

connections



Spring 2022 • Volume 43, Number 1

In 1963 a group of seven local women united their volunteer efforts to address inequity in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Almost six decade later, IFC is on a journey toward justice and liberation.

capturing the sense of connection

Happy 2022! Welcome to a new year, a new design, and a new name! We are capturing the sense of connection we feel among the IFC community by naming our newsletter: *Connections*. The name signifies both what is required to do this work – reaching out, and what results from the work – relationships. We hope the name resonates with you.

As we have celebrated in previous newsletters, IFC supporters connect to this work in a variety of meaningful ways. Some people volunteer from time to time or several days a month. Some folks share their financial resources, while others provide in-kind donations. Contributions can look like making a sign and marching, or attending a town meeting. Every way of contributing is valuable. Every contribution builds a stronger base for our neighbors who are part of IFC.

During the past two years as we have responded to COVID, grappled with a racial reckoning, strengthened our physical and programmatic infrastructure, and

envisioned our future, we have needed your support in myriad ways. Time after time your wholehearted response has provided a powerful example of our connectedness. I can recall many specific occasions when you stepped forward to speak publicly on our behalf, sewed face masks, baked a casserole, wrote a check, and so much more. Your reliable commitment to this work is overwhelming. Thank you.

This year, in the spirit of gratitude for all the ways you show up, and based on feedback from many of you, we are exploring new ways to honor the fullness of what it means to contribute to IFC. In this year's spring newsletter, instead of listing names of financial donors, we are including images and stories of giving from across the IFC community. We are living into our values by elevating more IFC voices. We are diversifying authorship on page 7 with an article by Activate! staff member, Nate Jones. We are appreciating the significance of telling stories of lived experience with an article by IFC member, LB, on page 2. Each story is uniquely compelling. Each story exemplifies the enduring spirit of community that unites us, centers us in the reasons we do this work, and inspires us to action. We welcome you to *Connections*.



Jackie Jenks
IFC President and CEO

Opposing Forces!

Written by LB, IFC Member

I can't say that it was injustice, but justice caught up with me. It wasn't fair, but the way I see it karma finally came back to bite me. On the date of April 16th, or around that time, I was apprehended by the police on the charges of possession with intent to sell and deliver a schedule two drug to a confidential informant. I was innocent of the crime, but already a convicted felon. 10 years prior to this incident I did another 5 for possession of a firearm. While being searched the police found a 22-caliber bullet in my pocket. After finding out I could possibly beat the drug charge, my case was handed over to the F.B.I. The drug charge was dropped, but I received 5 years in Federal Penitentiary for one single bullet. The reason the judge gave was that I was a threat to the community.

My eldest brother encouraged me to change my way of thinking, so the outcome of my actions would become positive, instead of a life of locked doors and strip searches. Having someone in my corner not willing to give up on me helped me realize that a change truly needed to be made. I made up my mind to do anything and everything that focuses on personal growth for the sake of my freedom, family, and most importantly: ME!

In my dealings with law enforcement, I've experienced both positive and negative outcomes. One encounter came when someone accused me of trying to do bodily harm to them, when in fact, it was someone else. The officer that responded to the call approached me and I explained to her that I had no idea what she was speaking about. I truly didn't. She was very patient with me. She took her time to listen and afterwards started asking about the community as a whole and the people in it. In the end, she learned that I was innocent. She apologized and went in search of the true person of interest. She was very professional, an officer of great integrity, and all for the community in which she served. That was very rare for me. I'm used to being treated as guilty. Arrested first, then asked questions later. Another occasion with the local police

was much different, involving a relative of mine. We were leaving a restaurant when an officer noticed us walking down the sidewalk, approached us, and asked for our identification cards. When asked why, his reply was because he could. I had no I.D. on me, and my cousin simply refused. The officer immediately called for backup and within seconds we were surrounded by numerous officers. Because the officer felt my cousin was being defiant, he told his fellow officers that he was being uncooperative, and was highly intoxicated, which wasn't true at all. They tried to arrest him for drunk and disorderly conduct. I couldn't just stand back and watch this tragic scene unfold before my eyes. I tried explaining to the cops that came to assist the actual events, but was told to mind my business. When I kept trying to explain they turned on me and attacked with a vengeance. I ended up with a broken collar bone that night. They denied me medical assistance and sent both my cousin and I to jail. It was poor policing at its best.



Ben, member of the Carrboro Community Safety Taskforce (L), and guest writer LB.

I chose to get involved with community safety because I feel that most law enforcers don't know or care about the communities they swore to protect and serve, and if they do it's not the African American communities. There must be some sort of balance. If they could just take the time to learn the communities and the people in them like the other officer had taken her time with me, as opposed to arrest or shoot first, I feel that the African American community could and would be willing to trust them more.

I know that this will be a difficult task, because like myself, most African Americans, especially younger ones, don't like interacting with the police. Not all police are heartless and uncaring, but that's a small percentage. Majority don't care and may never will. In the end, I feel that law enforcement should be better trained to interact with the people they serve, and treat all communities, black or white, the same. If the African American communities and the police could find some common ground on how to make a safe environment for us, as well as them, it would be a beautiful thing; and I want to be a part of helping find that solution!

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Designed By



Music Venue Supports Community Market

Thanks to Nightlight's Charlie Hearon and his Mom, Nancy

When Charlie Hearon, owner of Nightlight, recently reopened his music venue on Rosemary Street, almost two years had passed since the onset of COVID. After the long closure, he invited music fans back into that space by celebrating community. At Nightlight's Return to the Dance event for vaxxed and masked patrons, the price for admission was "cans instead of cash" to benefit IFC. It was a generous and accessible way to reunite. Charlie joins his mother, Nancy, in supporting IFC. Nancy has been a Community Market volunteer twice a week for almost eight years. Together they are a mother-son duo that delivers for IFC. The Nightlight reopening produced five large boxes of food plus about \$250 worth of personal hygiene items. To Charlie and everyone at Nightlight, and to his mom, Nancy, thank you for your gifts of time and thoughtfulness. We salute every business and volunteer, every person who has given of their time, talent, and treasure to support our community work. Thank you one and all.



Photo by: Jack Benjamin

Market volunteer, Nancy Hearon, and son, Charlie.

Gratitude & Best Wishes

The IFC community sends our gratitude and well wishes to Bill Culton, longtime Community Kitchen Manager, as he embarks on the next stage of his life's journey. Bill was a kitchen MacGyver, crafting delicious and healthy meals from whatever was available. Jackie Jenks, President and CEO remembers, "Bill took pride in the Community Kitchen being more than a soup kitchen. He had a gift for taking whatever donations came our way and making them into well-balanced meals that always included a protein, starch, vegetable, salad, and dessert. He paid attention to people's individual food preferences and needs and tried to accommodate them whenever possible." Human Resources Coordinator Maureen Rosen recalls Bill as "one of the kindest and nicest people, a real gentleman." IFC is grateful for Bill's many years of dedicated service to our community. Says Stephani Kilpatrick, Dev & Communications Manager, "I love that Bill was willing to take the skills and work experience he possessed and share them at IFC to help nourish his community."



Bill Culton (L) and volunteer, Jeff Foorde, at the former kitchen on Rosemary Street.

Photo courtesy of Karin Foorde

VOLUNTEER F.A.Q.

Is IFC accepting volunteers?

Yes, we are welcoming new volunteers. With mindfulness about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are limiting the number of volunteers to reduce community spread, while regularly reviewing and accepting applications as we plan for opening more fully.

Do I need to fill out a volunteer application?

Yes, all volunteers are asked to complete an application before serving at IFC. Your application ensures that we have your updated contact information and volunteer interests.

Do I need training?

Yes, all volunteers will go through orientation once established at IFC. Orientation includes training with program managers. In addition, volunteers are asked to attend monthly volunteer meetings.

What can I expect at a volunteer meeting?

During monthly meetings you may expect important and timely program updates that affect volunteers. At those meetings we will also discuss racial equity practices within the IFC community. Specifically, volunteers and program staff will discuss how we can grow and learn by having continuous conversations about race, food insecurity, and homelessness in the Chapel Hill/Carrboro community.

Whom do I contact for volunteer opportunities?

For all volunteer inquiries, please contact:

Mar'Lisa Wooten

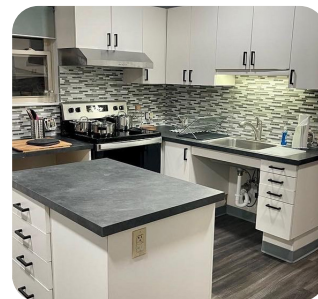
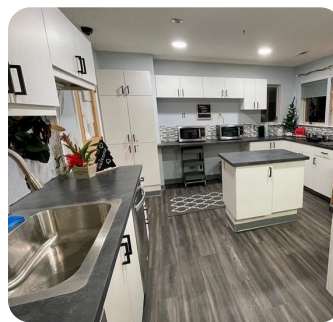
Community Engagement Director
mwooten@ifcmailbox.org
919.929.6380 x2026



Kitchen Makeover at HomeStart

Thanks to the team from A Lotta Love

As 2021 came to a close, IFC's HomeStart shelter for women and families was the recipient of an incredible gift from the nonprofit A Lotta Love. Charlotta (Lotta) Sjoelin and team coordinated a renovation of kitchens in the buildings that house families. Completion took only seven weeks, thanks to everyone working to create as little disruption as possible. The extensive renovation included new flooring, new sinks and faucets, new countertops, two ovens, two cooktops, four dishwashers, four microwaves, new lighting, new back splash tile, new hardware, new roller blinds and roman shades, repair of existing cabinets ... and more! In typical fashion, the team from A Lotta Love remembered every detail including kitchen supplies such as pots, pans, cutlery, dishes, baking and cooking utensils, cleaning supplies, pantry items, spice racks, coffee machines, kettles, and art. The transformation is breathtakingly beautiful. Even more breathtaking is the fact that all of the work was donated. Lotta garnered all of the support necessary and estimates the value of the work to be about \$40,000. Businesses from around the Triangle donated their resources to the renovation. We are deeply moved by this show of support. The new kitchens invite residents to spend time together over a cup of coffee, preparing school snacks, or planning for the next step. On behalf of the families who will benefit from this upgrade, thank you. Your gift will have a lasting effect on the lives of so many people going through the crisis of homelessness.



Photos by: A Lotta Love

Answers to Your Questions about Shelter and Housing

We are pleased that so many of you tuned into our roundtables for an update and to learn more about IFC programs. By virtue of listening to you, we better understand what information you value. One question many folks have asked is,

“How do people experiencing homelessness gain entry to IFC’s shelter?”

Here is an answer we hope will clarify a complex system.

As a nonprofit provider of shelter and housing services, IFC is part of a larger system in our county to end homelessness. The system is called Coordinated Entry and is managed by the Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness (OCPEH). OCPEH is a coalition of service providers, local governments, and community members. Two IFC staff members serve on its leadership team: Jackie Jenks, President and CEO; and Jessica Aldavé, Shelter and Housing Director. The Partnership operates a Housing Helpline and the Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection (SOHRAD) team. Staff members of those programs are often the first to offer support to people living on the street or other places not intended for human habitation in Orange County. Their work focuses on listening to people's circumstances and working alongside them to determine the best course of action. If shelter is the

appropriate resource for the person, SOHRAD makes sure their name is put on the shelter list. IFC shelter staff work hand-in-hand with this team to move through the waiting list and to make shelter available to people as soon as possible.

Sometimes the need is for shelter, but sometimes what is most useful is to stabilize a housing situation. In those cases, support can take the form of a subsidy to cover the cost of rent, help filing unemployment in order to pay bills, or support ironing out differences with a landlord. IFC Commons provides a meeting space to conduct this type of case management. Sitting side-by-side with the person, IFC staff and others have access to phones, computers, and other resources to secure what is needed until shelter or housing becomes available. Of course the goal is always to eliminate homelessness and to make the experience of living unsheltered as brief and infrequent as possible. Please reach out to us if you have additional questions or would like to support this work.



- IFC offers the only shelters for people experiencing homelessness in Orange County.
- A resolution was recently passed by the Town of Chapel Hill to fund a fourth SOHRAD position to meet increased need in our community.

PROGRAMS @ IFC COMMONS

LOCATED AT

110 W. Main Street, Carrboro NC 27510
919.929.6380
J Bus Line

Community Kitchen

Free hot nutritious meals daily
M-F 11:15a-12:30p and 5:15-6p
Sat and Sun 11:15a-Noon

Community Navigation

Drop-in access to computers, phones, and
community resource support
M-F 9a-6p
919.929.6380 x2025

Community Market

Fresh food, pantry staples, and hygiene items
M-F by appointment
919.929.6380 x2000

Emergency Financial Assistance

Tuesdays leave a message at 9am to schedule an
appointment during the week
919.929.6380 x2024

Activate! IFC

Voter Engagement, Advocacy, and Leadership
Development
919.929.6380 x2065

SHELTER & HOUSING PROGRAMS

Contact the Orange County Partnership to
End Homelessness to explore housing options,
including shelter. M-F 10a-4p at 919.245.2655 or
housinghelp@orangecountync.gov.

Community House Shelter for Men

1315 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Chapel Hill
NS, HS, and T Bus Lines
919.929.6380 x3000

HomeStart Shelter for Women and Families

2505 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill
HS Bus Line
919.929.6380 x4000

Permanent Supportive Housing

Housing & case management support in units
throughout the community. Access by waiting list only.



IFC Shelter and Housing Director, Jessica Aldavé (L), was interviewed by Spectrum TV's Amanda Rose in January.

WAYS TO GIVE

Many households are seeking support for the first time due to fallout from the pandemic. The call to embrace our community is stronger than ever.



MAIL A CHECK

Use the enclosed envelope and consider sending a gift regularly.

GIVE ONLINE

Use your credit card at ifcweb.org and schedule a recurring gift.



DONOR-ADVISED FUND

Designate a gift to IFC on a timeline that is comfortable for you.

MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION

If you are 70 1/2 years of age or older, designate your Required Minimum Distribution to IFC.



STOCKS OR SECURITIES

Complete a transfer electronically by contacting Jennifer Gill at jgill@ifcmailbox.org or 919.929.6380 x2031.

PLANNED GIFT

Ensure our work continues in the years to come. Contact Jennifer Gill at jgill@ifcmailbox.org or 919.929.6380 x2031 to discuss.



Donations are tax-deductible. IFC's EIN is 59-1224041



Scan a QR Code and purchase items from our Current Needs, Amazon, or Target Wish Lists

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NEW MEAL TIMES @ COMMUNITY KITCHEN

As of Monday, February 14, 2022

Lunch Mon-Fri
11:15am-12:30pm

Dinner Mon-Fri
5:15-6pm

Lunch Sat and Sun
11:15am-12 noon

In Memoriam

Chris Richardson
Mark McGee
Sheila Degraffenreidt
Ryan May
Lenwood Underwood
Christopher Lacey

James Locklear
Johnnie Snipes
Steven Taylor
Gary Howell
Warren Levy
Gary Feathers



**I believe in a community that meets everyone's basic needs.
Please complete, detach coupon, and enclose with your check made out to IFC.**

You may also make a secure donation at www.ifcweb.org or by calling 919-929-6380 x2031.

Card #: _____ Security Code: _____ Exp. ____/____/____
Name on Card: _____
Billing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
Signature: _____

Here is my one-time gift.

☐ \$1000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other: \$ _____

This gift is in ☐ honor ☐ memory of: _____

Please send news of this gift to: _____

I want to be a sustaining donor.

Please charge my card ☐ quarterly ☐ monthly
in the amount of: ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25
☐ Other: \$ _____

- ☐ I prefer not to be listed publicly as an IFC donor
☐ My employer will match my gift; contact me

IFC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

THANK YOU!



Economic Justice is Racial Justice

written by Nate Jones **Activate! IFC Staff**

their lives off track. It causes serious intergenerational trauma. It harms people. IFC is working to confront this reality.

Made up of those who are poor, working class, justice involved, unsheltered, and/or experiencing mental illnesses, Activate! IFC is a group of advocates who facilitate opportunities for directly impacted people to engage with the political process. Focusing on voting, advocacy, and leadership development, Activate! IFC is about building power with those closest to the issues. Why? Because those closest to the issues are often those closest to the solutions. Because we keep us safe! Our newest project, the Safety Vanguard Project, is elevating the lived experience and leadership of folks who are directly impacted by our criminal punishment system. Alongside the Carrboro Community Safety Task Force, and in collaboration with organizations like Orange County Justice United, Orange County Bail/Bond Justice Project, and the Chapel Hill/Carrboro NAACP Criminal Justice Committee, the Safety Vanguard Project will advocate for community-led alternatives to policing that emphasize restorative justice and harm reduction. Our monthly "Safety Vanguard Cyphers" take place on the fourth Monday of every month, and our planning meetings take place on the first Monday of every month. Please reach out to njones@ifcmailbox.org if you're interested in learning more or getting involved.

Hill community with the essentials: food, shelter, and resources. Hearing about our commitment to anti-racism may have inspired, challenged, confused, or infuriated you. It may have even caused you to question your affiliations with us. If you experience any of this here, I encourage you to take notice of the feeling, sensation, or impulse without attaching value or meaning to it. Try to hold curiosity for why the subject of "anti-racism" produces such a visceral reaction in you, and perhaps start a conversation with a loved one or a trusted colleague about their perspective—preferably someone with a different perspective than you. I'll provide an index of resources for those interested in deepening their understanding of this work, but I want to be clear: the overall goal of this article is not to explain or define "anti-racism." It has taken scholars, activists, and spiritual leaders hundreds of years to develop the theory and praxis of anti-racism, and I'm not interested in undermining their work in 1000 words or less.

You may ask, what does anti-racism have to do with serving people living unsheltered? Well, securing access

to affordable housing and providing resources to directly impacted people is and always has been a central tenet of anti-racist work. From the Black Panther Party and the Poor People's Campaign to the work of The Movement for Black Lives (Cleveland) and House Keys, Not Handcuffs (San Francisco) economic justice has always been inextricably linked to racial justice. By centralizing control, limiting access, and withholding resources, institutions such as the housing sector were set up to maintain the structure of white supremacy. These institutions work in tandem with the criminal punishment system to create the conditions for and prey on the consequences of poverty and homelessness. Until we recognize how interrelated the fight for economic justice is with the struggle for racial justice, our folks will continue to be spun through vicious cycles of poverty and imprisonment, many returning to our services even after securing housing or landing a job. Without a sufficient focus on racial justice, our collective efforts to house and shelter will only ever amount to providing bandages to someone suffering from internal bleeding. The compounded social wounding that occurs from the marriage of capitalism and racism (coined 'racial capitalism') doesn't just hurt people or throw

As promised, here's a short list of **resources** to get your **anti-racist wheels turning**:



Books/Essays/Articles:

- My Grandmother's Hands by Resmaa Menekem
- How To Be An Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi
- The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin
- Notes of a Native Son by James Baldwin
- Revolutionary Suicide by Huey P. Newton
- When They Call You a Terrorist by Patrisse Cullors & Asha Bandele
- The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
- Stamped From the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi
- Women, Race, and Class by Angela Davis
- The History of White People by Neil Irvin Painter



Podcasts:

- "Seeing White" Series (Scene On Radio, Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University)
- Resmaa Menekem—"Notice the Rage; Notice the Silence" (On Being with Krista Tippett)
- Can We Talk About Whiteness? (Code Switch, NPR)
- Be Antiracist with Ibram X. Kendi (iHeartPodcasts and Pushkin Industries)



Tell us your story! Email Jennifer Gill,
Development & Communications Director,
at jgill@ifcmailbox.org.

“Activate! IFC helped me to think about how I can use my privilege. Getting me connected with the Local Reentry Council and helping me to decide to join in efforts to reduce recidivism has led me on a rewarding, sometimes painful, journey on how I can be a help to those without white privilege.”

– **Brad, Activate! IFC Volunteer**

“I enjoy helping out with a job that lets me be a part of the community and provides a needed service.”

– **Bob Armstrong, Community Kitchen Volunteer**

“I attended a Franciscan college where we were challenged to lead a Gospel driven life. I can think of no better example of ‘loving thy neighbor as thyself’ than the work of the IFC staff and its many volunteers.”

– **Tom Fenn, Board Member**

“Economic inequity is one of the most basic problems in our society. Addressing it first seems important to me in order to address many of the other problems we face.”

– **Stephani Kilpatrick, Development and Communications Manager**



vision

A community that meets everyone's basic needs, including dignified and affordable housing, an abundance of healthy food, and meaningful social connection.

mission

To confront the causes and respond to the effects of poverty in our community.

values

Mutual Respect We all have equal value and are worthy of honor, dignity, and security. Respect for one another is both a right and a responsibility.

Social Justice We advocate within political, economic, and social systems to promote justice as to the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges in society.

Community Power Everyone benefits when those experiencing the problem lead us toward solutions.

Self-Determination People have a right to make choices about how to live their lives and work toward their goals.

Integrity We are authentic, ethical, and transparent.