

F · O · C · U · S
GREATER SYRACUSE

COMMUNITY REPORT

July 2007

F.O.C.U.S. turns 10 in 2008. F.O.C.U.S. finds that this is a good time to take stock of the advancements F.O.C.U.S. has made on the Visions and Goals gathered from thousands of citizens who shared their dreams and ideas for a sustainable community - now and for future generations. As we collect information, we are pleasantly surprised to uncover so many accomplishments and impacts citizens have already had on improving our quality of life – economically, socially, and environmentally. In 1998 F.O.C.U.S. presented to the community a blueprint for a dynamic course of action “to lift Greater Syracuse beyond its geographic confines and make it the very epicenter of economic, educational and cultural excellence....to become more than a pleasant place to live, but a place where business, culture, and opportunity can flourish”. We said, “it is the beginning – *of the next step...and that step is ACTION.* To assist citizen action, F.O.C.U.S. facilitates the process by serving as *communicator, convener, catalyst, clearinghouse, champion, and celebrator.*

CITIZENS’ ACADEMY: The 8 week program to learn about local government begins on September 19th. Applications are due by August 8. If you are interested in applying, download the application from our web site: focussyracuse.org or call 448-8732 for an application to be sent or faxed to you.

CORE GROUP: There was a full house on July 13th to hear Bob Haley and Andy Maxwell talk about the findings of the SDAT (Sustainable Design Assessment Team from the national AIA). A follow up to their presentation is a discussion of the Brookings Institution Report “Restoring Prosperity: The State Role in Revitalizing America’s Older Industrial Cities”. Author of the report, Jennifer Vey, is coming from Washington to discuss this with us. Thanks to the Gifford Foundation for making Jennifer Vey’s visit possible. Following her presentation she will be interviewed by Steve Kimatian’s for his Sunday morning show on WSYR TV.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

