



CURRENT ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- **Open forums:** Monthly sessions expose citizens to experts from many disciplines to impart factual information and dispel urban myths. Topics include school consolidation and quality education for ALL children, building sustainable communities, alternative energy ideas, government modernization, Route I-81, quality environment, lake and creek restoration, neighborhood improvement, arts and culture, job development, to name a few.
- **Citizens Academy:** Entering the sixth year of a partnership with University College of Syracuse University to offer 35 selected applicants a free 8 week course of study on how local governments are organized and how services are funded and delivered.
 - F.O.C.U.S. is partnering with University College to hold the first Citizens Academy reunion on March 10 at the S.U. Warehouse. There are over 175 graduates in 5 years.
- **Visions Survey:** Completed in 2009, survey results are disseminated to media and citizens to increase the level of awareness of how much progress was made on original goals and to provide opportunities for advancement of goals by the public.
 - Interview with Chris Boldt, WAER, aired on January 25
 - Interview with George Kilpatrick, WCNY on January 26
 - Interview with City Eagle newspaper editor, Ellen Leahy
- **Collaborations to promote sustainability (integrating economic vitality, social equity, and environmental stewardship):** F.O.C.U.S. works with the City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York State SUNY, SDAT, Cornell Cooperative Extension, GreeningUSA, Upstate Medical University, Syracuse University, Onondaga Community College, Syracuse Center of Excellence, DEC, Honeywell, Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, Green Initiatives, and others as opportunities arise.
- **Interns:** F.O.C.U.S. continues to supervise interns from the Syracuse University Community Link program, Newhouse, and students from other colleges and high schools in the area.
- **Communications:** F.O.C.U.S. sends a monthly informative e-mail to over 1,600 stakeholders on activities of interest to citizens. F.O.C.U.S. cooperates with media by consulting with reporters who look for information and appearing on broadcast and electronic media as needed,

NEW INITIATIVES for 2010

- **Walkable Syracuse/Onondaga County:** F.O.C.U.S. convened several individuals and government agencies to collect existing maps and tour guides that could result in CD's, podcasts, and other visual and hearing aides for walkers, bikers, and strollers.
- **Hiking trails and bike paths:** F.O.C.U.S. is convener and catalyst for diverse groups to get together to connect Onondaga County paths and trails with those of adjacent counties and to initiate urban trails such as the Connective Corridor.
- **Citizen engagement and Homeland Security Planning:** F.O.C.U.S. and Cornell Cooperative are partners with Onondaga County to provide the citizen engagement component in the local Homeland Security Plan.
- **Onondaga Lake restoration:** F.O.C.U.S. continues to support Onondaga County, New York State DEC, Honeywell and others to educate citizens about the clean up of Onondaga Lake.
- **Transportation, Environment, Health, and Economic Development:** To give local citizens facts about how a transformation of a major highway impacts on daily lives of citizens, F.O.C.U.S. plans a Core Group session featuring the environmental expert from the Boston Big Dig project.
- **Wisdom Keeper event:** F.O.C.U.S.'s only annual fund raising event is scheduled for June 10, 2010 at the Oncenter featuring the first annual Wisdom Keeper award.