Axiom Church Encouraged By BGAV Support
As They Minister to Unchurched in Syracuse

Virginia Baptists have always been pioneers. Because of our adventurous spirits and willingness to explore new territory, others outside the Commonwealth are often drawn to us and want to partner with us.

A few years ago, five families around the Northeast sold their homes, left their jobs, and moved to an under-resourced area in the center of Syracuse, New York, to bring the Kingdom of God to the people there. “We knew that the traditional brick-and-mortar approach wouldn't work,” recalls Dan White, Jr., co-planter of Axiom Church. “We knew we needed to be a community on mission.”

Syracuse is one of the most “unchurched cities in the US,” with only 3.5% of its population attending church on Sundays. “People are very disinterested and sometimes antagonistic about the traditional church,” explains White. “We had to adapt around being love-filled and grace-filled as our entry point.”

Dan White, Jr.
Co-Planter of Axiom Church
Syracuse, NY
The challenges facing them seemed, at times, insurmountable. They knew they needed a partner—a sponsor, of sorts—who believed in them and could help them with resources they would need to reach the people of Syracuse. After doing much research, they found an affinity with Virginia Baptists. “The BGAV is generous and is such a great fit for us,” comments White. “We feel like we’ve found a home.”

A focus of their ministry is refugees, since they learned that between 2,000 and 5,000 people from Burma, the Congo, Iraq, and Cuba move into their area annually seeking refuge and a better life. They “adopt” them as families, providing help with English, tutoring for children, assistance in finding housing, and befriending them with the love of Christ.

In searching for a more permanent home for their ministries, Axiom Church recently accepted a $30,000 grant from V3, a church planting movement of the BGAV. “We want to express our gratitude to the BGAV,” says White. “We now believe we can do this.”

Ministries like this one are made possible by the generous Cooperative Missions gifts of Virginia Baptist churches affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Check out more Kingdom Stories at BGAV.org/stories.