match Funds!  
Currently, Donations are eligible for a  
**GE, Macy's and Bank of America Match**

