



**Eleanor M. Josaitis** co-founded Focus: HOPE with Father William T. Cunningham (1930-1997) in the aftermath of the 1967 Detroit riots.

The metropolitan civil and human rights organization works to eliminate racism, poverty, and injustice primarily by accessing individuals to the financial mainstream. Since its establishment in 1968, Focus: HOPE has grown to nearly 350 colleagues supported by 51,000 volunteers and donors.

Mrs. Josaitis has provided leadership and advocacy since 1971 for Focus: HOPE's Commodity Supplemental Food Program for mothers, children, and senior citizens. She has made important contributions to public awareness of hunger and malnutrition, to the formulation of national policy and responsible legislation, and to effective program management. She chaired the Commodity Supplemental Food Program Steering Committee and hosted the White House Conference on Aging.

Mrs. Josaitis has played a major role in the development of Focus: HOPE's internationally recognized Centers of Opportunity education and training programs. These include First Step, Fast Track, Machinist Training Institute, Center for Advanced Technologies, and Information Technologies Center. The organization's Center for Children offers early childhood education, infant and toddler care, and a before/after school program. Focus: HOPE also has extensive community and economic development activities, a community arts program that promotes understanding of different cultures, and conference facilities.

Currently, Mrs. Josaitis serves on:

- The National Workforce Alliance Board
- Michigan Council for Labor and Economic Growth
- Visiting Committee for the University of Michigan Business School
- Advisory Board for the Arab-American and Chaldean Council
- President's Advisory Council at Walsh College
- Community Impact Cabinet at United Way
- Advisory Board of Detroit Executive Service Corps

She also is a member of the Board of Directors of:

- Detroit Economic Club
- New Detroit Inc.
- HP Devco, Inc.
- Karmanos Cancer Institute
- Detroit Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Loyola High School
- Covenant House

Mrs. Josaitis has received honorary doctoral degrees from Wayne State University, University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame, Central Michigan University, Lawrence Technological University, University of Detroit Mercy, Madonna University, Sienna Heights University, Olivet College, New York City Technical College, Michigan State University, Eastern Michigan University, and Walsh College.

In 2002, Mrs. Josaitis was named one of the 100 Most Influential Women by Crain's Detroit Business. She also has been inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and into the Heritage Hall of Fame at Cobo Hall. Her other awards include:

- Marygrove College 's Theresa Maxis Award
- Assumption University 's Christian Culture Series Gold Medal Award
- University of Michigan School of Business Administration Leadership Award
- Arab American Institute Foundation's Kahlil Gibran Spirit of Humanity Award
- Detroit NAACP Presidential Award
- The Detroit News Michiganiaan of the Year
- National Council of Negro Women's Achiever Award
- Anti-Defamation League's Women of Achievement Award
- Ford Employees African-Ancestry Network's 2002 Heritage Award • 1998 Goodfellow of the Year
- 1999 "Distinguished Warrior" by the Detroit Urban League
- The National Council of Women of the United States Inc.'s Woman of Conscience Award
- Boy Scouts of America 's Good Scout Award, the first woman to receive this award
- Jeffery W. Barry Award for Educational Excellence and Service from Walsh College
- Wonder Woman Award by the Women's Survival Center of Oakland County
- Wade McCree Award from the Federal Bar Association
- World Citizen Award from EDS
- Education award from Society of Automotive Engineers
- Peacemaker award from Wayne State University 's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies
- City Year Detroit Lifetime of Idealism Award
- Woman of the Year by YWCA of Western Wayne County
- Michigan Chamber of Commerce's 2005 Award for Distinguished Service and Leadership
- Grant Thornton Leader and Innovator of the Year, 2006
- Dr. Charles H. Wright Award for Excellence in Community Activism, 2006
- 2006 National Caring Award, Caring Institute, Washington D.C.
- Robert B. Johnson Diversity Award, Detroit Medical Center , 2006
- Others award, Salvation Army, 2006

She and her husband, Donald, live in Detroit. They have five children and seven grandchildren.