

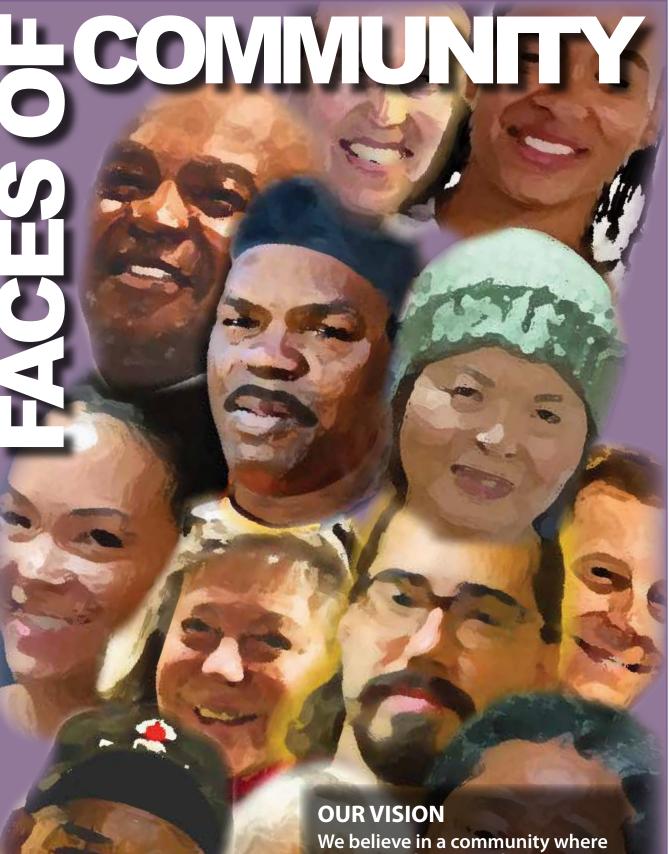
### INTER-FAITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

Fall 2018 | Volume 39, Number 2

# About IFC

In 1963, a group of seven local women united their volunteer efforts to address the conditions of poverty in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. More than five decades later, the Inter-Faith Council continues its mission to confront the causes and respond to the effects of poverty in our community.

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



We believe in a community where everyone's basic needs are met, including dignified and affordable housing, an abundance of healthy food, and meaningful social connection.

### Inter-Faith Council for Social Service

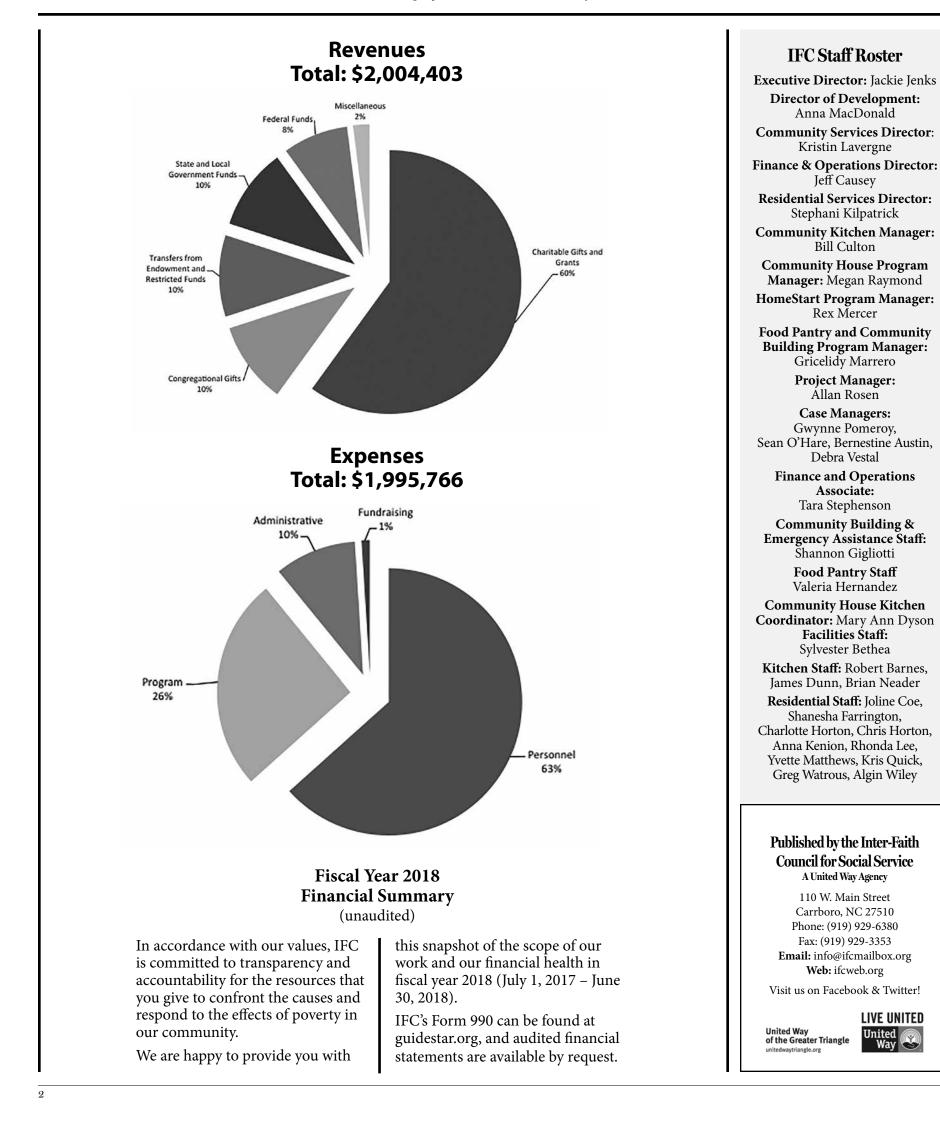
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# **This Edition** Jackie Jenks, Executive Director



In the following pages, you'll read about the impact and connections that you make possible through IFC's 3 program areas: Community Building, Residential Services and Community Services. You - all 6,000 of you donors, members, residents and volunteers - are impressive and inspirational, because you take the opportunity to care well for each other. Thank you. If you're able, please consider making a donation this year end, so we can continue this good work together.

# **Community Building**

#### Anthony Sharp **Reshaping** Perspectives

On September 8, 2018, IFC and the community lost a good friend and community builder in Anthony Sharp. Known to many as Dad, Friend, Artist, Coach, Advocate, he left behind a legacy of love, community building and grace under pressure.

In 2013 after 19 years of coaching football, after years of having a full-time

management job, he found himself unexpectedly laid-off. He lost his home, his car, his security. His son, JR (Anthony Jr.), offered for his dad to live with him, but instead Anthony moved into IFC men's shelter. JR remembers, "My father never wanted to be a burden to anyone. At times I thought it was just his stubborn nature. Then I realized that he was just such a determined man. There were many times he just had to see things through because he believed there was always a blessing in disguise waiting after the hardship, he wanted to find the good in all the very difficult situations."

At the shelter and working with CEF, Anthony stayed true to form, turning challenges into blessings. He took every class CEF had to offer (and years later continued to attend them just to support others). His advocate at CEF said that although Anthony's plans were full of the details of academics, finances and employment every plan included service to others.

Anthony worked multiple jobs and met each of his goals; throughout the process and until the day he died he participated fully in IFC and CEF programs and events, he listened and shared his story. He mentored,

he encouraged, he was never judgmental. As those he supported and advocated for describe him, "He was the role model, he took the ugly and changed it, he was approachable, he didn't just talk, he was all about the change and WAS the change, his influence was far-reaching, he inspired through humor, kindness and giving. He always repeated, "Never give up. Never quit. Keep on pushing." But he would also ask, "Do you need me to cry with you?"

A few days before he died, Maggie West (former CEF Co-Director) saw Anthony at a CEF rehearsal of a musical they were going to perform. His large presence filled the room, arms overhead in perfect ballet position as he pirouetted across the room. She smiles when she shares that story and when she shares that Anthony often kept her going. "Anthony had such a quick, ready smile - alongside a sincerity and shyness. I think of his enthusiasm, his cheerleading for everyone around him - definitely for all of us at CEF, Members and Advocates alike, but for so many others too. I think of Anthony as a person who had a fountain of gifts to share, and who made a point of sharing them - who took such joy in being of service to others, and who was constantly coming up with new and evermore beautiful ways to support his community."

IFC was important to Anthony and Anthony was important to IFC. JR speaks of it this way, " I clearly remember him speaking to me about how much of an impact IFC made on his life. They taught him community, trust, hope, love, and respect. I honestly think that serving on the IFC board was one of his greatest accomplishments. He was very proud of going from homelessness to having his own place, and he wanted to teach others the meaning of hope through being an example to others. He was a man of true sacrifice, thinking of others before himself, fearless in his leadership, leading by example, always 'leading from the front.' I saw his impact on the community when I was very young and saw him coaching, it was only later in my life that I realized he had that same kind of impact on members of the

community in general. In my last conversation with him he talked about being involved in the community, but I never knew how much he was doing and how great his impact."

Shortly before Anthony's death, IFC was in the midst of Good Neighbor conversations with Community House neighbors about homelessness. Kathleen Herr remembers his impact at the last meeting he attended. He had listened to what the neighbors had shared about their truth and their understanding of homelessness. Then he stood up, "My name is Anthony Sharp and this is my story..." When he was finished, Kathleen says, "the people in the room saw things differently, it changed the room." She speaks of his importance to IFC's Board, "Anthony was skilled at deep listening and thoughtful speaking. One of Anthony's gifts to the Board was that he was willing to disagree with a majority perspective. Always gracious, his honesty helped enrich the Board's conversation and decision making. Anthony's decisions to speak

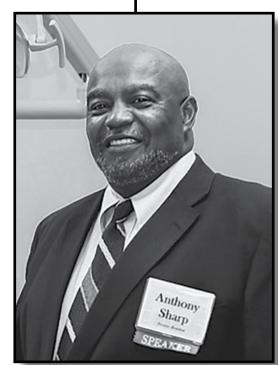
publicly about the path of his life have planted seeds of change in our community by reshaping the perspectives about homelessness initially held by some members in the community."

For those of us left behind, perhaps we can best thank Anthony by carrying his torch, working to build and shape a better community. We can listen fully, think deeply, live our commitment. We can learn from Anthony's own words: "It has just been a great life change for me, and I want to give thanks to a lot of people, and my community most of all for showing me a different way to live. It's just great to be able to give back to this cause in Chapel Hill of ending homelessness... For me, I found out I was smarter than I thought I was... I found out how to live again. As a term I have heard a lot from others, I've turned out to be who I was really supposed to be."

# In Memoriam

Jose Atilano Alvarez Billy E. Barnes, Sr. Shelton Burnette **Maggie Farrington** Tim Holleman

Avon Lassiter Anthony Lener **Kurt Schuepback** Anthony Sharp Mark Stiles



Anthony Sharp Community House opening

# **Residential Services**

### **Permanent Supportive Housing** Partner Spotlight: Carolina Spring Apartments



LaToya Jones Community Manager



IFC recruits and works with private landlords and management companies to house Orange County's most vulnerable and otherwise chronically homeless residents. One case manager provides rental assistance for units located across the County. She also is available to troubleshoot issues and ensure that residents are connected to resources and referrals that stabilize them.

Carolina Spring, a senior housing apartment complex for residents "age 55 or better," has been a key partner since IFC added PSH to its continuum of residential services two years ago. Thank you, Carolina Spring, for working with IFC to change lives!

LaToya Jones, Community Manager at Carolina Spring, is a firm believer in PSH, because she has seen the life-changing difference this best-practice model makes for people who formerly lived outside and didn't have a support network.

### HomeStart A Lotta Love at HomeStart by Cheryl Peterson

The women and families at HomeStart benefit from a special relationship with A Lotta Love, which began at HomeStart and transforms shelters by creating dignified, safe and emotionally inspiring spaces. During each woman or family's stay, IFC provides individualized case management to support their ability to find and maintain housing.

I met the founder of A Lotta Love, Lotta Sjoelin, through our neighborhood garden club. I first became aware

of her efforts at HomeStart when she started an online "Donate a Room" campaign due to the fact that the women's shelter was so under-supported. I donated the money for a room, but it was not enough. I wanted to become more hands on. I joined Lotta visiting the shelter where she was doing a makeover and became very involved with HomeStart in Chapel Hill, eventually becoming Project Manager.

At HomeStart, I am in charge of coordinating efforts to makeover the inside (bed and HomeStar bathrooms, living rooms, teen room, dining rooms, tranquility room) and the outside (vegetable garden, landscaping and play yards). This involves many responsibilities including painting the walls, putting up curtain rods, buying new bedding furniture, curtains, rugs, towels, wall decorations, accessories, hanging pictures, putting up towel bars, and coordinating volunteers. Sometimes I work with a team of volunteers to completely redo a space. Cort Boylan is another key volunteer at Home Start. He also comes weekly and handles more mechanically oriented projects. Cort is the "go-to" guy for things I can't handle. When volunteers are not available, I work alone.

I try to visit HomeStart every Wednesday to do room checks. The residents are out of their rooms and I check the status of their



HomeStart staff thank volunteers at appreciation picnic



Stephani Kilpatrick, Lotta Sjoelin, Cheryl Peterson

Q: What difference do you see PSH making for our shared residents?

A: This program literally gives participants a second chance and a fresh start. Any concerns that a resident may have are addressed and resolved quickly. If there is a financial issue, the program steps in immediately to stop the psychological triggers of losing their housing. This security helps residents develop a sense of responsibility and community.

We saw such an amazing change in our first resident from application to renewal, that it also created a great working relationship among our staff and we wanted to grow our relationship with IFC.

Q: What should IFC donors know about Permanent Supportive Housing?

A: With continued support of PSH staff, residents find it easier to transition to being housed in a judgment-free environment. The role of my staff and I is to serve our residents with dignity, kindness and respect. Our current PSH residents are truly valued in our community. They are indeed humbled to pick up from where life has dropped them off and re-enter society as a better version of themselves. That alone is a reason to keep supporting IFC PSH.

conditions. Sometimes I find broken toilet paper holders, cracked mirrors, bent towel bars, or dead light bulbs. I fix or replace what I can. This is not glamorous work, but necessary to maintain a semblance of order and care for the residents. Two years ago my husband gave me a brand new tool box, complete with power drill/driver, sander, extension cord, and more than all the basic tools to enable me to do my work at HomeStart. One of the best Christmas presents ever! At this point all of the bedrooms, living room/dining room and hallway areas have been freshly painted and decorated. As the residents come and go, we refresh the rooms continually to keep them clean and bright.

Being retired and involved with HomeStart gives me the opportunity to give back. Along with the elderly and infirm, women and children are among our most vulnerable citizens. It is frustrating to me that women

and children experiencing homelessness have to make due with outdated structures that have many maintenance needs. Before A Lotta Love got involved, HomeStart's three buildings did not even have gutters! HomeStart was a gray facility with iron beds that looked like a prison. Bettering the environment of this shelter is a powerful motivator to keep me working at HomeStart.

I see my work with A Lotta Love and HomeStart as trying to create an environment to help women and families succeed. You can't imagine the joy that a clean, freshly painted and decorated room

brings to these women and children. One resident who had seen a 3-D wall sculpture that said "LOVE" in another room shyly approached me asking if she could have one, too. I explained

that a lot of our decorations were donated or bought on sale and that I did not know if I could find an exact duplicate. I went out that weekend to all our local stores and after several hours located the exact piece. The next week I brought the sign to her. Her eyes welled up with tears as she told me, "No one ever did something special like that for me before." I welled up, too, as we gave each other a hug. It is moments like these that keep me plugging away to make things better for HomeStart residents.

I am hoping in the coming year to involve more of our community in investing in and helping out at HomeStart. Everyone who has ever volunteered has found the experience rewarding and engaging. We are extremely grateful to those who have donated furnishings, money and their time and effort. You are making life better.

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# **Residential Services**

### **Community House**

#### YMCA Youth Leaders Serve and Learn at Community House

Steven,\* a Community House resident, took a look at the dinner spread on Monday night - spaghetti with homemade sauce, corn, green salad, bread and dessert – and made a quick decision.

"Corn, salad, and how about a piece of that garlic bread to sop up this sauce?" he said, before he added with a grin, "No dessert for me – that's fattening."

Eleanor Steiner and Cathy Charles, high school sophomores and first-time volunteers through the Chapel Hill – Carrboro YMCA Leaders Program, dished up his plate to order and invited him to enjoy the meal. By the end of dinner, Gabriel Valera, a senior at East Chapel Hill, had fielded more interest in the chocolate cake than the vanilla cupcakes.

Every Monday night during the school year, three or four Y Leaders help prepare and serve dinner to IFC residents. It's one of the few off-site volunteer opportunities through the program, which several hundred middle and high school students participate in each year. "I heard that volunteering here was fun, and the spots always fill up very fast. I signed up as soon as I could," Valera said.

Jory Weintraub, a 20-year IFC volunteer at Community Kitchen and Community House, orients the students and guides them through every dinner service. Tasks involved making the garlic bread, setting up and breaking down the serving line, and making take-away plates for residents who would arrive from work after the dinner hour.

In addition to offering safe shelter and personalized case management, your support of Community House also provides opportunities for community members to work alongside shelter residents and for young volunteers to develop leadership skills and a commitment to community service. It is a winwin for all involved.

"We've gotten great feedback from the Community House staff, as well as the guys who live there," Jory said, "Most importantly, the Leaders have told me how much it means to them to be able to help out

at the IFC, how it has made them view homelessness differently, and how it has made them feel committed to doing more in the future with people experiencing homelessness."

A biologist at Duke, Jory started cooking at the Community House as a post-doctoral student. He'd bring along his two kids, who both also participated in the Leaders program, because he wanted to instill in them the importance of giving back. When his younger child left for college a few years ago, Jory saw continued need at IFC. He connected the Chapel Hill -Carrboro YMCA to Community House several years ago and has been actively involved ever since. His efforts, along with those of the Leaders are much appreciated.

"I look forward to the days the Leaders come with Jory. They are awesome – so pleasant and willing to learn," said Mary Ann Dyson, Kitchen Coordinator. "They do whatever is needed, and there have been many days where I couldn't have gotten dinner served in a timely manner without them. I wish they came every day."

> On this particular night after Jory showed Eleanor, Cathy and Gabriel how to clean up, they all walked to the elevator as a chorus of thank yous from the residents followed them.

All three said they enjoyed the experience and would be back to volunteer again.

Our leaders have a chance to serve others who truly benefit from our time and energy. They have a chance to meet and see that they aren't strangers, but people just like them. It humbles us all.

Ben Pruitt YMCA Regional Teen Director

\* Name changed to honor Community House resident's privacy.

#### Current Volunteer Need

IFC needs more volunteers like the Y Leaders to help at Community House with meal preparation and dinner service. If you or a group are interested in contributing this way, please visit www. ifcweb.org/volunteer to download and fill out an application.

#### Residential Services Fiscal year 2018 results

• Community House and HomeStart provided 32,037 nights of safe shelter to 186 adults and 35 children.

• An additional 927 nights of emergency shelter were provided to guests during inclement weather.

• Permanent Supportive Housing provided 12 residents with rental subsidies and wrap-around case management.



Volunteers from the YMCA Leaders Program



# **Community Services**

# **Community Kitchen**

A Common Table: 40 Years of Food and Fellowship

The Community Kitchen first started in the late 1970s as a project of First Baptist Church and under the leadership of Mildred Berkeley and Rev. J.R. Manley. It merged with and became a formal program of IFC in 1982, at which time it moved to the Masonic Lodge. During that first year, IFC served almost 10,000 meals, thanks to about 100 volunteers who worked together to offer lunch every weekday.

The Kitchen moved to its current location on the corner of Rosemary and then-Airport Boulevard in 1990, after a three-year stint on Merritt Mill Road. Upon the completion of the FoodFirst Capital Campaign and construction, Community Kitchen will finally be relocated to downtown Carrboro in the same building as IFC's Food Pantry.

For the entirety of its 40-year history, donors like you have made it possible for the Kitchen to provide space for this community's residents and workers to get to know each other, build relationships at a shared table, and make sure that everyone has enough to eat.

True to its original vision, although on a larger scale, almost 50 volunteer groups work with dedicated individuals to pick up, sort, and prepare donated food in support of serving lunch every day of the week and dinner on weekdays. IFC supports this community commitment with one full-time Kitchen Manager and three part-time staff. Approximately 100 residents and workers eat lunch every day, and 50-75 eat dinner. Anybody who is hungry is welcome. We are proud to report to you that during Florence and its aftermath, and thanks to our intrepid staff and volunteers, the Kitchen opened every day for at least one meal service.

Mark Peifer is one of many dedicated and long-standing volunteers. He shares here why this program matters to him and the Community.

I first became engaged with IFC's Community Kitchen through my church, University Presbyterian, which is a strong supporter of IFC's mission. About 15 years ago, I began volunteering weekly, taking time out of my life as a UNC Professor to spend part of each Friday morning making lunch at the Community Kitchen. This is one of the high points of my week. Both of my daughters, now college age, have also volunteered there.

James and other IFC employees make sure we have the things we need. I particularly note the efforts of the Kitchen Manager Bill Culton, who combines his skills as a chef with his talents at managing a different team each meal.

The other volunteers and members make it a fun and welcoming place to work. Two



Mark Peifer

Fridays a month, I work with Chapel Hill Bible Church, one week with the St. Thomas More Catholic Church and the last with a small new congregation, The Gathering Church. My own church manages lunch and dinner the third Thursday of each month. It has been a joy to get to know groups from five different churches, and see the passion and compassion of each of them for the mission. We do a lot of laughing and talking as salads, dessert, veggies and main courses get prepared.

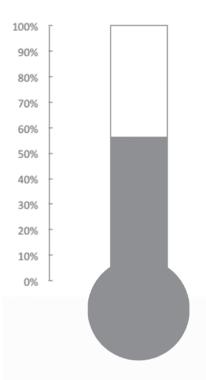
Personally, my time at the IFC each Friday is fun and rewarding. I started volunteering there when Community House was located in the same building, so I have also been impressed by learning the stories of Community House graduates, who have moved from homelessness to productive lives.

In a community as blessed as ours, no one should lack food or housing. IFC works to ensure the vulnerable in our community have access to these basic needs, and I invite you to be a part of and support this work however you can. If you want to meet me at the Kitchen one Friday, give Bill a call!



### Your chance to be part of IFC history... FoodFirst Campaign is public!

IFC needs to aise \$5.3 million to transform our current Carrboro property into a three-story community food hub by summer 2020. More than \$3 million has already been committed by your neighbors and peers to increase impact in our community.



#### Help Us Build Dignity through Food and Community

- Community Kitchen volunteers will be able to serve 1,000 more meals each month,
- A member-choice Food Pantry will stock 25% more fresh food, and
- Members can leave with resources and referrals to stay healthy and housed.

To see the latest and make a special gift in support of this effort visit:

www.ifcweb.org/foodfirst

# **Community Services**

# **Food Pantry**

#### More than Groceries

On any given day, the Food Pantry is bustling. Volunteers and members – some new, some veteran – are in and out. Through one door, carts leave the building full with a week's worth of groceries and return ready to re-fill. Walk in the other door and you'd see the pile of food donations grow and shrink throughout the day, the stock on the shelves constantly rotating through.

Volunteers check in with members to see if there are other resources – utility assistance, essential medication purchase, transportation or clothing vouchers, referrals – that would alleviate the constant stress of poverty. You'll witness laughter, tears, gratitude, anxiety – a full

### Community Services Fiscal year 2018 results

• The Food Pantry distributed 13,277 bags of groceries to member households.

• The Community Kitchen supported service of 61,599 hot, nutritious meals, including 29,054 through Community House and HomeStart.

• Families received 820 holiday dinners in November and December.

• Staff and volunteers distributed \$124,050 in emergency financial assistance to 628 households to meet crisis-level needs. range of emotions, often just in one conversation. There's a lot of catching up, because people know each other and take time to connect.

"IFC helps me in my daily life, with nutrition, with my utility bills when I was in need. They help me with navigating who

to get in touch with when I need assistance to get back into productive society," Benjamin, a Pantry member, said. "Most of all they help you when you are not in your best mood and you think you don't have anywhere

to go. When I see these doors open, I have a big smile on my face because I know IFC staff will talk to me and help me with solutions."

Your support provides more than groceries and connection to resources. It creates a hospitable space, where everyone is welcomed regardless of the current stress they have in life.

#### **Holiday Meals**

The Pantry is extra busy two days a year, once in November and once in December during holiday meal distribution. Members who have visited in the previous year are eligible to request a full meal with all the fixings. IFC depends on donors like you to ensure

there is enough turkey, collards and

sweet potatoes to go around. Again, members leave with more than groceries. Sharon has worked long hours with a home health agency for many years,

bringing home \$1,200 a month. She and her teenage son live in subsidized housing. Sharon is very clear that she only comes to IFC when she really needs to, because she likes to take care of things on her own. When she picked her up holiday meal, she shared what your extra support really means to her, "It allows me to make the holidays everything I want them to be."

Sometimes, our members even bring in gifts of their own. Joanne works third shift at UNC Hospitals, which allows her to spend time with her teenage daughter and granddaughter. She earns \$1,800 a month and visits IFC a few times a year to get food from the Pantry. When she picked up her family's holiday meal, she brought flowers from her garden. She said she "wanted to make IFC's holidays special, because IFC has made them special for my family the last few years."

IFC is committed to creating hospitable space and making time for everyone who walks through our doors. Thank you for making it a space that also has the resources to meet people's needs.



# Holidays are for sharing.

You can share a full meal with a local family for \$25. Help fill 750+ tables with holiday cheer *and* all the fixin's.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email

I'll share with: □ 20 families (\$500) □ 2 families (\$50)

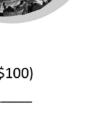
) □ 10 families (\$250) □ 1 family (\$25)

4 families (\$100)
Other: \$

Mail this coupon with your gift to IFC at 110 W. Main St. Carrboro, NC 27510 Give online at <u>www.ifcweb.org/contribute</u>, or

Thank you for your generosity.

<sup>ouncil</sup> Call Tara Stephenson at 919-929-6380 ext 26 to give over the phone.





# Ways to Give

IFC's annual budget is \$2.1 million, with more than 80 percent coming from individuals, congregations, family foundations, and local businesses.Your collective generosity enables IFC to confront the causes and respond to the effects of poverty in our community. Thank you.

Please call Anna MacDonald, Director of Development, at 919-929-6380 x15 with questions or for help. IFC is a Guidestar Gold Exchange Participant. Donations are tax deductible. Our EIN is 59-1224041.

### **Financial Gifts to IFC**

#### **One-time gifts**

will be used where needed most, unless otherwise designated.

- You may mail a gift in the included envelope or submit a donation online at www.ifcweb.org
- Designate a gift to IFC through a Donor-Advised Fund.
- If you are 70 ½ or older, designate your IRA Required Minimum Distribution directly to IFC.

#### **Planned Gifts**

Have you considered a gift through your estate? Your gift of a bequest by will, life insurance policy or charitable lead or remainder trust extends your commitment to this community's residents and workers into the future.

#### Workplace Giving

Designate IFC to receive a gift through either the State Employees Combined Campaign #1475-029 or United Way of the Greater Triangle #540.

#### Utility Assistance for Low-Income Households

IFC pays utility bills on behalf of low-income families using contributions from Utility customers.

#### **OWASA Care to Share Program**

Round up your next bill to the nearest dollar or select any whole dollar amount as a donation so your neighbors have water.

#### Duke Energy Foundation Share the Warmth

Complete a "Customer Contribution" form or add a donation while paying your bill online.

#### Gifts in-kind

#### Food, Clothing and Household Goods

Check our website for an updated list of needs at each IFC site and relevant contact information: www.ifcweb.org/needs.

#### Vehicles

IFC accepts car donations through CARS. Call 877-537-5277 for more information.

## **Stewards Fund Challenge Grant**

The Stewards Fund has issued a \$79,420 matching grant, which must be met before December 31, 2018.

If you are a new donor to IFC or last gave before June 30, 2017, your entire donation will be matched. If your total donations this year exceed your 2017 gifts, the Stewards Fund will double the difference.

Thank you for partnering with IFC and the Stewards Fund to confront the causes and respond to the effects of poverty in our community.

# CALENDAR

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018

Annual Meeting Orange United Methodist Church

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

All Day 30th annual RSVVP for IFC Dine out at participating restaurants that donate 10 percent to make sure nobody goes hungry. See a list at www.ifcweb.org/rsvvp

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2018

JON SHAIN AND SIX STRINGS PRESENT THEIR ANNUAL PRE-TURKEY DAY JAM, benefiting IFC. Musicians include: Jon Shain, FJ Ventre, Laurelyn Dossett, Sam Frazier, Peter Holsapple, Karyn Oliver, Leah Kaufman, Isabel Taylor, and Barry Gray. 8 p.m. at Cary Theater

#### MARCH 24, 2019

34th Annual CROP Hunger Walk, Carrboro Town Commons









Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

