

Troy Area United Ministries



2022
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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2022 Annual Report



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SNAPSHOT OF STATISTICS

Furniture Deliveries

Pieces of furniture delivered	2,884
Families served.....	291
Children served.....	522
Total served.....	873

Damien Center Meals

Adults	2,906
Seniors.....	1,170
Children.....	760

Groceries

Pounds of food donated.....	18,822
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Volunteers

Hours.....	2,250
People.....	200+

Computers for Kids

Students Graduating.....	11
Students Participating in Workshops	15

Holiday Adopt-a-Family

Adults served.....	36
Children served	46

Crop Hunger Walk

Dollars Raised	\$10,312
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Ronald J. Dukes Memorial MLK Scholarship

Scholarships Awarded.....	3
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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rev. Donna Elia



A bold and beautiful highlight of 2022 is our extravagant wall mural on the façade of TAUM's Building. Well before COVID, Barb Nelson, Executive Director of Troy Architectural Program (TAP) approached me with an offer of TLC for TAUM. TAP had obtained a grant from the McCarthy Charities, Inc. to add beauty to the city. In 2022, that vision came to fruition, becoming a vibrant space for those we serve and for our neighbors. The birds building a nest – a vision of Quill, who designed it- represents ways in which TAUM builds community. It is both real and aspirational. I asked if we could have a dove with an olive branch to represent TAUM's work for peace and justice, and a lovely faith symbol. Thank you, painters Quill and Sean and Barbara, for your fabulous concept. It seems like just yesterday our building was part of the Alley Action Project- with a mural on the back of the building. Didn't that 12 or so years fly?!

A wonderful neighborhood BBQ celebrated the mural, bringing together neighbors and guests and students. It was made possible by the generous donor who did not accept the raffle item of a gourmet Gilded Age dinner and by TAUM Board members who underwrote the dinner. Both the BBQ and the fantastic raffle item will be offered again this year!

The programs you see reflected in these pages demonstrate the inside of TAUM- not just inside the building, but the people- staff, volunteers, board members (who are also volunteers!) who do the work of meeting need and transforming community. TAUM, a modest but well-respected organization, is fortunate to have so many committed staff, volunteers and community partners.

I am grateful to and for all of you. Our talented staff- David, Tyara, Darren, James and Cameron. Our thanks and best wishes to our Troy Damien Center Coordinator, BJ Larouech and our Office Administrator, Bob DeFelice, upon their respective retirements. Bob and BJ have added grace and skill to TAUM's life and made an impact in the time you have been here. Thank you to our faithful, hard-working MLK Committee Co-Chairs, Renee Powell and Olivia Walton and our dedicated Board of Directors especially our President Brian Nelligan.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna M. Elia". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and personal.

Donna M. Elia

FURNITURE PROGRAM

Tyara Burnett, Director



This past year has been another great year of teamwork. I can't help but be excited to come in everyday knowing I'm going to meet with people who are willing to give with a smile and heart of generosity. On the other side of the coin the recipients are awaiting with a smile in disbelief that someone is willing to give not knowing who they are. The passion that people have in regards to taking care of one another is a blessing I get to witness every day. I am forever grateful to be a part.

We successfully assisted 291 families, 873 Individuals and 522 were children this year. The families and individuals we helped this year were fleeing domestic violence, homelessness, incarceration, overcoming tough times as a result of COVID, house fires etc. The families are always grateful and overwhelmed by the generous donations.

This year we had the honor of helping a father who had been incarcerated and was excited to see his children whom he had not seen for over 5 years. By court order he had to have beds in place in order for his children to be able to spend quality time with him. The gentleman was only requesting beds for the children, being this was the requirement. When we spoke to him before the delivery, we asked if he needed more than beds. He stated it was the only thing stopping his children from being able to visit his home, so anything after the beds would be a blessing. With that being said, we were thrilled to go above and beyond and wanted the gentleman to know we truly cared. So we furnished his whole home as he had nothing. He wasn't even asking for a bed for himself. When we opened the door of the truck the gentleman fell to his knees and cried. We took everything in and took time to help him set it up to speed up the process. He was overwhelmed with joy and called his children while were there informing them they could now come visit their dad! No better feeling!



With that being said --thank you everyone for your contributions! This year we took in 2,884 pieces of furniture. We kept this out of the landfills and gave these pieces of furniture purpose in a new home. There were 424 twin beds, 163 full beds, 402 queen beds, 107 king beds, 321 dressers, 152 sofas, 92 love seats, 47 recliners(several were powered lift), 303 kitchen sets, 134 kitchen chairs, 173 coffee tables, 317 end tables, 103 flat screen TVs, 97 TV stands, 17 cribs/toddler beds/pack and plays, 32 microwaves, and numerous miscellaneous items: cutlery, pots, pans, dishes, comforters, sheets, suitcases, Christmas Trees etc. Adding up to over \$238,000. Way to go TEAM!

Let's continue to come together to take care of our village! **Team work makes the Dream work!**

TROY DAMIEN CENTER

B.J. LaRouech, Program Coordinator

Hello 2023,

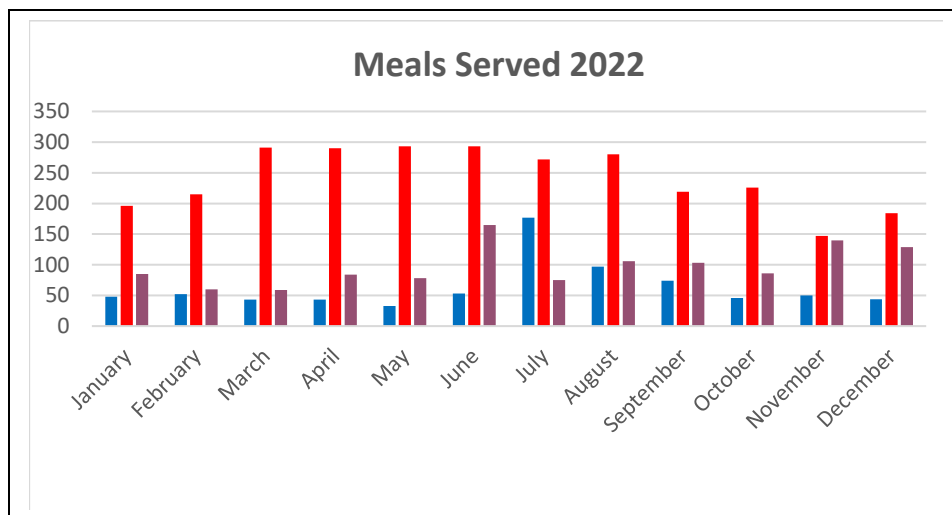
I have the honor of working at the Troy Damien Center. What a year it has been.

Every Monday night we serve dinner with help from the folks at the Latham Community Baptist Church, St. Henry's Roman Catholic Parish, Masters No. 5 F&AM, Center Brunswick United Methodist Church, and St. Jude's Roman Catholic Parish. We also want to thank the Fifth Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church and the Brunswick Presbyterian Church for their support of our Tuesday evening dinners. The Brunswick Presbyterian Church also distributes Thanksgiving Baskets that provide for families who otherwise would not be able to have a great holiday dinner.



At Christmas time, Santa brings gifts for kids and families that are adopted 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 and others who are clients of the Alliance for Positive Health.

This year we served 4,836 meals to those with HIV/AIDS and other serious illness as well as others who live below the poverty line in the Troy and Watervliet area. In addition, thanks to a partnership with both the Regional Food Bank and Hannaford, we gave away 18,822 pounds of food, the equivalent of 15,685 meals



**Meals served
2022**

Children: 760

Adults: 2,906

Seniors: 1170

Total Meals

4,836

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Darren Gundrum, Protestant Chaplain and Spiritual Advisor at Sage College



This year has been a fairly busy year at the Spirituality Center. We have reached out and worked with a variety of different areas. I even did a wedding for one of the college Staff this year.

In the fall we worked with Women's Institute to dedicate a new peace pole on the Albany campus and participated in Sage Fest where I had a gratitude program. The result of this program led to another project of a student painting a Gratitude Tree mural in the Spirituality Center this spring.

We continued our tradition of handing out de-stress bags before finals week. They were a big hit as always. I participated in the commuter pie social, always fun and very good desserts. I have worked with the wellness center to set up Tai Chi classes, and I was asked by a professor to bring a lesson on meditation and mindfulness into their class.



Some of the things we did started in the fall semester and continued in the spring semester. I have been offering monthly guided meditation that started in the fall and is continuing through the spring. I am working at the Solution desk (a desk to answer students' questions at the library) on Fridays.

I continue to offer inspirational quotes for our newsletter Chomp. I did ashes to go outside for anyone on Ash Wednesday and had a program for national random acts of kindness Day. This spring, I am having Mindfulness Days in the Park, I will again give out de-stress bags for finals and I will have a program to help the planet for Earth Day. I am working with student life now to ensure the Spirituality center is open and welcoming and time is available for all faiths to come in and pray and worship.

I continue to talk and listen to those who come to me or I encounter along the way and continue to reach out to other groups. Overall, it has been a year of trying to reach out and make even more connections with students, faculty and staff.

COMPUTERS FOR KIDS

This year, Troy Area United Ministries (TAUM) ran its five-week Computer for Kids course from July 11th to August 12th. The mission of the course is to educate teens in Rensselaer County about computer hardware, software, and career development. The students worked 5 hours a day Monday through Friday.

The participants learned topics such as resume building, job interviewing, Microsoft Office Suite, Google Suite, internet safety, Python coding, HTML website building, C++ programming, and computer algorithms. Kahoot games were used to help students review these topics to strengthen the student's confidence in these areas. Participants created resumes, research papers, websites, and computer applications in Python and C++.



On the first day of the program, students were assigned a pre-test, students were expected to struggle with this initial test, as it was used to gauge which areas the instructors would focus on. On the last day of the program, students retook the test. Every student improved significantly the second time, with the average score more than doubling. The lowest score on the post-test was higher than the highest score on the pre-test. At the end of the program, the participants were given the choice to take their laptops home – a well-deserved reward for all their hard work throughout the duration of the program. The program instructors were Jack Foster and Daniel Wang.

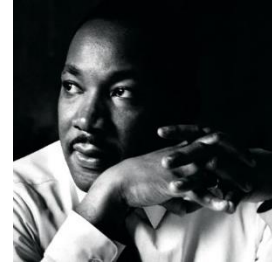
In the Fall, we ran a series of workshops to help youth troubleshoot and build upon their tech skills. These workshops were given by program instructors Jack Foster and Sebastian Martinez.

HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY

TAUM and our guests were blessed by the generosity of so many once again. Thanks to you, we were able to provide holiday gifts to 82 people (46 children and 36 adults). Warm clothing, household gifts, toys, art supplies. Some recipients said, "I love these sneakers. These slippers are great." A donor told us, "I want to buy things of a quality that I would want to have- LL Bean, not a discount outlet store." People were thrilled with what they received, and appreciated being able to either choose the gifts or to give a list of what they needed. The requests were modest; the donors were generous. Thank you, Brunswick Presbyterian Church, Catholic Central High Class of '72, Karen and Barry Greene, Rob Hilts and TAUM Staff and board members who supported the program.

2022 Volunteers	
People:	Hours:
200+	2250
Thanks to one and all who gave of their time!	

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. EVENTS AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



In 2022, we were not able to gather in person just yet, but that did not lessen our enthusiasm and commitment to doing the work of anti-racism, working to move the needle toward justice and raising scholarship funding. Michaela Davis Pedlar, a multiple year scholarship recipient, spoke with great conviction about how the scholarship has empowered her education at Columbia University.

Our speaker for the combined Sunday Service, Rev. Lisa Good, MSW, founder of Urban Grief, offered challenging and inspiring words from her experience of addressing gun violence and domestic abuse. Thanks to the generosity of so many who heard the call to participate in the education of aspiring students, three one thousand dollar scholarships were awarded to: Emma Cross, Michaela Davis Pedlar and Semaj Mitchell.



CROP HUNGER WALK

How wonderful it was to gather in person again and to walk together, doing the loop from TAUM to downtown Troy and around again. We so appreciate the congregations and individuals who participate faithfully every year, and we were also glad to have the Spanish Club from LaSalle Institute! Thank you, students.

Money raised for global hunger and disaster went to Turkey and Syria, who have suffered tremendously in the aftermath of earthquakes, and to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine, to name a few. Locally, money helped support food programs at Commission on Economic Opportunity, Hope 7, Joseph's House, Troy Damien Center, Unity House, and YWCA.

Please join us on May 7 either in person or virtually for the 2023 walk!



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 25th 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 30th Anniversary. A legacy fund has been established to sustain TAUM’s vital programs well into the future. In 2021, TAUM celebrated its 35th anniversary.

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

TAUM Board & Support Staff

Board of Directors

Brian Nelligan
President

Michael Nofal
Vice President

Susan Benjamin
Secretary

Sharon Bonk
Treasurer

2022 Board Members

David Benjamin
Marge Davey
Rabbi Debora S. Gordon

David Graham
Rev. James Ketcham
Joy Lowenthal

Gary Nelson
Tammy Parsons
Valerie Perrins

Rev. Donna M. Elia
Executive Director

2022 TAUM Support Staff



Cameron Carter
Custodian/
Furniture Assistant



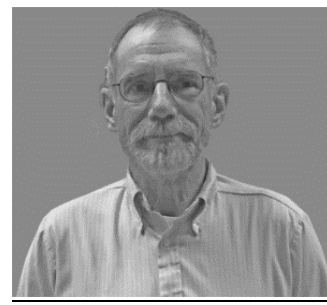
James Davis
Furniture Assistant



Bob DeFelice
Office Administrator



Lamont Garland
Furniture Assistant



David Kassover
Finance Administrator

Our Supporters

Legacy

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

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

* Deceased

Grants

Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS	NYS Solutions To End Homelessness Program
City of Troy Homeless Prevention	Regional Food Bank of NENY, Inc
City of Troy Rapid Rehousing	Rensselaer County
Community Foundation for the Capital Region	Stewart's Foundation
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	The McCarthy Charities, Inc.
James H. Miller Foundation	United Way of the Greater Capital Region
NYS Department of Family Assistance	WGY Christmas Wish Campaign

Corporations and Organizations

Amazon	Network for Good – Facebook
Associated Supply Company	Pioneer Bank
Commission on Economic Opportunity	Rensselaer Newman Foundation
Collar City Clay Guild	The Robison Family Foundation
Fagan Associates	Ten Thousand Villages
GoodSearch	TRIP & RCHR
The Stephen J. McKee Foundation	The Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
Interfaith Community of Schenectady	Unity House

Our Supporters

In-Kind Donors

The following donated goods or services:

Alexis Diner	Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company	Michael Nofal
All Star Wine & Spirits	Rev. Donna Elia	Rev. Dr. Janice Palm
Suzanne and David Anthony	Joe & Claudia Fleming	Panera Bread
Bacchus Wood-Fired	Gipfel Coffee Company	Tammy Parsons
Michael P. Barrett	David Graham	Valerie Perrins
Susan & David Benjamin	Hudson Chatham Winery	Pineridge Cross Country Skiing
Sharon Bonk	David Kassoover	Pioneer Bank
Boston Market	Lynn Kopka	Joan Rogers
Ray Clement	Joy Lowenthal	Romanation Jewelers
Tom Clement	Market Block Books	Susan Scrimshaw
Marge Davey	Brian Nelligan and Kelly Munkwitz	Yankee Trails

Denominations

NYS Baptist Foundation for Campus Ministries	Presbyterian Synod of the Northeast (USA)
Baha'i Faith of the Capital District	Presbytery of Albany
Hudson Mohawk Conference - ELCA	

Congregations

Anne H. Armao Division #5 LAOH	Loudonville Presbyterian Church
Bethel Baptist Church	Muslim Community of Troy
Cambridge United Presbyterian Church	St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church
Center Brunswick United Methodist Church	St. Henry's Roman Catholic Church
Church of the Covenant U.M.	St. John's Episcopal Church
Delmar Presbyterian Church	St. John's Lutheran Men's Breakfast
Fifth Avenue AME Zion Church	St. Joseph's Church of Troy
First Baptist Church of Hoosick Falls	St. Michael's Church Women's Guild
First Presbyterian Church of Albany	Stephentown Federated Church
First Reformed Church of Schenectady	Trinity Episcopal Church - Troy
First Reformed Church of Wynantskill	Trinity Episcopal Church - Watervliet
First UM Church - East Greenbush	Valley Falls United Methodist Church
First UM Church - East Greenbush - UMW	Waterford Wesleyan Church
First United Presbyterian Church Troy	The Women of St. Paul's Church
Greenbush Reformed Church	Victorious Life Christian Church
Hope United Methodist Church	

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Andy & Lynn Waterman
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Rev. Ted & Sue Wright
Trudi Wybourn
Debbie Yates
Debra J. Young
P. Marla Yudin
Connie Zapolski
Margaret R. Zettle
Joseph V. Zumbo

Our New Look!

Before ...



During ...



And **NOW** ...



Save These Dates in 2023:

CROP Hunger Walk – Sunday, May 7th (individual & virtual)

FEAST – Wednesday, May 24th

AIDS Walk – TBD

**Troy United Ministries Day at Ten Thousand Villages –
Tentative date is November 19th**

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

