



Fall 2021
Volume 42, Number 2

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 anti-racism and liberation.

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Inter-Faith Council
for Social Service
110 W. Main Street
Carrboro, NC 27510



transforming our community together



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.



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Jackie Jenks

Almost daily, someone on staff mentions how empty the new building feels without all the people in it. IFC Commons was designed to be a community hub and it's, well, too quiet! Before the Delta variant appeared, we were preparing to host an in-person open house and dedication. Those plans are temporarily on hold. In the meantime, we are planning to continue connecting with you virtually. Please watch your email, and stay in touch via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

As the country moves from pandemic response to recovery, it bears repeating that IFC could not maintain our vital services without you, our dedicated community. We are grateful to continue, and improve, our work at a time when so many people are counting on us. About 75% of our budget is dependent upon private support, and our operations rely on hundreds of hours of volunteer work. Your generosity has made shelter, food, financial support, advocacy, and leadership development possible throughout the pandemic. Thank you.

For those who would like to volunteer, your day is coming! In this newsletter, you can read about our new Community Engagement Manager, Mar'Lisa Wooten, who recently joined IFC's leadership team. As volunteer opportunities at IFC grow along with our programs, we think you'll be happy to have a full-time staff person available to help you plug in where you are most needed.

With your enduring support, we have achieved incredible gains in spite of the pandemic. Many of these accomplishments are highlighted in this newsletter. From the standpoint of shelter and housing services, they include safely moving from the hotel back to the shelters, upfitting those buildings for health and safety, and implementing regular Covid-19 testing. Please take a moment to read about how the joint effort with the Atma Hotel Group resulted in IFC receiving the Chamber's 2021 Community Impact Award. Shelter staff deserve a lot of love for making that program a reality.

Thriving IN THE MIDST OF Change

The lack of affordable housing in our area was a challenge before the pandemic, and now there is even greater need due to the destabilization of many households. The number of people living unsheltered in Orange County has increased 42% since last year. You'll read about how IFC is advocating for affordable housing, centering the voices of people with lived experience of poverty and homelessness. These rallies, town meetings, and events add an important new dimension to our organizational calendar that includes RSVVP, holiday meals, and much more. Be sure to check out our upcoming events online and plan to join us.

Finally, in the midst of everything, we are thrilled to introduce new talented members of our leadership team. In addition to Mar'Lisa recently joining the team, Chris Faison joined us in September as R.E.A.L. (Race.Equity.Action.Leadership.) Transformation Director, and Asia Fowler came in mid-October as Finance and Operations Director. In an especially competitive job market, we are delighted to welcome these skilled leaders who were attracted to IFC's vision and commitment to transformation. In addition, IFC's board welcomed eight new board members to advance our journey to become an anti-racist and liberatory organization. Each person brings unique personal and professional experience, creating a board diverse in ways unequaled in our history and more reflective of the community we serve.

I am deeply grateful to be part of a community that is strong and resilient, yet humble and open to learning and growing. As you'll see in the newsletter, IFC is thriving even in the midst of change and uncertainty. I believe that is because of the relationships we cultivate and our collective commitment to building the community we want to see. Thank you all for sharing your individual light with IFC. We have a rich history and, together, our future is even brighter.

IFC STAFF TEAM

R.E.A.L. TRANSFORMATION (Race.Equity.Action.Leadership.)

Chris Faison, Director

MANAGERS

Quinton Harper, Activate! IFC

Mar'Lisa Wooten, Community Engagement

ACTIVATE! IFC STAFF

Nate Jones, Paris Miller-Foushee

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Kristin Lavergne, Director

MANAGERS

Bill Culton, Community Kitchen

Gricelidy Marrero, Community Services

COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVOCATE

Katina Welch

COMMUNITY KITCHEN STAFF

Thomas Lee, Vonzell Williams

SHELTER AND HOUSING

Jessica Aldavé, Director

MANAGERS

Tracey Hagan, HomeStart

Ka'Tiera Truett, Community House

TEAM LEADS

Natalee Atwater, Lucia Drinkwalter

CASE MANAGERS

Bernestine Austin, Tom Bainbridge,

Linda Ellison, Rebecca Tate,

Debra Vestal

RESIDENT ADVOCATES

Marlina Avery, Gunzo Bethea,

Darian Buck, Angela Clapp,

Annette Clark, Shan Collins,

Rosalio Hermosillo, Charlotte Horton,

Chris Horton, Anna Kenion,

Ronnie Kimble, Rhonda Lee,

Regina McDaniel, Zach Meredith,

Alyssa Ng, Halimat Oloko,

Tra'Von Outlaw, Kaneesha Person,

Kris Quick, Greg Watrous, Algin Wiley

FINANCE, OPERATIONS, AND DEVELOPMENT

Jackie Jenks, President and CEO

Asia Fowler, Director

Finance and Operations

Jennifer Gill, Director

Development and Communications

MANAGERS

Stephani Kilpatrick, Development and Communications

Allan Rosen, Facilities

STAFF

Gunzo Bethea, Eric Davis,

Diallo Duffin, Tara Stephenson

IN MEMORIAM

Don Boulton Terrence Poole

Dionna Stewart

Published By IFC

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ifcweb.org

Visit us on

Facebook,

Instagram &

Twitter!

LIVE UNITED

United Way
of the Greater Triangle
unitedwaytriangle.org



TOGETHER we are WORKING to

END HOMELESSNESS

IFC operates the only shelters in Orange County for people experiencing homelessness: Community House shelter for men and HomeStart shelter for women and families. Shelter residents work with staff to find permanent housing as soon as possible, and in many cases, stay connected with our IFC community once they move into their new home. Support from the community also provides funds for rent and utility payments to prevent homelessness for people who live or work in Chapel Hill-Carrboro.



In FY 2020-21

- Community House provided safe shelter for 151 men, and HomeStart provided a dignified place for 38 women, 43 parents, and 34 children.
- Emergency Financial Assistance Program offered \$115,397 in rent and utility support to 673 households.
- Forty-one percent (41%) of shelter residents secured permanent housing.

PROMOTE FOOD EQUITY

Thanks to generous community support, all of IFC's food security programs are now located in the same building: IFC Commons in Carrboro. At IFC's Community Market, neighbors select the groceries best suited for their households, including pantry goods, fresh local produce, proteins, dairy, and personal hygiene items. The Community Kitchen prepares hot nutritious meals every day of the year for anyone who is hungry.



In FY 2020-21

- Community Kitchen prepared 25,531 meals.
- Community Market provided 14,153 bags of groceries and fresh produce.
- Community Market shared 735 holiday meals.

BUILD AN ANTI-RACIST & LIBERATORY COMMUNITY

IFC is transforming from a charity model to a social justice organization. Our R.E.A.L. Transformation program (Race.Equity.Action.Leadership.) is advancing this work through informing, planning, and guiding our culture change. Activate IFC! is working to address the root causes of poverty through civic engagement, leadership, development, advocacy, and increased representation of IFC members and residents in the political process.



In FY 2020-21

- IFC continued our process of visioning as we build a culture of racial justice and liberation.
- Activate! IFC continued voter engagement work with members and shelter residents, registering 49 new voters and signing 173 pledge-to-vote cards.
- Through Training for Action Progress, Activate! IFC supported local leaders of color in bringing their lived experiences to public policy forums and advocating for housing, transportation, and community safety.

Three Join **IFC's** Leadership Team

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of three new members of IFC's Leadership Team.
Please join us in welcoming each of them to our community!



Mar'lisha Wooten

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Mar'lisha was raised in New Jersey but spent her high school and college years in North Carolina, where her family has deep roots. Upon returning to North Carolina in her teen years, Mar'lisha and her family found their family home had been burned down by the Ku Klux Klan. As a result, they struggled with homelessness, which led to Mar'lisha's determination to go to college so she could fight for people like her who were not given equitable opportunities. She graduated from North Carolina Central University with a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Services. After college, Mar'lisha served for two years in the Peace Corps in Guyana, where she supported families in securing grants for small businesses. She then spent six years in Houston, Texas at the Department of Family and Protective Services where she worked with families to access the resources and support they needed to stabilize and stay out of the system. There, she was promoted twice and became a trusted supervisor who organized the operations of the department. Mar'lisha's former colleagues describe her as a charismatic leader who is a natural at building relationships and working with people who are sometimes resistant to change.

She takes on a newly created position, the first full-time staff position dedicated to engaging with volunteers, community allies, congregational partners, and student groups. She may be reached at:

919.929.6380 x2026 or
mwooten@ifcmailbox.org

Welcome, Mar'lisha!



Chris Faison

**R.E.A.L. TRANSFORMATION DIRECTOR
(Race.Equity.Action.Leadership.)**

Chris' personal and professional life has been heavily influenced by mentors and coaches who helped instill a liberatory consciousness in him. He utilizes his local race history knowledge to facilitate racial healing. Chris is an educator and advocate who spent the beginning years of his career advocating for underrepresented and marginalized students in both K-12 and higher education settings. He is currently finishing a Ph.D. in Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis at North Carolina State University and was a recent fellow with the American Express Leadership Academy at Campaign for Black Male Achievement. Chris' peers and mentors describe him as an authentic connector, innovative thinker, and racial justice warrior who is "humble as a lamb, yet bold as a lion." His passion, vision, deep understanding of the issues we face as a community, and his recent racial equity work with both UNC faculty and Chapel Hill clergy will bring depth and breadth to IFC's anti-racist and liberatory work.

Chris joins IFC as the first full-time staff person responsible for engaging all stakeholders in changes to policies, procedures, and practices that will advance equity within and beyond IFC. You may reach Chris at:

919.929.6380 x2063 or
cfaison@ifcmailbox.org

Welcome, Chris!



Asia Fowler

FINANCE & OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Asia has spent her career using her expertise in operations and finance to be an advocate for small business owners, nonprofit organizations, and the federal government. Growing up as a military child, she was immersed in different cultures which provided her with a unique vantage point of various community disadvantages. This early exposure created a passion to help implement social change globally. Asia brings more than ten years of experience with various nonprofit organizations working specifically in administrative and programmatic management. She has a strong background in business operations, human resources, budgeting, financial management and project monitoring. Asia has significant financial and compliance experience as obtained while working for nonprofits, private industry, and the federal government. Her former colleagues and peers describe her as a forward-thinking leader, who through her actions inspires to translate vision into reality through grit, empowerment, and compassion. Asia earned her degrees from Hampton University and North Carolina Central University.

She will oversee all aspects of accounting and operations, including payroll, benefits administration, technology, and the staff that works in both of those areas. Please contact Asia at:

919.929.6380 x2013 or
afowler@ifcmailbox.org

Welcome, Asia!

As of this year, all IFC phone numbers have new extensions. If you are unsure of the correct extension, please dial **919.929.6380**, then press **0**. In addition, contact information for all members of the leadership team is available on the web at: **ifcweb.org/about/contact-us**.

The House Us Now! rally in August was an amazing community gathering in support of affordable housing for people who are living at or below 30% area median income.* IFC residents, volunteers, staff, and board members stood in solidarity with a crowd of about 200, including people most affected by the high cost of housing. Katina, Community Services Advocate in IFC's Community Market, was among the community leaders to passionately and courageously share their personal stories that day. We marched from Peace and Justice Plaza to The Marian Cheek Jackson Center, where Paris Miller-Foushee welcomed marchers to the Northside

Neighborhood and Quinton Harper of Activate! IFC got the crowd fired up before inviting folks to enjoy food from Gametime Hot Dogs and live music from local band Finesse. We are grateful to partner with our community allies in demanding that our local leaders House Us Now! We celebrate the leadership of Meeting of the Minds, Community Empowerment Fund, The Marian Cheek Jackson Center, EmPOWERment, Inc., and Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP.

Your support on the front lines with folks experiencing housing insecurity means so much to so many. We will continue to keep you updated about our work around affordable housing and other justice issues.

Leading WITH VOICES OF Lived Experience

** In Orange County, the AMI is \$86,400. 30% of AMI = \$18,150 for one person and \$25,900 for a family of four.*



True Essential Workers

We appreciate The Chamber for a Greater Chapel Hill-Carrboro for granting IFC the 2021 Community Impact Award, along with the Atma Hotel Group, in recognition of our partnership to provide safe shelter for people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic. Ka'Tiera Truett, manager of IFC's SECU Community House shelter for men, accepted the award on IFC's behalf. Residents have returned to our shelters, now upfitted with COVID safety precautions, including regular testing and vaccination. We are deeply grateful to our dedicated shelter staff, true essential workers, who continue to show up for work every single day no matter what, to assure that people will have a safe place to stay.



From all of us at IFC, thank you to CROP Hunger Walk leaders, volunteers, and walkers who exceeded the fundraising goal for this year to support IFC's food security offerings! In addition, thank you to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools who held a food drive at the start of the year benefitting IFC's Community Market, and to Sunrise Rotary who made a gift to support IFC's work in the community. We appreciate your support of local households.

THANK YOU

We are grateful for the Leon Levine Foundation and Andrew Yavorski, who visited IFC Commons in July. Your generous support helps us serve households struggling with poverty and homelessness.



In June, six representatives with the State Employees' Credit Union Foundation visited IFC Commons. Long-time supporters of IFC, thank you for your steadfast investment in our community.

LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

Street Outreach, Harm Reduction & Deflection Team (SOHRAD)

Connect people experiencing homelessness with local resources
Mon-Fri 9a-11p, Sat 2-11p
CALL: 919.886.3351 or EMAIL: SOHRAD@orangecountync.gov

Chapel Hill Crisis Unit

Crisis response by counselors and/or police officers
Daily 8a-11p
CALL: 919.968.2806, or ask 911 for on-call crisis unit

Orange County Rape Crisis Center

Speak to a counselor (your name is not required)
Mon-Fri 9a-4p
CALL: 919.967.7273 or TEXT: 919.504.5211
After hours: leave a message, a counselor will contact you within 15 min

Compass Center for Women and Families

24/7 Domestic violence hotline
CALL: 919.929.7122

Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness

Mon-Fri 10a-4p
CALL: 919.245.2655 or EMAIL: housinghelp@orangecountync.gov
Voicemails and emails returned during office hours

Orange County Department of Social Services

Physical locations in Chapel Hill and Hillsborough
Mon-Fri 8a-5p
CALL: 919.245.2800

SERVICES OFFERED AT IFC

IFC Community Kitchen

Free hot nutritious meals 365 days/year
Mon-Fri 11:15a-12:30p and 6:15-7p
Sat 11:15a-12:30p
Sun 12:15-1:30p
110 W. Main Street in Carrboro
J Bus Line

IFC Community Market

Fresh food, pantry staples, and hygiene items
Mon-Fri by appointment
CALL: 919.929.6380 x2000
110 W. Main Street in Carrboro
J Bus Line

Emergency Financial Assistance at IFC

Mon-Fri by appointment
CALL: 919.929.6380 x2024
110 W. Main Street in Carrboro
J Bus Line

Holidays are for Sharing

A gift of **\$30** provides a full holiday meal with all the fixin's for a local family this year.



Please visit: bit.ly/donatetoIFC
Select 'Holiday Meals'

THANK YOU for Sharing 10%!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9



[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) #RSVVPforIFC

Thanks to everyone who signed up, ate, drank, cooked, served, and more to support our community. And remember to visit RSVVP-participating restaurants all year long!

A final list of participants can be found on our website: ifcweb.org/events.

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.

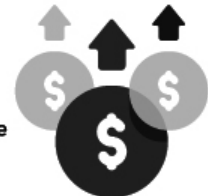


DONOR-ADVISED FUND

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



OUR WISH LISTS

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

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

IFC WELCOMES LOCAL LEADERS TO THE Board of Directors

In October this year, IFC welcomed eight new board members. IFC's diverse board is made up of community members with backgrounds in advocacy, lived experience, law, medicine, finance, religion, education, and fundraising working on a common goal of confronting poverty, building community, and promoting racial equity and social justice. They are change agents who bring communities together to create understanding, build strength, remove barriers, and generally make things happen. Please chat them up when you see them around town!



Christine Abernathy
Member since 2021



Cameron Barr
Member since 2018



Susan Berendzen
Member since 2017
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
CO-CHAIR



Tom Bond
Member since 2018
AUDIT COMMITTEE
CHAIR



Ronald Carnes
Member since 2018



Donna Carrington
Member since 2021



Angel Davalos
Member since 2021



Molly De Marco,
Past Chair
Member since 2016



Wendi Goods Everson
Member since 2021



Tom Fenn
Member since 2021



Michelle Hamilton
Member since 2019



Mariela Hernandez
Member since 2021



Vicky Kim, Chair
Member since 2018
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
CHAIR



Susan Laidlaw, Vice Chair
Member since 2018
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
CO-CHAIR



Jay Miller, Treasurer
Member since 2019
FINANCE COMMITTEE
CHAIR



Amy Rix,
Secretary
Member since 2016



Will Rose
Member since 2017



Jan Lee Santos
Member since 2021



Sharon Van Horn
Member since 2016



Dow Williamson
Member since 2021