

SICM FACT SHEET 2016 - SICM@50 in 2017!

The Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) is a faith-based partnership founded in 1967, of 50 congregations for ministries/programs of social service and social justice. SICM is non-sectarian; services are open to all. Individual ministries/programs operate at differing locations and times. The SICM Center is at 1055 Wendell Ave., Schenectady, NY 12308. For information call (518) 374-2683; Fax 382-1871; E-mail Information@sicm.us; Website: www.sicm.us; follow us on Instagram, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter (@SICM_NY). The SICM Newsletter is published periodically; please let us know if you would like one. SICM is not the City Mission of Schenectady.

SICM Welcomes Volunteers Please call 374-2683 or check out the web page at www.sicm.us.

PROGRAMS/MINISTRIES

SICM Food Program: gives groceries to people in temporary or emergency need; located at 839 Albany Street 12307. A household can come once a month (mass distribution excluded); regularly open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until capacity reached or 11:30; mass distribution (with the Regional Food Bank) held the last Thursday of each month (morning hours). "Wrap around" services include on-site help with Food Stamp/SNAP applications, health insurance and employment 346-4445 Email: foodpantry@sicm.us.

Schenectady Damien Center: is a community center for persons infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. The center is located at 615 Nott Street, Schenectady 12308, and open Tuesdays and Fridays from 11am-4pm through the Albany Damien Center. Members have access to all programs including PAWS, Pets Are Wonderful Support; call 449-7119 for the schedule (also on the SICM site); the Schenectady Damien Center direct line 374-0848.

Summer Youth Meals: is a free breakfast and/or lunch to youth 18 and under in parks, public housing, at churches, as well as the mobile meals. Volunteer teams encouraged to serve and offer "wrap around" activities such as reading, games, etc. Starts with the close of school, sites open until school begins.

Expandable Meals: SICM is working to develop meals for after school and school vacations and "food deserts".

Sch'dy County Embraces Diversity – Dialogue to Change: structured small groups (study circles) for youth and adults to address diversity, racism, and related issues.

Housing Initiative/Housing Task Force: works on homeownership, affordable housing, advocacy and neighborhood initiatives. For security deposits: this is now done exclusively by and with SCAP (Sch'dy Community Action Program, 913 Albany Street): call 374-9181.

Safe Parks and Edible Playgrounds: a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded initiative to address childhood obesity; led to Project SKIP (playground at Jerry Burrell Park), children's gardens; SICM participates in the Alliance for Health, Partners in Community Health (PICH) and developed the FOOD4Schdy App for Smart Phones with PICH.

CROP Walk: raises awareness and funds to fight hunger locally and overseas. Locally supports food pantries and senior meal programs. Walkers/Runners recruit sponsors for a financial pledge; the first Sunday in May.

Internships: For students in the summer and other time placements; often sponsored by congregations or colleges.

SICM Community Garden: SICM links residents and opportunities to grow local food; the SICM Garden is on Hulett Street in partnership with Duryee AME Zion Church; call 346-4445.

Spiritually Sound/Physically Fit: A model initiative with congregations; encourages healthier lifestyles through a structured wellness program.

SICM Provides Leadership In Other Areas

Services to Congregations: providing resources for study, mission, spirituality, theology, advocacy, through workshops, sermons, etc.

related issues; monitors the Police Community Review Board, for civilian oversight on police related complaints.

Intake is through SCAP at 913 Albany Street 12307; open M-F and Thursday evening; call SCAP at 374-9425 or 374-9181.

The Committee For Social Justice: addresses Police-Community, criminal justice and

The Community Crisis Network: provides assessment, referrals, emergency assistance.

New Initiatives: give us a call, usually something "in the works."

Prior Programs: started and "incubated" by SICM and now "spun off" include: The Community Land Trust of Sch'dy (affordable housing), Bethesda House of Sch'dy (addressing homelessness), SAFE, Inc.(runaway and homeless youth), Volunteers to Service to Families (start of Court Appointed Special Advocates or CASA), Capital Region Theological Center (CRTC, training for laity and clergy), and others!

SICM's Vision/Mission

The purpose of SICM is exclusively religious, charitable and educational and is:

- "To minister to the needs of the urban community and its individuals;
- To challenge religious organizations, both member and non-member, and their individual members, and the general community, to provide greater involvement and service in the urban community;
- To develop understanding, trust, and cooperation among religious organizations and encourage their membership in the organization."

How You Can Help

- Volunteer in a SICM Ministry or with a task force
- Financially support SICM in general or designate a particular program/ministry; give a gift in honor of (e.g. birthday, wedding, holiday) or in memory of a loved one
- SICM is eligible for GE matching gifts (\$25 or more) and can be checked off in the SEFA (50-00396) or Combined Federal Campaign (41449).
- Support the Rachel Fund, SICM's endowed fund through direct gifts (including stocks).
- Commit to SICM's future; join "Leave A Legacy" by including SICM in your will.
- Come to the "Harvest for the Pantry" held each Fall to benefit the SICM Food Program; join in other special events as they are announced for SICM@50 in2017



SOME SICM FOOD RELATED FACTS...Did You Know That. . .

...hunger is a Significant Problem in Schenectady? 22% of our community's population is officially below the poverty level, and more are the working poor. With the increased costs of medical care, housing, transportation and utilities, we see greater difficulty putting adequate food on the table. From The Daily Gazette: *The latest U.S. census figures show an alarming statistic — 50.8 percent of Schenectady's children reportedly live below the poverty line. For a family of four, that means a yearly income of less than \$22,350. That number, provided as part of the 2011 American Community Survey, puts Schenectady 13th in the nation for highest childhood poverty rate among cities over 65,000 in population, behind Syracuse and Rochester — which ranked in the top 10. Albany, the only other local city surveyed, ranked 91st.*

...SICM runs the largest food pantry in Schenectady County? SICM's food pantry provides over 65% of all temporary and emergency food provided in the county. We have an active list of over 5,700 families who use the pantry to supplement their food budget up to 12 times per year. In addition families come for "mass distribution" which helps at the end of the month; and can come more often for fresh produce, baby items, and pet food. In the most recent year, SICM provided:

MEALS (1)	INDIVIDUALS(2)	ADULTS	CHILDREN	65+ (3)	MASS DIST.
429,435	47,715	27,565	17,588	2,562	3,727

- (1) SICM provides groceries; translated to meals provided, 9 meals per person.
- (2) Duplicated count, number of individuals who came one or more times per year.
- (3) SICM also delivers once per month to homebound seniors and the disabled.

...SICM is the only Summer Food Service (SFS) sponsor in Schenectady County? So many students qualify for free lunch in the city's schools, that all receive free breakfast and lunch. When school's out, where do they go? SICM provided breakfast and lunch at 26 fixed and 16 mobile sites; this summer 79,554 received lunch and 7,037 received breakfast for a total of 85,459 meals.

...SICM needs your help. Your financial support is critical. While we appreciate food donations, for the pantry we purchase at the Regional Food Bank as much as possible for 16 cents per pound; if you can imagine we can buy a case of cereal for the retail price of one box! The SFS program receives state and federal support but it is insufficient to cover the costs. We also seek volunteers to work at the Pantry any weekday morning. If you are interested, please contact Shelly Ford at 518-374-4445.

Prepared by the Schenectady Inner City Ministry – 9/16/16

	NYS	Sch'dy County	Sch'dy City
Population Census 2010	19,570,261	155,124	66,135
Under 18	22.1.8%	22.2%	24.4%
Over 65	13.5%	15.1%	11.4%
Persons below poverty	14.5%	12.6%	22.6%
Median income	\$56,951	\$55,587	\$37,436

Source: US Census Bureau, State and County QuickFacts, last revised June 27, 2013

Please visit SICM's website at www.sicm.us

And our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/sicm2/?fref=ts>