

connections



Spring 2024 • Volume 45, Number 1



IMAGINE OUR FUTURE COMMUNITY



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Operations Director
Mar'Lisa Wooten, Community
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Linda Ellison, Debra Vestal

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Annette Clark, David French, Antoine
Fuller, Charlotte Horton, Anna Kenion,
Ronnie Kimble, Rhonda Lee, Alyssa Ng,
Halimat Oloko, Haywood Peele, Kaneesha
Person, Scherrie Smith, Algin Wiley

Taking Action Together



Jackie Jenks
President and CEO

In 2023, IFC celebrated our 60th anniversary! We were reminded of our journey and how those seven women came together back in 1963 to form IFC in an effort to confront poverty and injustice in our community. We celebrated the achievements of so many steadfast people who, through the years, continued to respond to the needs in our community and who made sure we had the dedicated spaces in which to do it. We extend our deepest gratitude to all of you who have contributed to where we are today.

As we begin our seventh decade of partnership with our community, IFC is as resolved as ever to honor the legacy of our founders by assuring our neighbors' needs are addressed while we confront the very forces that necessitate our organization's existence. As always, we will need your support.

IFC's success has always depended on the resolve of the community to keep it going. In the past, we were almost solely funded through private donations. Over the years, we have secured more public support to help cover the cost of meeting our members' needs. Even with increased commitment from our close government partners, **IFC could not exist without this dedicated community of individuals, congregations, and partners. Thank you!**

Our commitment to confronting the causes of poverty and our dedication to meeting the needs of our community have been confirmed by our Theory of Action - the strategy developed by our stakeholder groups (including members, shelter residents, volunteers, staff, and donors) that will lead IFC toward sustainable change in our community. These strategic goals prompt us to take action that will better empower our members to:

- Fulfill their needs for food, stability, and community
- Navigate community resources and connect to housing they can afford
- Stand in their power to influence policies that impact their lives through voting, advocacy, and leadership.

Throughout this newsletter, you will read about how our IFC community is working to meet these goals - day after day, week after week.

Together, we are IFC. This has never been truer than it is today. This is what carried us through six decades, including a global pandemic. And this is what will sustain us now. **Thank you for staying connected and activated.**

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Designed By



Showing Up to Meet People's Needs

Special thanks to contributor Kristin Lavergne

Each day, IFC Commons bustles with activity. Community members stop by to gather information, fill shopping carts full of groceries, and catch up with friends over a hot meal. Volunteers and staff sort and stock food, prepare healthy and delicious spreads, and connect folks with community resources. Supporters of all kinds come through with pantry staples, produce from farms and gardens, cold weather gear, financial donations, and words of support.

Hundreds of people come through the doors of IFC Commons each week, all with different life experiences and different roles to play. **And when it comes down to it, there is one reason we all need to keep showing up every day:**



Staff members Kristin (L) and Crystell with cold weather coat donations

Our community doesn't have housing everyone can afford.

If our neighbors had housing they could afford with the income they bring in each month,

- They wouldn't need to come to Community Market for groceries to fill their refrigerators and restock their shelves.
- They wouldn't have to rely on Community Kitchen for a hot meal on their lunch break or dinner on their way home.
- They wouldn't have to apply for Emergency Financial Assistance because their electricity is about to be turned off.
- They wouldn't need to turn to Community Navigation Services to accompany them on their journey through homelessness because they fell behind on rent due to an unexpected medical bill.



Staff member Hannah and Front Desk Volunteer Randie

78% of rental households in Chapel Hill are cost burdened, which means that renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs and can't meet all their needs for food, clothing, medication, and other necessities. Those who teach at our schools, nurse us back to health at the hospital, stock the shelves at our grocery stores, and make cappuccinos at our favorite cafes cannot cover their basic living expenses.

Imagine if people had housing that matched their means; imagine that they could manage their household's daily needs without our programs. In this new reality, IFC could focus on being a hub for community building, creativity, and social change. We could create spaces for healing, relationship-building, and joy. Community members would still come together for meals and resource sharing — only it would be by choice instead of out of desperate necessity.

For the past 60 years, IFC has existed in large part because the cost of housing our community offers doesn't match the wages and other income many of our neighbors earn. It doesn't have to be this way.



Market Volunteer Tim



Market donations from St. Paul AME!

- We **can** create more housing opportunities for workers who provide us with essential services.
- We **can** preserve naturally occurring affordable housing by making sure funding is available for maintenance and repairs.
- We **can** provide a true living wage for everyone so our neighbors can provide for their families.

We can build the community we want to see – and we won't stop until we do.

Thank you for all the ways you join us in support of our vision of a community that meets everyone's needs for housing, healthy food, and meaningful connection.

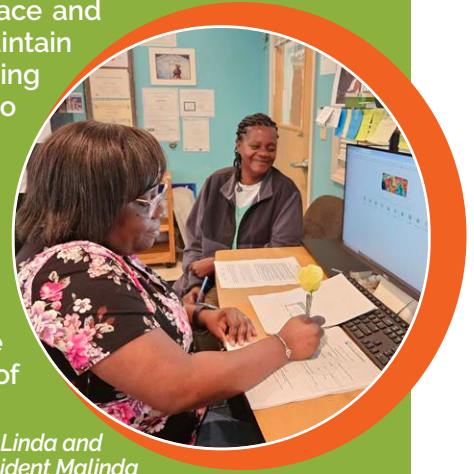
Affordable Housing

At the heart of IFC's plan for a better community lies a dedication to providing both temporary and permanent housing solutions for those without shelter.

But how exactly are we accomplishing this ambitious goal?

First, we're tackling the immediate need by providing the physical space and resources for obtaining shelter. We take seriously our responsibility to maintain safe, hygienic, dignified facilities. Many people start their journey by dropping into IFC's Community Navigation for a tent or blanket and to find out how to access shelter.

The next layer is having empathetic, knowledgeable staff, many of whom have lived experience and understand the complexities of homelessness. As trust is nurtured and a clearer picture of the resident's needs and wants emerges, shelter case managers draw on extensive knowledge of local housing resources and present residents with housing options tailored to their needs. What's more, connections to places like the Veterans Administration and Seymour Senior Center can build a network of support for the rest of a person's life.



Case Manager Linda and HomeStart Resident Malinda

We're not in this alone. We've got a solid crew of community partners backing us up. Community Empowerment Fund teams up with members on housing and personalized financial plans. Orange County's Street Outreach, Harm Reduction and Deflection team connects with people living unsheltered. The county's Criminal Justice Resource Department supports our neighbors who are justice-involved. On top of that, with the county's funding support, we're expanding our Permanent Supportive Housing program, so we can provide additional staff, resources, and housing for more individuals and families who are in dire situations in our community.

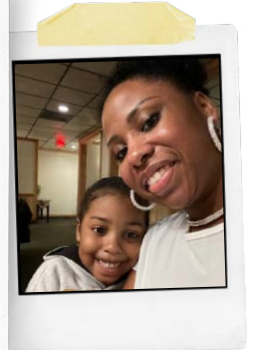


PSH members Jessie and Scarlett open the door to their new home

By leveraging partnerships, resources, and advocacy efforts, we're not only addressing immediate needs but imagining and building a community where everyone has a home from which to grow and thrive.

My name is Kineta, and I have a 4-year-old son. My son and I were homeless for four months sleeping in our vehicle. I found IFC -- or should I say they found me -- and Linda was my person of contact. Linda is the most caring, patient, and supportive person I've ever met. When I felt like everything was falling apart, she always reminded me there was a light at the end of the tunnel! She helped find resources and would always point me in the right direction. I thank Linda for being so helpful in the hardest time of my life. She is still a backbone and someone I can call on when I need her, and she's always there! I successfully moved out of HomeStart on 11/20/23. I thank her for providing a roof over me and my son's head for the months we needed. I am forever grateful.

Thank you so much, Linda, for your hard work and dedication!



"Probably for the first time in my life, right now I feel very safe."

- PSH Member Erick

I had been homeless, off and on, for around 20 years before the Permanent Supportive Housing program. I have a history of being abused by others and self-inflicted abuse. That's part of why I was homeless. I had been in various programs which I never fully took advantage of such as shelters, rehabs, and various treatment programs. When I got involved in the PSH program, I did fully engage and have had stable housing for over the past three years. I decided if I was going to continue to live, I would make the most of it.

I started out in a very nice room in an upper middle-class home and neighborhood. For the first time, I could enjoy a sense of tranquility and be away from the harsh elements of homelessness. It was like I was not just focused on survival -- being concerned about having enough propane for my heater, enough food to eat, donating plasma for spending money, having to hustle just to exist, and all of that. It was nice to be around others in a humane setting; we weren't family, but we had to learn to live with each other. After a year in that setting, I decided I wanted a stable place of my own.

I knew I was strong enough not to self-destruct, so I transitioned into my own independent living apartment. I knew I couldn't control others or anything but myself. When I moved into my own place, it became my paradise. I created it the way I wanted it to be. For me, paradise wasn't about a place but about being free from fears, unfair consequences from the world and where I could create a place that makes *me* happy. Now, people say, "Let's go to Erick's place; it's so peaceful." I made it that way for my peace, but if others benefit it is a win-win for me.

I've been a very vulnerable person; vulnerable to 'cons' from others and always doubting myself in non-productive ways. I am not perfect, but this stability and comfort allows me to work on myself every day. Probably for the first time in my life, right now *I feel very safe.*

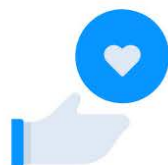


GIVE TODAY

and help IFC support our community

ONLINE

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



DONOR-ADVISED FUND

Recommend a grant to IFC on a timeline that is comfortable for you.

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

If you are 70 1/2 years old, designate your RMD to IFC with the use of a Qualified Charitable Distribution.



STOCKS or SECURITIES

Complete a transfer electronically by contacting Stephani Kilpatrick at skilpatrick@ifcmailbox.org or 919.929.6380 x2033

PLANNED GIFTS:

Will, Trust, Life Insurance Policy or Retirement Account



Name IFC as beneficiary of a planned gift and ensure a lasting legacy. Contact Stephani Kilpatrick at skilpatrick@ifcmailbox.org or 919.929.6380 x2033 to discuss.



CHECK

Mail a check made out to IFC to the address below.

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

IFC | 110 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510
919.929.6380 | ifcweb.org | info@ifcmailbox.org



PROGRAMS @ IFC COMMONS

LOCATED AT

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

Community Kitchen

Free hot balanced meals daily, open to all
M-F 11:15a-12:30p and 5:15-6p
Sat, Sun and Holidays 11:15a-Noon

Community Navigation

Drop-in access to computers, phones, and
community resource support
Showers available by appointment M-F
Call the number below for locker availability
M-F 10a-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 Housing Helpline 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 NC 27514
NS, HS, and T Bus Lines
919.929.6380 x3000

HomeStart Shelter for Women and Families

2505 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill NC 27514
HS Bus Line
919.929.6380 x4000

Permanent Supportive Housing

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

In Memoriam

Thomas Filter
Matthew Magana
Michael Molina
Tabetha White
Elyjah Smith
Michael Bostic

Ryan May
Grant Coleman
Mark McGee
David Currie
Charles "CB" Everts
Donald Willhoit



I believe in a community that meets everyone's basic needs.

Please complete, detach coupon, and enclose with your check made out to IFC.

Mail to: IFC • 110 W. Main Street • Carrboro NC 27510

You may also make a secure donation at www.ifcweb.org or by calling 919-929-6380 x2033

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!

Affordable Housing [is] Community Safety

Co-written by Darin Campbell and Nate Jones

Every aspect of a person's safety is impacted by homelessness, and harmful cycles can arise if the situation is not remediated. For example, experiencing homelessness can sustain intense emotions. To cope, especially if the situation becomes chronic, one can develop adaptations to their mental and behavioral health such as addiction, dissociation, or paranoia. In turn, these can lead folks into unsafe situations that sustain their intense emotions and reinforce their methods of coping; so on and so forth, around and around, the cycle continues.

Advocating for affordable housing is about breaking this cycle. It is about keeping our community safe. Here are two ways Activate! IFC is working to do just that:

First, the Greene Tract is 164 acres of jointly owned land located between Eubanks Road and Homestead Road. After leading an engaging summit on the history of the land, Activate! IFC's affordable housing advocate, Darin Campbell, began attending the

master plan workgroup meetings. He is currently advocating for affordable housing at or below 30% AMI, as well as veteran-specific housing to be part of the 66 acres of the Greene Tract already designated for mixed-use development.

Second, Activate! IFC has been showing up at Chapel Hill Town Council with community partners such as Orange County's Affordable Housing Coalition and the Community Empowerment Fund to advocate for public restrooms on Franklin Street, a \$50 million affordable housing bond, and a 2-cent property tax allocation.

You can advocate for affordable housing by showing up to the town council with us and/or contacting your local elected officials. You can also get involved with Activate! IFC's affordable housing summits, community safety cyphers, and advocacy actions. Email Nathan Jones at njones@ifcmailbox.org or stop by IFC Commons Conference Room 201 if you have any questions or want more information on how to get involved.



Staff member Paris (R) and Co-facilitator KeKe

Training for Action Progress BIPOC Project

Our Healing Winter Retreat at HomeStart was attended by 10 residents, and it included somatic bodywork from Twisted Yogi, narrative

and art therapy from Congruence Counseling Group, a catered lunch from JMS Catering, and complimentary childcare from local community members. Gratitude to Paris Miller-Foushee for all her work putting such an impactful retreat together, and for HomeStart staff for helping with set-up, tear-down, and outreach.

Safety Vanguard Project

Throughout 2023, Activate! IFC led a Community Safety Assessment Campaign that contacted 500+ community members in Carrboro and Chapel Hill. This involved phone banking, door knocking, programming, and other forms of community engagement—totaling 113 one-on-one conversations.

We also worked closely with Carrboro's Community Safety Task Force to produce recommendations for the town council. The five recommendations passed, and work has already begun to implement them. However, there is still a ways to go. If you want to throw down with Safety Vanguard, contact Nathan Jones at njones@ifcmailbox.org.

Phone Bankers Heather and Ron



WISHES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

For the community to pull together and keep helping each other

For justice to roll down like waters

Open hearts, open minds, selflessness

Real affordable housing

That we are activated and empowered



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.