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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“FOCUS on the Future” update

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. – Feeding Our Communities with United Services (FOCUS) is pleased to announce that work has started on the building renovations for its new home at 2321 W. Grand Avenue. Construction has been under way since October, and occupancy is expected during the first quarter of 2022.

The “FOCUS on the Future” community campaign kicked off in July to raise funds needed to complete the relocation project and build needed operating funds. According to Mary Schultz, chair of the fundraising committee, “We are pleased to report that our initial community goal of \$250,000 has been met with the generous support of over 230 community donors. However, unforeseen issues have been uncovered which will significantly increase the cost of the renovations. We need to keep the campaign open for now to cover these unplanned expenses.”

To support and encourage the community campaign, there were a number of matching grant opportunities offered and successfully achieved: first, a \$125,000 dollar-for-dollar match from the Connexus Cares program of Connexus Credit Union, second, a \$20,000 new donor challenge from an anonymous community donor that has encouraged 72 new donors to bring in over \$28,000 to the campaign, and most recently a \$20,000 challenge match to local realtors offered by Paper City Savings Association. “We greatly appreciate the support from our local community and these matching grant opportunities,” Schultz mentioned. “It will be exciting to have all three of our services, all with missions related to food insecurity, under one roof to better serve our community.”

FOCUS was formed in early 2020 when three local nonprofits merged to better combat food insecurity in the South Wood County area of Wisconsin. Those services include the South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf, The Neighborhood Table community meal program and Rapids Family Backpacks program. Operating within one centralized location will allow FOCUS to provide warm meals and monthly food allotments more efficiently to community members in need while also offering convenience to the many volunteers who believe in the needed services FOCUS provides to the community. With the additional space, FOCUS will be able to better combat food insecurity and collaboratively develop additional related services in the South Wood County area.

Additional donations are encouraged to help complete this community project. To show your support of the relocation project, please send your tax-deductible donation to “FOCUS on the Future,” 2511 – 8th Street South, #242, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, or visit www.FOCUSofSWC.org to donate electronically.



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