

F.O.C.U.S. GREATER SYRACUSE
Forging Our Community's United Strength
COMMUNITY REPORT, October 2005

Submitted by: Charlotte (Chuckie) Holstein, F.O.C.U.S. Executive Director

FLASH – BREAKING NEWS: HOLD THE DATE – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2006
The annual F.O.C.U.S. celebration “I Love CNY...” is expanding into an all day showcase of innovations, products, ideas, and research that makes our region a unique center of progress and center for creative ventures. F.O.C.U.S. is working jointly with the SYRACUSE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE to make April 26 a special day to demonstrate new initiatives and new technologies that quantify our quality of life - now and into the future. It is an opportunity for researchers, businesses – large and small, academic institutions, students, citizens of all ages to see, feel, touch and learn about what is making Syracuse “POP”! More to come!

KNOW YOUR SCHOOLS – KNOW ABOUT FAMILY PROGRAMS: Syracuse CITIZENS’ ACADEMY held 2 sessions during October:

1) To learn about government sponsored programs to help families, the students heard from Commissioners David Sutkowy, Marilyn Pinsky, Fernando Ortiz, and Patrick Driscoll representing the Onondaga County Department of Social Services, Onondaga County Department of Aging and Youth, Syracuse City Community Development Department and the Syracuse City Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth. Common Council member Tom Seals facilitated the session. In keeping with the topic, the class met in the Ida Benderson Senior Citizen Center.

2) A lively session with members of the Syracuse City School District resulted with several students expressing interest in offering their help with school age children. Common Council member Patricia Waelder led the discussion. Panel members represented administration, labor, elected board, and parents including Interim Superintendent Robert DiFlorio, James Petrie who presented information on the school budget and statistics, Kate McKenna, president of the Syracuse Teachers Union, Cynthia Kirby, president of the Syracuse School Board, and Pam Percival, former president of Parents for Public Schools. The next session is on LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM. The class will take a tour of the Justice Center where they will be meeting.

CORE GROUP MEETING: The husband and wife team of Mark and Chelle Naef received a rousing welcome from those who attended the October Core Group meeting. They presented convincing evidence why recycling is so important for a sustainable community and why we need to teach this to young children. They inspired all who attended.

Next Core Group Meeting

Friday, November 18, 2005

7:30 – 8:45 a.m.

201 E. Washington St. 7th floor

“F.O.C.U.S. ON A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE WITH NYIEQ”

Presenter: John Vasselli, Executive V.P. New York Indoor Environmental Quality Center

EVERYONE IS WELCOME - BRING A FRIEND