



INTER-FAITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

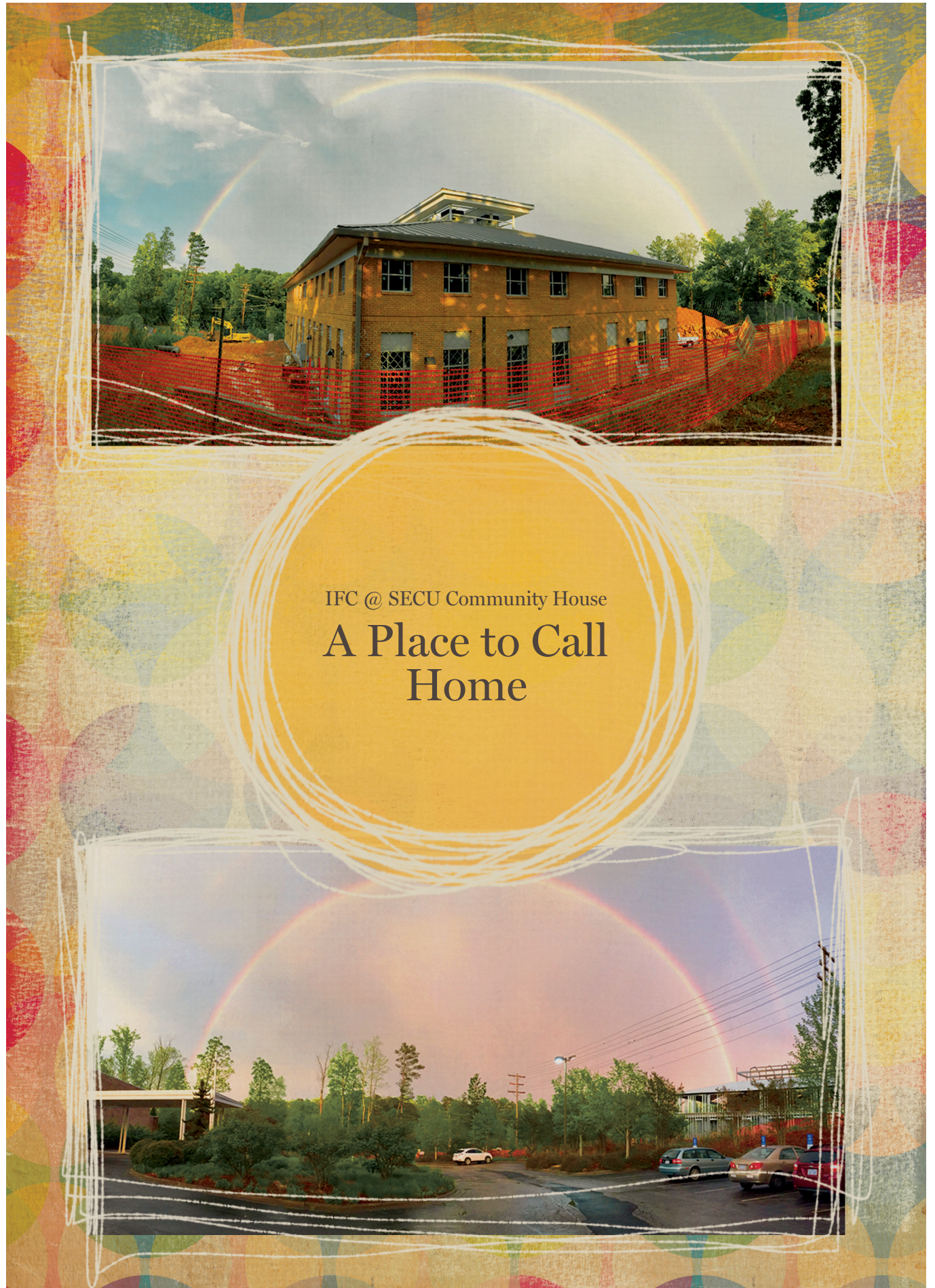
Fall 2015 | Volume 36, Number 2

## About the IFC

In 1963, a group of seven local women united their volunteer efforts to address the conditions of poverty in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. The Inter-Faith Council was created, “to discover unmet needs and to respond through the coordinated efforts of volunteers.”

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



Photos Courtesy of Cely Chicurel



## IFC Fiscal Year 2010-2015

- Bags of Food Distributed – 100,699
- Meals Served – 495,685
- Holiday Meals – 5,429
- Bed Nights for Men – 104,318
- Bed nights for Women and Children – 83,504
- Distributed by Crisis Unit – \$936,422
- Medical Clinic Patients Seen – 1,934
- Mental Health Patients Seen – 1,328
- Prescriptions Filled – 3,327
- Job Coach Visits – 1,568
- Volunteer Hours – 254,434

## Fiscal Year 2015 Fund-Raising Benefit Results

- Dean T-Shirt Proceeds from Thrill City = \$21,500
- Bread & Butter Screenprinting = \$2,434
- Mother's Day for HomeStart = \$4,078
- Crop Hunger Walk, Total to Church World Service = \$45,800
- RSVVP = \$26,004

## Published by the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service

A United Way Agency  
110 W. Main Street Carrboro, NC 27510  
Phone: (919) 929-6380  
Fax: (919) 929-3353

**VOLUNTEER INFORMATION:**  
(919) 929-6380 ext. 30

**EMAIL:** info@ifcmailbox.org

**WEBSITE:** ifcweb.org

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter  
or visit ifcweb.org to keep informed  
about IFC news and events!

**Editor:** Lucie Branham

**Design:** Laura Williams

**Contributing Writers:** Drew Coleman,  
Michael Wood, Julius Alston, Michael Alston,  
Michael Reinke, Elizabeth Garfunkel,  
John Dorward, Lucie Branham, Shipley Jenkins  
**Photographers:** Leslie Parrish Garner,  
Jack Benjamin, Jackie Helvey, Cely Chicurel.

Laura Williams

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United Way  
of the Greater Triangle  
unitedwaytriangle.org



## INTER-FAITH COUNCIL SERVICES

### IFC @ SECU Community House: Interim Housing for Homeless Men

1315 Martin Luther King Blvd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Phone: 919-967-0643

IFC @ SECU Community House is a community of residents, staff, and volunteers working cooperatively. The Community House interim housing program is a three-stage program designed to assist homeless men transitioning from homelessness to living independently in the community. Community House residents begin at the Learning Stage, progress to the Demonstrating Stage, and end at the Leading Stage. Responsibilities and privileges increase with progression to each stage. Men move through the stages based on compliance with program requirements, successful work on goals, and input from volunteers, staff and resident leadership. Residents who graduate from the program are encouraged to volunteer with the program to share their strategies for success with current residents. Community House offers medical, dental and mental health treatment; social worker support; job coaching; and referrals to community agencies, as well as referrals for substance abuse education and counseling. The new Community House will serve breakfast and dinner only for residents who live there.

**Importance of IFC volunteers to these services:** Volunteers currently work as job coaches, as social workers who provide case management, in data entry, doing mental health evaluations, as administrative assistants, as receptionists, for Orange Literacy doing writing workshops and adult literacy tutoring and in special projects.

### HOMESTART: Residential Facility for Homeless Women and Children

2505 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Phone: 919-932-6025

HomeStart provides 24-hour emergency and longer-term housing and services to homeless women and children. HomeStart's mission is to provide "a safe, structured home for homeless women and children, helping them

to access community resources and offering everyone on-going support to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness."

**Importance of IFC volunteers to these services:** Volunteers at HomeStart do maintenance, act as receptionists and provide clerical assistance, do mental health intakes, processing belongings and stocking bedrooms for new residents, receive, process, organize and store donations as well as purchase and prepare meals, are kitchen assistants and evening floaters, are part of recreation groups, work in the garden, and as part of Orange Literacy doing writing workshops.

### FOODFIRST: Community Kitchen

100 W. Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Phone: 919-967-8019

The Community Kitchen serves two hot meals a day, 365 days a year, free of charge for anyone who is hungry and provides about 80,000 meals to hungry persons every year. Nearly all of the food is donated and volunteers/volunteer groups prepare and serve meals, clean up afterwards, and help pick up, receive, sort and store food donations.

**Importance of IFC volunteers to these services:** Volunteer cooking groups prepare Community Kitchen meals, and are food pick-up drivers and food unloaders.

### FOODFIRST: Food Pantry

110 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510

Phone: 919-929-6380

The Food Pantry provides around 1,300 bags of groceries to those in need every month. Households in Chapel Hill or Carrboro, or in which an adult works in those communities, may become members of the Pantry and receive groceries once a month.

**Importance of IFC volunteers to these services:** Volunteers give, pick-up, unload and organize food as well as stock shelves. Volunteers act as receptionists.

### CRISIS INTERVENTION: Homelessness Prevention and Meeting Basic Needs

110 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510

Phone: 919-929-6380

The Crisis Intervention program serves anyone who lives or works in Chapel Hill or Carrboro and is

facing economic uncertainty, illness or hardship by providing food, clothing, rent, utility assistance, transportation, information and referrals.

### ROBERT NIXON FREE CLINIC Operated by Piedmont Health Services, sponsored by UNC Health Care

IFC @ SECU Community House

1315 Martin Luther King Blvd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Since 1989, volunteer medical professionals have provided medical and mental health services to Community House and HomeStart residents at the Robert Nixon Free Clinic for the Homeless. With the opening of the new IFC @ SECU Community House, Piedmont Health Services is providing medical and dental services at no cost to the residents of both shelters. The pharmacy at Carrboro Community Health Center is filling prescriptions written by clinic providers. The clinic operates on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4:00-9:00 and is staffed by PHS employees. There are 3 exam rooms in the medical clinic and 2 dental chairs. Lab work and immunizations are provided.

**Importance of IFC volunteers to these services:** Mental health services are provided by volunteers including: mental health assessments done by a volunteer psychologist.

### SUPPORT CIRCLES

Provide support to individuals and families who are experiencing – or at risk of – homelessness and who are transitioning into permanent housing.

**Importance of IFC volunteers to these services:** From moving to transportation, goal setting to problem solving, Teams provide Partners assistance with: material, practical, financial and relational support.

**Volunteers Needed:** Currently IFC is looking for volunteer food pick-up drivers, and unloaders for the Community Kitchen. If you are interested please contact Karen Carr, IFC Volunteer Coordinator, at 919-929-6380, ext 30 or through email at: Volunteer@ifcmailbox.org

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## A Letter from Michael Reinke, Executive Director

I am honored to have been given the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of John Dorward, and all of the exceptional individuals who have shaped and supported the Inter-Faith Council over the past 52 years. As this my first contribution to the bi-annual newsletter, I thought I would take a moment to share something of my life and perspective.

While I was born in Boston, I was raised in a town so small, we needed to travel 45 minutes by bus to go to the high school one town over. My parents were slightly older than the Baby Boom generation and witnessing the marches on the streets in the late sixties and early seventies, they made a conscious decision to help those they could reach with their own two hands. Part of this commitment was realized in the adoption of my four brothers and sisters and part was seen in the welcoming onto our farm, people who had no place else to go such as David, recently released from prison, or Hubert, who had a hard time staying sober.

It was only after going to seminary that I was able to put words to this action. My parents legacy is perhaps best described in Martin Buber's classic text "I and Thou." In this book, first translated to English in 1937, Professor Buber described two kinds of relationships, the relationship of I and Thou (or I and You) and the relationship of I and It. Unfortunately, the I and It, where "It" is an object is present too often and in too many of our daily lives. Do I see the used car salesman, the fast food worker, the Verizon call center worker, or the homeless person on the street as person or as an object? I grew up in a family which focused on the person.

As I went away to college and later to seminary, I began to understand what this legacy meant for me. When I was talking with Stephen who lived barefoot on the subway or Monique who lived and sold art from a construction dolly on the streets of New York, each was a friend, a colleague, and a companion.

This was "I and Thou."

When you visit my office, you will still see a piece of Monique's art work on the wall. For me, the Inter-Faith Council is the place where "I" meets "Thou."

Every day, every week, and all throughout the year, individuals from all walks of life find each other, exploring their common connections though they may be from radically different starting points. Over the past three weeks, I have had the opportunity to witness impressive work in all of our programs. In the coming weeks, months, and years, I know that I will continue to be impressed by the work we do. I know the stories we hear will often leave me at a loss. More than anything else, I will be amazed at the moment when people come together; to find a job, a place to stay, or to share a meal. In that moment, regardless of our backgrounds, we approach each other as I . . . and . . . you. This is the reason why I am so honored to be here today.



### About Michael

Michael Reinke lives in Durham, North Carolina and has been working with organizations addressing the issue of poverty in America for the past 28 years. As a young man, he worked in a homeless shelter in Massachusetts and did street outreach in New York City. He has had the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director of the Holy Trinity Neighborhood Center in New York City; Shelter, Inc. in southern Indiana, the United Way of Monroe County, Indiana; the Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues. Whether developing a day/resource center for homeless and low-income individuals or supporting the State of Indiana's efforts to fund affordable housing, he is most proud of work which required different communities and interest groups to come together to make success possible. He most recently served as the Director of Development for the Sanford School of Public Policy which has raised more than \$50,000,000 as part of Duke University's Duke Forward Campaign. Michael Reinke is a graduate from Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts, Union Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity, and Western Washington University with a Masters in Business Administration. He has two daughters and is married to Lauren Winner.

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### "It's All Good"

*A Thank You to John Dorward, Retired IFC Executive Director*

On Sunday, August 23, 2015, 150 people gathered at Rock Quarry Farm to celebrate John and his contributions to IFC and our community. The theme of "It's All Good" was a tribute to John, his choice of words but most importantly what those words meant and how they drove his actions.

Mary Beth Koza - current IFC Board President, Keith Taylor, Raney and Wesley Norwood, Frances Jackson, Glen Easter, Carol and Coleman Ross and the Lovely Pat Dorward all spoke to the good of John and to his many contributions.

When John at last got the "final word" he talked about the last few years, what had been accomplished and closed with these words, "There is simply no way that I could have accomplished all the work we got done over the last couple of years without a great partner on the Board of Directors. That person was Rebecca McCulloh, our past Board President, who was the best President I ever worked with during my 35 year career. I cannot begin to thank her enough for her faith, encouragement, advice and humor during what turned out to be the hardest few years of my working life."

Rebecca McCulloh sums it up this way, "John Dorward is the best executive director a chair of the Board of Directors could ever have -- in this world or the next. In the best of all worlds, a not for profit is led by a partnership of Board and Executive Director. John "calls 'em how he sees 'em" and is always willing to give his opinion, and equally willing to listen to another opinion. His willingness to negotiate and look at things from different perspectives has resulted in some great decisions for IFC. John and I always joked that we did not have deep thoughts, and I think that is really true. What we did share was a willingness to make pragmatic and often difficult decisions, and to take responsibility for those choices. As we often said "sometimes you just have to do the right thing". John was the right leader for IFC during a difficult time in the history of the agency. Twenty-four months ago he took charge, completed the capital campaign, and let the agency into the future with strength and grace. He will be missed."

*Thank you John. "It's all good."*



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# How Firm the Foundation: Rhyolite

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In life it often doesn't matter about the best-laid plans, sometimes they end up blown or chipped away, what matters is how firm the foundation is that supports us. For some that support is non-existent, for some it is minimal and for some it is enough or all-encompassing. The strength of the foundation and the strength of our support systems most often get us through life. When IFC @ SECU Community House was being planned and budgeted for, it was in the light of supporting our neighbors and providing that support in a debt-free facility that was full of light, and possibility. The foundation of the services like the foundation of the building needed to be solid and enduring. No one could know that what we strove for as a community metaphorically and pragmatically, would literally also be true. But the literal nature of that firm foundation would be as John Dorward was heard to say, "nearly the death of him." Because when the rhyolite was discovered and the ground had to be blasted, so went the contingency fund and the "wish list" . . . it seemed. In the end, the firmness of IFC's support system equaled the solid nature of the literal foundation. What needed to happen, happened. IFC @ SECU Community House was built and stands on solid ground and ready to support our neighbors. This is a piece of that story.

*Hi Jill and Richard:*

*Sharla heard talk over the weekend of the "blue granite" excavated from the property. She has been hanging around me long enough to suspect (correctly) that the granite was not a granite at all, so she brought a piece home for me.*

*I do not know if you care - but here I go anyhow - The rock is a rhyolite. Closely related to granite, but not a granite. Granite and rhyolite have the same composition and both were once magmas. The difference is that a granite magma never erupted. It was trapped under the ground where it crystallized slowly. The rhyolite magma successfully "escaped" and erupted out of a volcano. North Forest Hills basically straddles the boundary between crystallized magmas that never erupted (granites to the south) and crystallized magmas that did erupt (rhyolites to the north). This boundary is known to concentrate mineral resources, thus, mighty Nunn Mountain (into which your home is built) was historically prospected (with little real success) for gold.*

*The best place in the neighborhood to see the granites is the spillway to Lake Ellen. The rhyolites are almost every nasty bit of rock your shovel hits when you try to plant anything in your garden.*

*Both the granites and the rhyolites are related. About 630 million years ago, our neighborhood was an active volcanic region. It likely looked much like one of the active volcanic islands in Indonesia (less the veg, critters, people, etc.). The rocks formed in what is known as the Piedmont Terrane whose origin is hotly debated. We do know*

*that the Piedmont Terrane was added to North America and squeezed between Gondwana and Laurentia (NA plus some other bits), forming Pangea. Some speculate that the Piedmont has Laurentian origins - making it more "native" NA. Others favor the idea that the Piedmont was Gondwanan and Chapel Hill is a bit of Africa left after break-up and formation of the Atlantic Ocean about 220 million years ago.*

*So, your "blue granite" is actually a 630 million year old blue rhyolite. Unfortunately for the building schedule, rhyolite is a notoriously tougher rock than a real granite. If the church had been built on granite, the driveway would likely have opened weeks ago. Please let me know if you have any questions.*

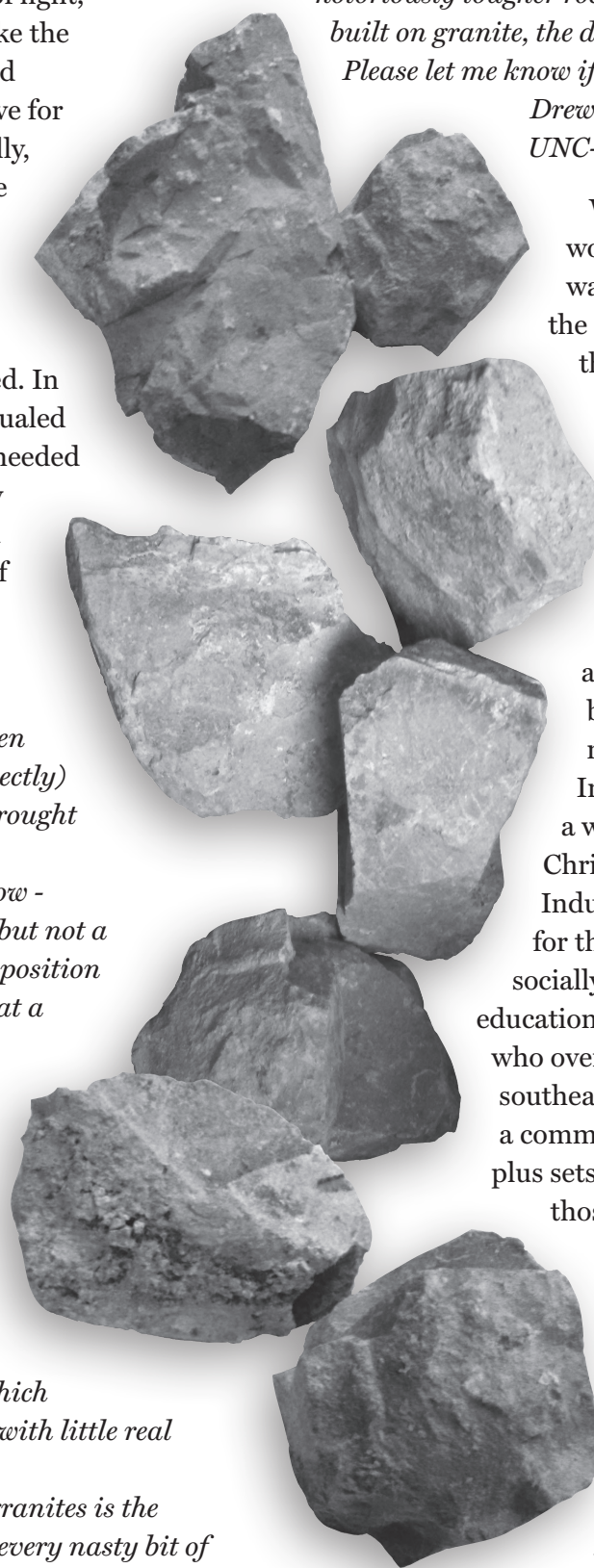
*Drew Coleman, Professor of Geological Sciences, UNC-CH*

When IFC first encountered the Rhyolite, it would take \$87,000.00 to blast it out of the way. The question then became how to pay for the needed things like furniture? And just about the time that John was wondering who to call, in walked Chris Harlos who made a simple statement of big support, "I want our church to be involved in this and I think we can do it." And off he went and asked them to be involved and they agreed.

As The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints tells this, "Through the efforts of a few local leaders back in 2014, all of the beds, bedding, tables, chairs, and dressers for the new facility were built and donated by Deseret Industries. It is a non-profit organization and a welfare division of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which like Goodwill Industries, provides employment opportunities for those who may be physically, emotionally or socially challenged as well as career counseling and education stipends. As a special bonus, Ferren Squires, who oversees the church's humanitarian effort in the southeast U.S. also included as part of the donation a commercial washer and dryer to maintain the fifty plus sets of sheets, pillow cases, and blankets for those participating in the transitional program."

The five drawer dressers are a long stretch from the metal locker each resident would have otherwise had and they are directly related to LDS's donations. As John says, "What LDS did was a Godsend, literally and figuratively moving money into the ground."

After the blasting continued and again with all best laid plans and budgets, with only a foot more of dirt needed below, Round 2 of Rhyolite surfaced. But this time an excavator with a big hammer chipped away that extra foot and the building was finished. Today, the IFC @ SECU Community House is a reality, debt-free, full of light and ready to support our neighbors. And it is most definitely built on the firmest of foundations.





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## IFC @ SECU Community House

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- Our new IFC @ SECU Community House building is sitting on a parcel of land owned by UNC Chapel Hill and the State of NC.
- The land is leased for 50 years to the Town of Chapel Hill, with a 10 year extension, provided it is used for a men’s homeless shelter.
- The facility houses 52 men in a three-phased program. 20 men in Phase I, 20 in Phase II and 12 in Phase III.
- Residents will eat breakfast and dinner at the new Community House. They will be encouraged to eat lunch at the existing Community Kitchen which will continue to serve lunch and dinner Mon-Fri and lunch on Sat-Sun.
- There are laundry facilities on site— commercial for the house laundry and the men in Phases I & II. There are household units for the men in Phase III so they become familiar with doing laundry.
- There is an on-site library.
- There is an exercise room on site.
- There is a meeting room that doubles as the space for the 17 men we will shelter on bad weather nights.
- There are two private rooms for mental health counseling sessions.
- There are two private rooms volunteer job coaches work from.
- There is a medical facility is a satellite clinic of Piedmont Health Services. The clinic offers medical, dental and mental health services to the men, women and children who are our shelter residents. (See additional information on Piedmont Health).
- The Good Neighbor Plan will be overseen by the Community House Advisory Committee, who will report quarterly to the CH Town Council for each of the first two years of operation. (See

information below on the Good Neighbor Plan.)

- The Capital Campaign raised enough money to complete the building debt-free. Although there were unforeseen circumstances that impacted the budget the building was completed on time and free of debt.

**Piedmont Health**  
The IFC Community Health Center is Piedmont Health’s newest community health center. The Carrboro-based Piedmont Health operates 9 community health centers in central North Carolina and last year provided high-quality care to 42,000 people. Teresa Rogers will be the Triage Nurse, and do Behavioral Health screenings during intake with Teresa Wiley. Becky Cicale ANP-C will be the lead provider on Tuesday and Thursday nights with Tom Roth, MD joining to care for patients on Thursday nights. Dr. Katrina Mattison-Chalwe, will be the primary dentist, Lauria Davis will be the primary dental assistant and hygienist. Eugene Chalwe as site director will oversee the overall operations of the clinic.

**The Good Neighbor Plan** was created by a group of local citizens over a one year period to help identify areas of concern about the new Community House and how it interacts with its neighbors. The Committee’s goal was to find solutions to perceived problems before we moved in and to create a mechanism for ongoing communication between the various parties. A major outcome was the formation of the Community House Advisory Committee (CHAC) to serve as the liaison between the IFC, the Town of Chapel Hill and the surrounding neighbors.

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## Spreading Circles on the Water: A Lotta Love

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In June 2014, Charlotta Sjoelin (Lotta as she is called) was about to leave for her other home in Sweden. But at the request of a friend, before she left, she made a quick stop at HomeStart. It made her sad. To her the rooms felt institutional. When she came back from Sweden she toured HomeStart and cried, her words to Debra Vestal were, “ I’m going home to cry some more and then I’ll come back and try to do something.” In October of 2014, Lotta came up with “Donate a Room.” Soon her partner Darliene Woolner joined her, and the transformation of HomeStart rooms began. Their goal: to create a place that felt more beautiful, safe, homey and be a space where women and children could “build themselves up with dignity.”

As Lotta remembers, “With help from friends and companies it just took off! People want to help when they know what is needed and what a difference a few dollars can make! HomeStart is doing a good job helping these women and children but for budget reasons there’s just not enough money for basic things. It hurt me so bad to see children and women going to bed without real bedding, a pillow, a table lamp or a nice towel. Everybody deserves that - especially these women and children!” By Christmas nearly all the bedrooms had been made over and a teen room and playroom had been transformed as well.

When asked specifically if she would do it all over again Lotta responds, “ I would absolutely do it over again. I have lived all over the world and volunteered but this is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. It has turned me into a better and happier person. The more you give - the more you get. I wish

more people would understand this. Connecting people to do good and to see the results, it’s just amazing. It’s a win-win for all of us, both givers and receivers.” As one HomeStart resident explained it, “It meant so much more than they knew. It did something for me mentally. It gave me the energy to try harder and realize it’s not the end of the world. Someone just showed me they cared.”

For Lotta and Darliene and all the others involved in the HomeStart transformation, it isn’t about them, “but about the women and children at HomeStart.” And, it is all about “spreading circles on the water.”

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### The Garden

Alice Smith and Susan Hinson met years ago during a discussion on children and horses. That turned into a “best thing” long friendship and this year’s planting, and tending of the HomeStart garden. They planted morning glories, sunflowers, tomatoes and squash. But as Alice said, “mostly we grew weeds, it was a champion year for weeds!” One day Alice noticed a young girl who had been excluded from a game of hoops so she called her to come and have a look. “We found the little tomatoes and she was intrigued by that, then she wanted to take them back for everyone to try. I found her a little basket that she could bring to the garden.” Alice continues, “ I think getting the children interested gives their mothers a little respite, especially when they must be so overwhelmed.” And whether the garden is indoors or outdoors, “it will always have a future because you can make a garden out of almost anything. That way people have ideas they can leave with and the children will always remember the gardens.”



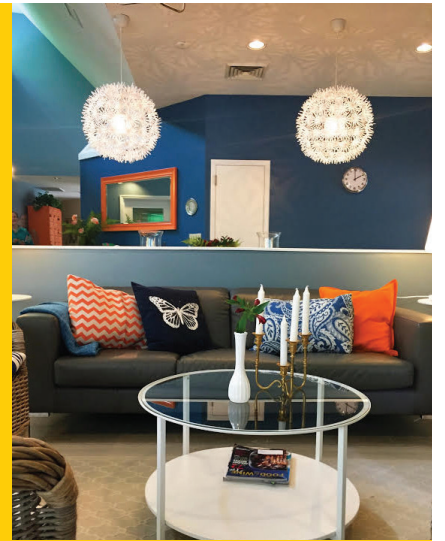
# HomeStart



HomeStart Teen Room Before and After



HomeStart Community Room Before and After



HomeStart Resident Room Before and After



## So the Children Can Play

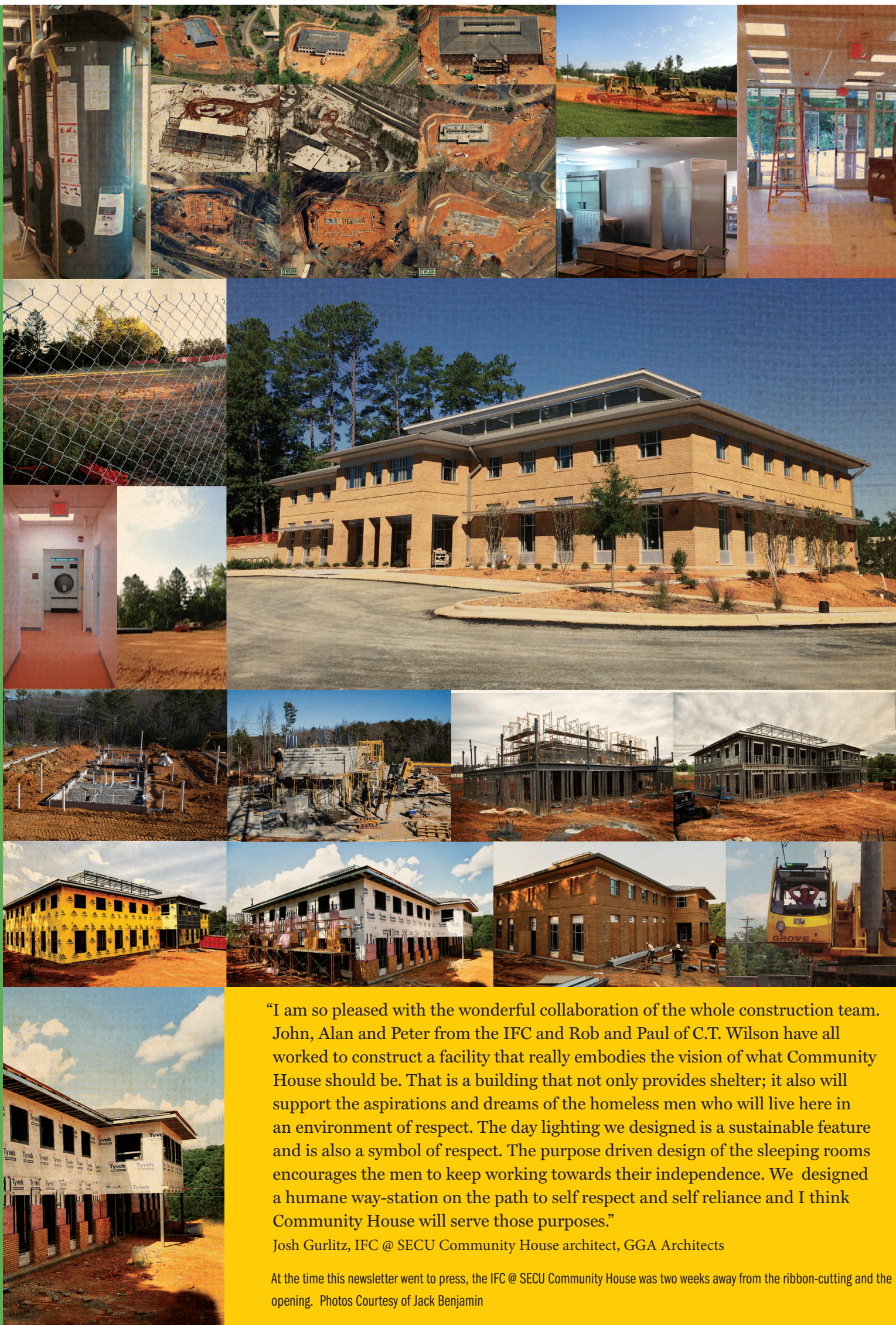
When a new play gym was donated to HomeStart the playground needed to be made safe for the children to play. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated made that happen. As Sybil Burke puts it, " For more than 106 years, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated has remained at the forefront of advocacy in the areas of education, health, global concerns and the family. Programs of service are the heart of Alpha Kappa Alpha. One such program is the AKA 1908 Playgrounds Project. Sorority members have a goal to restore, refresh and renew 1908 existing playgrounds, gardens and recreational spaces. On May 23, 2015, 11 of our members and 3 children of a chapter member showed up with work tools and positive energy to supply and work the sand and mulch needed to make the playground safe. This project provided an opportunity for chapter members to reflect on our sorority's motto which is *Service to All Mankind*. We were so proud to make a difference for Homestart."



HomeStart Garden



# Community House



“I am so pleased with the wonderful collaboration of the whole construction team. John, Alan and Peter from the IFC and Rob and Paul of C.T. Wilson have all worked to construct a facility that really embodies the vision of what Community House should be. That is a building that not only provides shelter; it also will support the aspirations and dreams of the homeless men who will live here in an environment of respect. The day lighting we designed is a sustainable feature and is also a symbol of respect. The purpose driven design of the sleeping rooms encourages the men to keep working towards their independence. We designed a humane way-station on the path to self respect and self reliance and I think Community House will serve those purposes.”

Josh Gurlitz, IFC @ SECU Community House architect, GGA Architects

At the time this newsletter went to press, the IFC @ SECU Community House was two weeks away from the ribbon-cutting and the opening. Photos Courtesy of Jack Benjamin



# We Are IFC

## In Memoriam

Jerry Farrington

Coach Bill Guthridge

Margaret F. Hattman

Marion Highriter

Jonathan Broome Howes

Sylvia James

Edward Joyner, Sr.

Henry Glenn Marshall

Juanita McCulloh

Harvey Reid

Janice Roberson

Ellen Schonwald

Ilse Feichter Shaw

Lee Thomas

Norman Weatherly

W. Frederick Williams, Sr.



Inter-Faith Council for Social Service

“Do all that you can, with  
what you have, in the time  
you have, in the place you are.”

-NKOSI JOHNSON,  
African AIDS activist

## We'll Retire in 50 Years: Alvin and Omelia



Omelia and Alvin, Photo Courtesy of Leslie Parrish Garner

Listening to Alvin and Omelia talk back and forth you hear that easy patter between people who have been together for 47 years plus, made it work and thrived. There is an easiness, humor and sweetness. Talking to them, story after story unfolds: their marriage, the first legal inter-racial marriage in NC (although a few married later claim that fame); the children they have raised together, their 40 year renewal of vows celebration – the ceremony and reception they couldn't have the first time; how the youngest family generation have pulled together to help an underprivileged family and the 12 years they have “owned” the kitchen the first Tuesday of every month at Community House. Each story draws you into a life full of family, love and giving. If you ask Alvin why they continue to cook every first Tuesday (in 12 years they have only missed twice, the day his brother died and this February when he thought he was too contagious to cook only to find out it was his gallbladder) he says, “This started out as us helping and pretty soon it was being in charge now we can't leave until we are sure that it will carry on. We can't take the chance of it not being worked out. Maybe we'll retire in 50 years.” They began and continue this work through Faith Tabernacle and Faith Tabernacle gives them a monthly stipend to pay for the food but more often than not they end up matching that stipend personally. You ask Omelia why she's still cooking at Community House and she'll say she really loves it, she wants to do it and she knows the guys and loves to “mess” with them. As Donna who runs Community Kitchen puts it, “Omelia would rather mess with someone than eat when she's hungry.” It's Omelia's way of sharing love and humor. On the first Tuesday of every month, the numbers grow because everyone knows that at the very least they will eat Alvin's homemade biscuits, Omelia's homemade gravy (she will bring the grease and fat bits from home), and the peach cobbler that is a joint effort of the two of them. Sometimes they do it all alone, often they have help from the family, 'Shell (LaShell), Pam, Vera and some of the Faith Tabernacle Church members. They will feed usually 75-80 but have fed 120. For them as Alvin says, “We'll get hot and sweaty but the biggest pleasure is when a bunch of our guys come up and say, ‘We enjoyed the meal.’” On Alvin and Omelia's watch peoples' stomachs and hearts will be fed. It has not been an easy year in the Garner household, Alvin had his gallbladder out and later the same month so did Omelia, Pam was diagnosed with lymphoma and a few weeks later Amy was diagnosed with breast cancer. But all of them keep going and keep giving. If you ask Amy why, she puts it simply, “It's who they are, it's what they do. They've instilled in us to always find a way to give back. They'll go until they can't and then one of us will keep it going. It's a family thing.”

## The “Better” in Everything



Mike Celeste

When you walk into A Better Image Printing, the first thing you see are the framed “Thank You's” on the wall from the many grateful non-profits they work with, IFC is one of them. Mike Celeste and his family moved here from Maryland because they believed this would be a great place for a business and to raise a family. The name A Better Image was the name of the company he bought but as he says, “Our company name does in fact encompass the nature of our business. Yes, we do excellent work but we couldn't do what we do without our team of talented employees. They truly put the “better” in everything we do. From their industry expertise, to their excellent customer service skills, they take pride in all they do to make our company the best it can be. The passion that we put all forth in our work also goes beyond our facility doors and out into our community. On many weekends you can find at least one or more of our employees volunteering their time at a race, helping pack food, cooking and serving meals, and attending various events to assist area non-profits. This is just part of the culture of the Better Image Printing staff.”

For Mike, “The best part of owning A Better Image Printing and Ad Spice Promo is meeting people in our community. Many of our customers are wonderful individuals looking to market their non-profits to make a difference in the lives of others. It is impossible not to want to do something to support them, especially those who work tirelessly and are so passionate about their cause. “



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## We Are IFC

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### Orange Literacy

Orange Literacy's vision statement is simple—a community where literacy is available to all. But their mission—to help adults reach their education, employment and life goals—is enormous in scope. In fiscal year 2015, 144 volunteers offered 10,000 hours of instruction to 515 adults. Their partnership with IFC provides invaluable resources to shelter residents. Volunteer Willis Brooks speaks to the Orange Literacy and IFC partnership this way, “I am deeply committed to the idea that Orange Literacy’s programs complement and support IFC’s goals. I joined OL’s Creative Writing Program in 1995 hoping to recruit IFC clients that OL could help. That goal continues, but because those who come to the weekly one-hour writing program are in transition, I believe that the main contribution is to remind everyone of the importance of constantly improving one’s reading, writing, and ‘relating’—improving the important life skills of communicating. In the freewheeling writing and sharing I hope that we help our clients improve their self-confidence in expressing their ideas and, perhaps, see more clearly their need to focus on improving their basic life skills. I often leave programs with a smile about some funny moments that have been shared, but also with a tear, hoping that they soon will be in a better situation.” Tutor Mike Woods speaks to the importance of having a higher percentage of shelter residents working on literacy and summarizes it this way. “We have to make reading relevant to our residents for them to get past the shame of not being able to read. The hardest thing in the world is to ask for help.”



### Three Friends

*Learning From Each Other*

By Mike Wood

I met Julius and Michael at a life skills class that I teach for the Community Empowerment Fund. I believe that first meeting and the work I have had the opportunity to do with these two splendid gentlemen as their Orange Literacy tutor has significantly enhanced all of our lives. You could say that we are living proof that it is never too late to be the person that you should have been.

The three of us have very similar backgrounds. Julius and Michael currently reside at the IFC shelter. Five years ago I was a resident there myself but was successful at transitioning from there to being self-reliant and I hope a contributing member to the community. At the shelter residents are encouraged to find income and affordable housing, to go out and enjoy an abundant life. Meanwhile many of the residents have difficulty reading well enough to make sense of their mail.

It takes a great deal of courage to walk up to someone that you do not know and declare that you cannot read. These two men not only possess that level of courage but also a hunger for knowledge and the willingness to do the work that is required if you wish to learn how to read. We as teachers yearn for those who want to learn, that are curious and are willing to make the sacrifices required to achieve their goals. If Michael and Julius get as much out of our friendship as I do then we are going to be famous at Orange Literacy. I hope you will take the time to read what they have created.

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## Our Neighbor's Voices

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*When you first meet Michael Alston you notice his smile and laughter but slowly you realize that his sweetness and gentle spirit have filled the room. His humor and thoughtfulness show up in his writing - in a tribute to his Mama or in his funny memory of eating her strawberry snuff. Ask him to share the most important thing she taught him and he will say, “If you do good things, good things will come to you.” The following tribute Michael wrote as his Orange Literacy writing homework. Michael’s mother died over 20 years ago.*

### A Letter to Mama

By Michael Alston

Dear Mama,

Hi Mama, I just want to tell you that I love you and miss you very, very much. I don’t know how I’m making it without you in my life anymore. But I am trying to do the best that I can. I think that you would be proud of me now. I’m going to school to get my GED, plus I no longer drink or get high and I’m staying out of trouble.

Things like, “you don’t miss the water till the well runs dry,” I didn’t pay too much attention back then but I sure do now. Just know that I love and miss you and I sure wish you were here.

Sometimes I think about some of the things that you used to say to me.

Your Loving Son,  
Michael

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*Julius Alston has been “walking around rhyming” or talking in poetry his whole life. And although his literacy tutoring has not made a big difference yet in his reading skills, it has in his ability to write his poetry. Julius wants to learn to read because he is incredibly curious about everything. He wants to travel the world in books, learn science and*

*history, how structures are made, especially how things were built before machines. Julius is loving learning new words. When asked what his favorite new word is, he responds, “infer.” When asked why, he gives a dictionary perfect example from life and one that is filled with wisdom and humor. Julius tries “to be happy all the time. If I feel bad, I think of other people worse off and I figure if I don’t appreciate what I have, why should I have more?”*

### The Little Slow Fast Boy

By Julius Alston

Let me tell you somethin,  
a little boy I know

Goin to school, he was  
kinda slow

He could rap and rhyme  
and draw a crowd

Didn’t have to talk, all  
that loud

Though he could speak  
the rapping sound

The words were spoke,  
never could write em down

Though the little boy could run  
real fast

Problem was, he ran right  
by his class

And even though he could  
do all this

He always knew, it was  
something he’d missed

He thought back, when  
he could run so fast

He knows now, what he  
lost in class

So he made it up in his mind

To go back and get, what  
was left behind

Now when he makes his rapping  
sounds

He knows just how, to write  
them down

When you read his words,  
you may never know

When it came to school,  
he was kinda slow

So he thanks God, for  
this new day

He can write it all down now-  
WHAT YOU SAY?



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# You Are IFC

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## Ways to Give

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*IFC's annual budget is approximately \$1.7 million with only about 10% of revenues coming from public sources. It is the generosity of individuals, congregations, businesses, foundations and other friends that help IFC continue its work and maintain our current level of services.*

### Contributing by Cash, Check, Visa/MC/Discover

You may contribute financially online, by mail or via phone call to Frances Jackson at 919-929-6380, ext.12. All account information is kept confidential. Cash or check can be mailed to: IFC, 110 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510

### Workplace Giving

You may designate IFC to receive a recurring payroll deduction or one-time gift through these charitable giving campaigns: Combined Federal Campaign #52191, State Employees Combined Campaign #1475-029, United Way of the Greater Triangle #540

### Planned Giving

You can plan gifts today that will benefit IFC tomorrow. Your planned gift of a bequest, life insurance policy, gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust is an important investment in the life of the IFC. To discuss how you can be a part of strengthening our future, please call Michael Reinke at 919-929-6380, ext. 14 or [mreinke@ifcmailbox.org](mailto:mreinke@ifcmailbox.org)

### Gift Card Giving

The IFC offers an array of gift cards, including two drawn by children living at HomeStart. Whether you make a contribution to IFC as a gesture of sympathy, in the spirit of holiday giving, or to honor someone, the IFC will send the designated recipient(s) a gift card selected by the donor stating that their gift will be used to help those in need.

### Vehicle Donations

If you have a car you no longer need, you may donate it to us through CARS and they will give you a tax receipt for charitable contribution. Call 877-537-5277 to speak to a representative or complete the secure online donation form at <http://www.donatingiseasy.org/donate-car-inter-faith-council-social-service.htm>

### OWASA Care to Share Program

By donating to the Care to Share program you can help families in need pay their water bills. Round up your bill to the nearest dollar or select any whole dollar amount to add as a donation to your OWASA bills.

### Duke Energy Share the Warmth/Cooling Assistance

You can help provide low-income families with financial assistance for their energy bills. Customers complete a "Customer Contribution" form with Duke Energy.

### INDY Week's Give!Guide

By encouraging year-end giving, the Indy Week's Give/Guide helps fund and promote local nonprofits. The aim is to instill the annual-giving habit in Triangle residents, especially those under the age of 36. Last year IFC raised \$5,432.00! To give through the Give!Guide, visit [give.indyweek.com](http://give.indyweek.com).

### Other items

If you are interested in donating any other items, please contact Elizabeth Garfunkel, Executive Assistant, at 919-929-6380, ext. 15 or [egarfunkel@ifcmailbox.org](mailto:egarfunkel@ifcmailbox.org).

## An Extra 10%

Two questions I am often asked is "Michael, are we meeting the need?" and "What would you do with a little bit more?"

The answer to the first question is often unsurprising. While IFC does a tremendous amount, there are a significant number of individuals and families we are unable to help.

To answer the second question, I went to our Finance Director, Frances Jackson. Last year, 1,726 individuals or families gave an average of \$226 dollars each to support the operations of the Inter-Faith Council, with the smallest donation coming from a young child for 50 cents. Talking with our program directors Kristin Lavergne and Stephani Kilpatrick, we were able to identify some of the many ways an additional 10% would make a difference.

- The HomeStart Program would add 25 additional hours of staff support to help our families find jobs, medical care, child care, and permanent housing.
- We would double the number of support circles providing teams of volunteers to support individuals and families transitioning to permanent housing.
- We would reduce the number of days our freezers are empty by a third, a vital source of protein and nutrition for families visiting our pantry.
- By adding staff, we would cut the number of days it takes for the individuals in Community House to access the services of the Veterans Office, the Health Department, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, the Community Empowerment Fund, Vocational Rehabilitation, Mental Health Services, and

the Literacy Council in half.

Asking for an additional ten percent is no small request. But as you can see from the examples above it is a request that would make a big difference in many lives.

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## Grateful Thanks

The Friends of the Carrboro Branch Library held their major fundraiser, a used book sale, last November. Books that did not sell were donated to the new Chris Moran Library. The 20 boxes of donated books were from many categories including: reference, biography, fiction, history, health. The Board of the Carrboro Branch Library "is pleased to provide books for the Moran Library, and look forward to a long-term relationship with the IFC."

The Carol Woods Retirement Community donated exercise equipment for the Brian Clemens exercise room. Matt and Anne Holway, who for a decade organized the Brian Clemens Memorial Golf Tournament, were pleased to have the exercise room named in honor of Brian. Brian died at the age of 31, after a lifetime struggle with drug abuse. He beat his addiction, and credited the IFC with turning his life around. Community House provided support and shelter at the turning point in Brian's life.

The United Church of Chapel Hill for patience, support and access to the IFC lot through their driveway, an invaluable gift.

The Town of Chapel Hill and UNC-Chapel Hill for the long-term lease of the land where the IFC @ SECU Community House is located.

The Kenan Charitable Trust and UNC Health Care for their substantial contributions to the construction of the clinic space and for the dedicated medical equipment.





## Dreams Come True

Dr. Taylor and Staff:

I wanted to send you all a thank you for giving me my life back. I am the homeless (formally) woman from HomeStart that needed so much dental work back in November. Dr. Taylor, you and your staff was so friendly and helpful to me and not only gave me my smile back but my life. I had found it impossible to find a job, find housing and even to socialize with broken teeth. It is true we judge people by looks (unfortunately). For a full week you and your staff worked with me and NEVER made me feel worthless or less than human. You all treated me with great care and respect. I recall Dr. Taylor looking in my mouth for the first time and saying “well, it’s not toooo bad” LOL, yes it was. Well since then I have got a job as a night auditor at a major hotel in Raleigh. I am making a decent salary and I rented a small studio apt. with a goal of renting or even buying a home. I continued with Wake Tech, no longer hiding behind a keyboard online but going to campus and enjoying every minute of it. Sometimes I feel like the oldest person on campus, but it just reminds me that dreams can come true. I have one semester to go and I will be the first in my family to graduate college. Sending big hugs and kudos to you and your staff.

Warm Regards,  
Cynthia

## IFC Events

### CALENDAR

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:00 a.m.

Ribbon Cutting for  
IFC @ SECU Community House

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

6:00 p.m.

IFC Annual Meeting

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

27th Annual RSVVP Day

#### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

8:00 p.m.

Post-Turkey Day Jam  
promoted by Six String Presents  
and featuring Jon Shain and FJ Ventre,  
the Gravy Boys and more acts TBA,  
Cary Theatre, Cary, NC

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:00 p.m.

United Church of Chapel Hill’s New Year’s Eve Benefit Concert  
featuring the Bradshaw Quartet

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 24

2:30 p.m.

CROP Hunger Walk

## FoodFirst

IFC is working hard to get Food First in front of the Board of Alderman in Carrboro for a ruling on whether or not we can move the kitchen to the Douglas Building and combine all the food services into one location.

We asked the Alderman to allow the staff to create a text amendment to allow for such a use at their June meeting. They agreed to have the staff work on an amendment over the summer. We hope and expect to spend the fall working through the public process, which will include trips before the various advisory boards and public hearings. If we are successful in getting an approval to move forward, we would transition quite rapidly into a capital campaign to raise the necessary money to demolish the current building and replace it with a new structure that can accommodate all of the uses.

## Please Join An Inter-Faith Conversation on Food and Hunger

From the Bahá’i Tradition on Hospitality (Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of Abdu’l-Bahá) to the Buddhist Tradition of Hospitality (Itivuttaka 18), to the Christian Tradition of Hospitality (Romans 12:13) and the Jewish Tradition of Hospitality (Deuteronomy 10:17) to the Muslim Tradition of Hospitality (Qur’an 4:36), food and the sharing of food has a central place in our collective faith traditions. IFC has been showing hospitality to the stranger and feeding the hungry for over 52 years. If you would be interested in joining us for a conversation on food, our faith traditions, and the future of service in Chapel Hill, Carrborro, and Orange County this February, 2016, please contact Elizabeth Garfunkel 919-929-6380, ext. 15, [egarfunkel@ifcmailbox.org](mailto:egarfunkel@ifcmailbox.org).

## IFC Needs

### • Community Kitchen Needs

Cooking oils  
Grits  
Hot sauce, Ketchup, Salad dressing  
Margarine/butter, Spices, Sugar

### • Food Pantry Needs

Canned chicken, tuna, beef stew  
Canned vegetables  
Canned fruit  
Spaghetti and spaghetti sauce  
Pinto beans  
Cereal, grits, oatmeal packets  
Soup (chicken noodle or vegetable)  
Rice  
Peanut Butter

### • Residential Facilities Needs

Bath towels/washclothes  
Diapers--all sizes (HomeStart)  
New socks  
New underwear  
Personal care products (see below)  
Twin size sheets/pillowcases  
Coats/hats/gloves (cold months)•

### • Personal Care Products

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss  
Deodorant  
Lotion  
Razors and shaving cream  
Feminine products  
Diapers (all sizes)

### • Other Items

Blankets (washed)  
Space heaters (cold months)  
Padlocks  
Backpacks  
Paper bags with handles  
Bath towels/Washcloths  
New socks and underwear  
Twin size sheets and pillowcases  
Coats/hats/gloves (cold months)

### • Volunteer Needs

The IFC is seeking a volunteer to fill the Volunteer Coordinator position beginning January 2016. The commitment is for one year and would require approximately 10 hours per week with flexible, yet consistent hours. Qualifications include: the ability to interact with potential volunteers in a friendly manner, strong organizational and communication skills, as well as good telephone skills. Volunteer job duties include: the ability to answer volunteer questions, good computer skills, work closely with staff to determine current agency volunteer needs, process new applications, follow up with staff regarding placement of volunteers. If interested, please complete an application at [www.ifcweb.org](http://www.ifcweb.org). and also submit a brief statement about your experience and why this position is of interest to you. For other volunteer needs please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Karen Carr at 919-929-6380, ext.30 or [volunteer@ifcmailbox.org](mailto:volunteer@ifcmailbox.org).



# We Are IFC

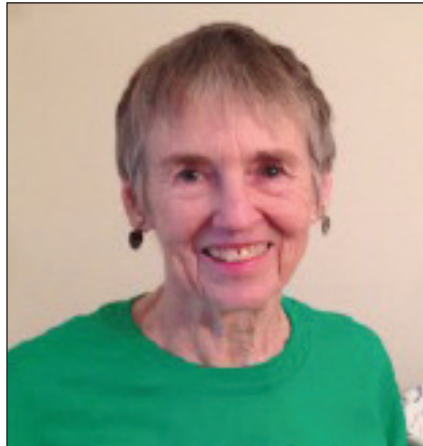
## Eileen Weatherly's 24 year Tradition of Giving

Shipley Jenkins

In 1991, Eileen Weatherly recruited a Crop Hunger Walk team for the first time.

Her "one time event" has become a 24-year tradition and a conservative estimate based on her lowest recorded annual total shows that Eileen and her teammates have generated \$85,000 towards the eradication of local and global hunger. With her sleeves rolled up, this almost 83-year-old CROP walk advocate, great grandmother of nine and grandmother of 13, executes CROP walk's anti-hunger campaign with humility and determination. As she meticulously records walkers "in spirit," Eileen demonstrates an ease of familiarity with the task. The post cards she mails each year find friends who have shared her compassion for those who have endured or succumbed to starvation. Most of Eileen's Crop walk regulars are members of University Presbyterian Church. Eileen's approach is simple. She offers an opportunity to practice the golden rule, which encourages doing for others, what we would like done for ourselves in comparable circumstances. As John Dorward put it, "Eileen is part of a triumvirate here. For many years, she has been a top money raiser. We are so grateful for her help."

*Many thanks to University Presbyterian and Shipley Jenkins for allowing us to excerpt your article on Eileen in "The Chimes" April 2015.*



**Even a cold and rainy day couldn't put a damper on CROP Hunger Walk 2015. Enthusiastic walkers and volunteers make our walk one of the most successful in the nation.**

INTER-FAITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE & LOCAL RESTAURANTS INVITE YOU TO

# DINE OUT

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

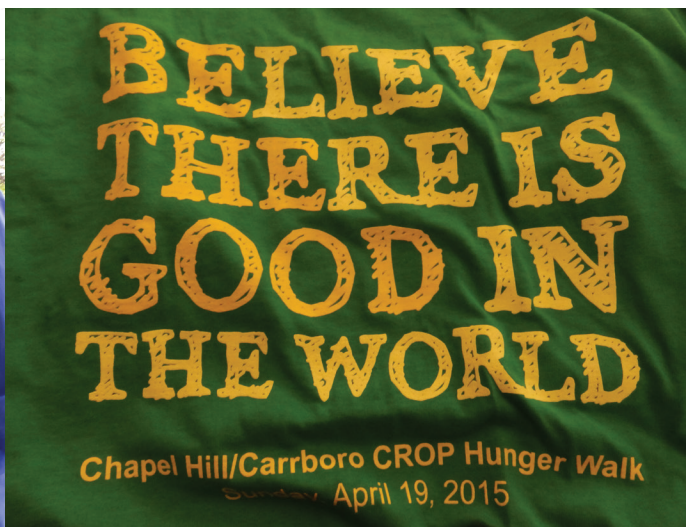
RSVVP • RESTAURANTS GIVE 10%  
ALL DAY • ALL NIGHT

# TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10

**SINCE 1989 OVER 2,044,000 MEALS SERVED AT IFC'S COMMUNITY KITCHEN  
332,000 BAGS OF GROCERIES GIVEN OUT AT THE IFC FOOD PANTRY**

Event Sponsors: A Better Image Printing, C.T. Wilson Construction Company, Pat & John Dorward, Durham Mechanical Services, Edward Jones - Steve Richards, IFC Board of Directors, The Poster Guys, Shared Visions Foundation, SunTrust Foundation.

The Daily Tar Heel CHAPEL HILL NEWS 92.9 FM WCHL



Photos Courtesy of Jackie Helvey