

INTER-FAITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

Spring 2016 | Volume 37, Number 1

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



Inter-Faith Council for Social Service

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INTER-FAITH COUNCIL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

IFC @ SECU Community House:

Transitional Housing for

Homeless Men

1315 Martin Luther King Blvd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Phone: 919-967-1086

IFC @ SECU Community House is a community of residents, staff, and volunteers working cooperatively. The Community House is a three-stage transitional housing program designed to assist homeless men transitioning from homelessness to living independently in the community. 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 serves breakfast and dinner for residents. Volunteers currently work as job coaches, social workers who provide case management, in data entry, doing mental health evaluations, as administrative assistants, as receptionists, and for Orange Literacy doing literacy tutoring and writing workshops.

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.” Volunteers at HomeStart do maintenance, act as receptionists and provide clerical assistance, do mental health intakes, process belongings, stock bedrooms, receive, process, organize, store donations, purchase and prepare meals, are kitchen assistants, evening floaters, 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: 919-967-0643

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.

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.

Volunteers act as receptionists and give, pick-up, unload and organize food as well as stock shelves.

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

Services Provided by Piedmont

Health Services

Sponsored by UNC Health Care

IFC @ SECU Community House

1315 Martin Luther King Blvd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

With the opening of the new IFC @ SECU Community House, Piedmont Health Services is providing medical and dental of services at no cost to the residents 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. Volunteer psychologists conduct mental health assessments.

SUPPORT CIRCLES:

Support Circles provide support to individuals and families who are experiencing – or at risk of – homelessness and who are transitioning into permanent housing. In 2012 the the Support Circles program began as a completely volunteer-led program with two support circles. Currently five support circles can be sustained at any given time throughout the year. IFC is happy to report that the families who have completed the Support Circles program since 2012 are all are still housed.

From moving to transportation, goal setting to problem solving, volunteer Support Circle teams provide material, practical, financial and relational support.

VOLUNTEERING FOR IFC:

Volunteers benefit IFC for so many reasons. A recent survey of incoming volunteers found that their #1 reason to volunteer with IFC was “to have an impact”.

And they do.

IFC doesn't exist without volunteers. They provide more than half the work logged at IFC, and that's with a known underreporting of their hours. In fact, the Volunteer Coordinator is now working hard to improve the way we track our volunteers, to have a better sense of their tremendous effort and to be able to acknowledge those that have worked too long without proper acknowledgement. To learn more about volunteering for IFC please visit our website:

www.ifcweb.org/volunteer

Contact Anne Holway, Volunteer Coordinator at (919) 929-6380 ext 30 or volunteer@ifcmailbox.org.

IFC Full and Part-Time Staff Roster

Michael Reinke, Executive Director

Community Services: (919)929-6380

Kristin Lavergne, Director
Elizabeth Garfunkel, Executive Assistant
Shannon Gigliotti, Support Circles Coordinator
Valeria Hernandez, Client Services Representative
Frances Jackson, Finance Director
Gracelidy Marrero, Client Services Representative
Allan Rosen, Project Manager
Anne Holway, Volunteer Coordinator

HomeStart: (919)932-6025

Stephani Kilpatrick, Director
Bernestine Austin, Residential Staff
Shanesha Farrington, Residential Staff
Charlotte Horton, Residential Staff
Debra Vestal, Residential Staff
Jo Coe, Residential Staff
Charlotte Horton, Residential Staff
Rhonda Lee, Residential Staff
Gwynne Pomeroy, Case Manager

IFC @ SECU Community House: (919)967-1086

Stephani Kilpatrick, Director
Chris Horton, Residential Staff
Sean O'Hare, Kitchen Coordinator
Wesley Norwood, Facilities Coordinator
Kris Quick, Residential Staff
Megan Raymond, Social Worker
Teresa Rogers, PHS Nurse Manager
Algin Wiley, Residential Staff
Gunzo Bethea, Residential Staff
Raney Norwood, Residential Staff
Brian Reilly, Residential Staff
Greg Watrous, Residential Staff

Community Kitchen: (919)967-0643

Donna Bradley, Kitchen Coordinator
James Dunn, Kitchen Staff
Brian Neadar, Kitchen Staff
Jasper Washington, Kitchen Staff

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Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or visit our websites to keep informed about IFC news!



A Letter from Michael Reinke, Executive Director



Chapel Hill Tire Food Drive raised 2,000 cans of food for CORA Food Pantry and IFC.

Pictured: Beth Budd, Mark Pons and Michael Reinke

Every year, the Inter-Faith Council provides over 15,000 bags of groceries to over 4,000 members of our food pantry. We make grants totaling \$150,000 to help pay rents, rental deposits, heating bills and water bills. We will repair people's cars and we will help fill in the donut hole in a senior's prescription medication coverage. We will serve 80,000 hot meals to hungry men, women, and children and we will provide shelter to 300 individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The Inter-Faith Council does all of these things but if you were to ask me what is the most critical service we provide, what is fundamental to our organization, and what is the one thing we can't live without, it is that on any given day, we offer the opportunity to fully embrace our fellow human beings.

The Inter-Faith Council was founded in 1963 by seven wise and determined women. They were concerned that our friends and neighbors did not have enough to eat. Today, with 17% of Orange County's total population and 20% of our children under five living in poverty, with 20,900 of our neighbors considered food insecure, where someone in the household is skipping a meal so that another person can eat, where someone receiving disability is paying more than 70% of their income on fair market rent, we still have work to do.

People from very different walks of life will encounter each other, perhaps for a moment, perhaps for a conversation, or perhaps for a meal and there is the opportunity to embrace hope and love.

Recently, I was blessed to have been asked to preach at University United Methodist Church. I preached on the passage from 1 Corinthians where Paul speaks of love. One of the things I noticed is that while Paul says that love is patient, love is kind and love always protects, Paul never says that love feels good nor does he say that love is easy. For those of us who feel called to support the mission of the Inter-Faith Council, ours is not an easy path. Supporting the IFC means having the difficult conversations.

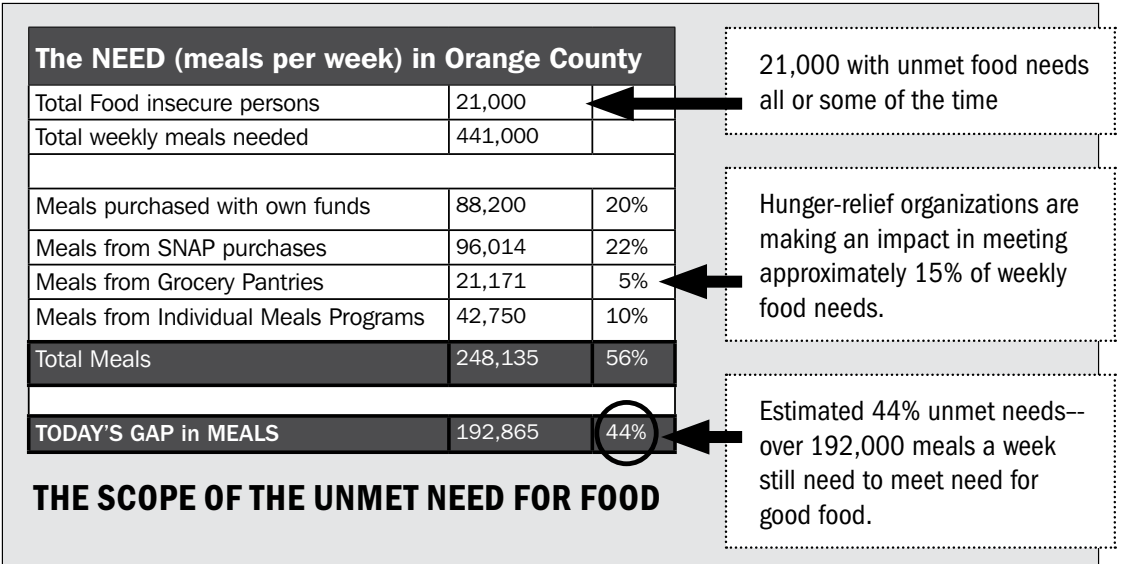
The IFC is working to move FoodFirst forward and combine the community kitchen with the pantry and emergency services. As we bring together our efforts to address food insecurity, hunger, homelessness and poverty, supporting the IFC may not be easy. There will be people who say, “We support what you do. We want to feed the hungry. We just don't want to do it here.”

Supporting the IFC means asking whether our growing and vibrant community is one that speaks not just for some, but for all. It means asking whether we not just expect but assume that everyone will have a place to call home, and where at the end of the day the question we ask is not “Are you deserving?” but “Are you hungry?” This is what it means to support the IFC.

Please support IFC on March 22nd at 7:00 pm at Carrboro Town Hall for the text amendment hearing.

All the best,
Michael

Community Conversations About Hunger



“Ending Hunger In Orange County.”Just before Thanksgiving 2015, Brenda Camp and Ruffin Slater of Weaver Street Market invited Michael Reinke to their facilities to learn more about FoodFirst. Over the course of that conversation, they began to explore the question “Could we end hunger in Orange County?” and quickly realized that to answer such a question would require a broad community of support. A few weeks later, a somewhat larger group met, including Porch, Table, the Interfaith Food Shuttle, Farmer Foodshare, Weaver St., and Molly De Marco representing both Justice United and UNC Gillings School of Public Health. The group surveyed their organizations and what each was currently providing and asked the question “What would be needed to meet the gaps?” Over the weeks that followed the group has continued to meet, talk and research. They have worked on identifying the gap in what's being done and what is needed, they have worked on a plan to end food insecurity, they are working to establish initial commitments of hunger relief groups and are planning a visit to DC's Central Kitchen. The issues and opportunities for success are being defined and studied. The graphic above is a result of the study thus far. The goal is to create a plan:

“In Orange County, Everyone Has Enough Good Food to Eat in Five Years.”

Community Support for FoodFirst

The following Letters to the Editor were published over the last few months in support of FoodFirst. They are reprinted below with permission of the authors.

November 13, 2015

To my Esteemed elected officials, As some of you know, I searched all over the country for the Best Small Town USA to raise my two gorgeous children, and in the search I found Carrboro! And it was love at first sight. I wanted to live in a town that developed and implemented policy that mirrored my values. And most of you know, three years ago I survived a brutal rape by a stranger/predator/ neighbor, yet not for one second did I think “I need to get out of this town.” In fact, I thought, thank goodness I live in Carrboro, a place where when the s--- hits the fan and I am rendered completely dependent, Carrboro is a place that supports the fragile, the broken, and the suffering.” I knew that Carrboro was a place I could heal...and I did! Then, two years ago I launched a successful business in downtown Carrboro. Carrboro Community Acupuncture continues to thrive and grow, and I was proud to receive an economic development grant from Orange County a few months ago. Also, because of my work as a successful business woman, the Chapel Hill Carrboro Chamber of Commerce awarded me the Business Woman of the Year! I am proud and successful!!! Woohoo! Thank you Carrboro. Before I launched my business, I went to my Business 101 skills and started at the beginning. A vision/ mission statement. All successful businesses thrive with a strong vision/ mission statement. I want to share my Vision statement with you because it is simple and it relates to the Food First community Kitchen. “The health of a community is related to the availability of wellness services to its residents.” I am living proof that providing wellness services to my community is good for business. Since I believe that nutrition is the fundamental building block of health, I am excited and proud to be working side by side (three doors down) with the IFC and their current ambitions to provide a community kitchen. I am a trained observer, and I am well aware of the population that exists in Carrboro in need of food. I see these people needing a place to sit, a place to use the bathroom, a garbage can, and a place to talk to each other. These few things are simple fundamental human rights, and I will

be proud of Carrboro when I am able to literally see this group of people being fed and cared for. I know that other business owners in my community have concerns and fears. I honor those concerns and fears as legitimate. I think that fear is a normal emotional reaction. It is scary to see a hungry person, because that human being is a human, and it strikes a chord because this could be me. Anyone of us for unseen circumstances could face great trauma and suffering. Fear allows one to be in touch with the Unknown. Fear is an emotion that fosters protection, and so one keeps working and continues to save and make prudent decisions, because it would be really scary to not know where my next meal is going to come from. I hope the Town will be able to assuage people’s concerns by gathering and disseminating data. Is there data to show that this population is in fact not a harm to society? Is there data to show that marginalizing this population is detrimental to the health of the economy? Perhaps it may be useful to circulate Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs? **Bottom Line: We are all in this Together.** Thank you for being intelligent, compassionate, and grounded. Please continue to make me proud to do business in Carrboro, a place to feel free. *Kim Calandra*

November 27, 2015

Recently a nice lady came to my shop on Rosemary Street with a petition opposing the Inter-Faith Council’s proposed community kitchen. I said I supported the IFC. She said, “Oh I do too, just not in downtown Carrboro.” She was very pleasant. I am sure she is a wonderful person. But I did not sign her petition. I decided instead to start offering free coffee to all shelter residents. Come by anytime. There is a little bench outside where you can sit. When I opened in October 2013, I sold my very first record to a guy staying at the homeless shelter. He came in for a cup of coffee and saw Savoy Brown’s 1971 album “Looking In” on the wall. His face lit up. He said he had once owned that very record, one of his favorites. He kept looking at the record and shaking his head. So many years ago. He said he had to have it. He didn’t even have a

turntable, but he still wanted it. He pulled some coins and bills from his pocket and asked if that was enough and I said sure. That was the very first record we sold. There is a picture commemorating it on the wall. I put it right beside the cash register because I do not want to forget. I wish the nice lady well. I am sure she and the businesses that don’t want the kitchen in Carrboro have logical arguments for putting it somewhere else. I am small potatoes and they certainly do not need my support. But I know it gets cold in the winter. And I know a warm cup of coffee or tea is good for the soul, especially if you don’t have a home. It goes really well with music. I recommend Marvin Gaye “What’s Going On” or James Taylor “You’ve Got a Friend.” *Jay Reeves*

Owner, Vinyl Perk

October 24, 2015

The issue isn’t zoning or proper conditional uses or any other legal term of art in town planning. In the end, whether the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service gets to build its food center on land it owns in downtown Carrboro turns on compassion, whether the town, through its elected body, has it or not. We’ll know the answer in due time. We’ll know whether the town agrees that IFC can continue in what is perhaps the most basic exercise of humanity: feeding people. And we’ll know if all the talk of Carrboro as an inclusive, open-hearted community is just talk. We’ll know if fear, of just what we’re not sure, is enough to sway the Board of Aldermen and the town from living up to its ideals. In the course of governing a town, few votes put such things on the line. This is one of those times. This is when Carrboro can rewrite its history and become another one of those hip small towns that celebrates itself while sweeping responsibilities under the rug. **Not a new idea** The basic idea of the IFC’s FoodFirst program is not new. I wrote a story about it in 2010. Even then, there was a not-so-quiet campaign to kill the project based on concerns that it would attract a bad “element” and ruin business downtown. These people, these hungry people, the logic went, would

drive away better people. These hungry people might congregate and socialize after receiving their repast. At this level, the debate hasn’t changed much. ALL THE IFC WANTS IS TO DO IS A BETTER JOB OF WHAT THEY’RE ALREADY DOING. THIS IS THEIR CHANCE. I don’t know if you have ever truly experienced hunger mixed with the terrifying knowledge that you do not know where your next meal is coming from. I have. The term “food insecurity” doesn’t quite capture it. Were it not for the generosity and compassion of an organization like the IFC, my life could have taken a very different turn. Maybe, instead of the “Hellos” and “How’s it goings?” I would be among the future unwelcome ones in downtown Carrboro.

And maybe I would wonder, as I do now, how it is that a town that has nurtured one of the great farmers’ markets of this nation; a town beloved for its foodiness in the New York Times and Bon Appétit; a place that has for so long been the market town for the farms to its west and south and the great dairy enterprises to the north, would turn away people in search of a meal. That is not Carrboro – not old Carrboro, not new Carrboro.

My shopping

On Wednesday last week, I did my shopping. I stopped by Cliff’s and Weaver Street, got some pork from Eliza at the farmers’ market, waved at Matt and Sheila over at Neal’s Deli, and drove past IFC’s little spot on Main Street, where the there’s a food pantry that provides for thousands of our neighbors every month. The faces change, because people go in an out of food insecurity. But you would recognize many of them. And if you look at the numbers, you’d know that one out of every fourth person is a child. All the IFC wants is to do is a better job of what they’re already doing. This is their chance. And this is our chance as a community to prove ourselves. Carrboro should not just approve the idea, but embrace feeding people with all its heart. It is time, friends, to say grace.

Kirk Ross

(Longtime journalist, musician and public policy enthusiast.)

FoodFirst: The Seed

For the last 13 years, representatives from the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro along with representatives from UNC-Chapel Hill, the business community, congregations, government, architectural and design firms and volunteers have all participated in a conversation about meeting the needs of hunger, poverty and homelessness in our community. The conversations produced the seed for the FoodFirst program as well as its design, development and core plan. IFC, as Orange County’s principal anti-poverty agency, along with new partners brings its strong history of effectively mobilizing our community to address the challenges of hunger and food insecurity, poverty and homelessness through FoodFirst.

FoodFirst: The Plan

The FoodFirst plan offers a program of services designed to meet our community’s critical needs and is designed to provide support, guidance and encouragement to our neighbors in need.

- A Community Kitchen
- A Client Choice Food Pantry
- Information, network and referral programs
- Community gardens
- Self-help and educational groups
- Crisis intervention and other support programs
- FoodFirst member opportunities to participate in leadership roles, decision-making and opportunities to give back

FoodFirst: The History

2003-2004:

In the fall of 2003, Mayor Kevin Foy of Chapel Hill and IFC Board President, Natalie Ammarell, began a dialog about the need for “community ownership” of homelessness in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. By early 2004, the “Community Planning Group” made up of representatives from the Chapel Hill and Carrboro governments, businesses, and other constituent groups began a period of intensive and thoughtful investigation to set a course for the future direction of IFC. **Six months later, the direction, the pathway, and the principles that would frame IFC’s vision for the future, emerged. Of the** seven guiding principles determined by the Community Planning Group, one of the first was:

“Creation of a Comprehensive Service Center to consolidate food services and offer a greater depth of services to the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.”

2007-2008: In February 2007 the IFC organized a Best Practices Committee to further research and investigate Comprehensive Service Centers (CSC) that best address hunger, food insecurity and homelessness. The Best Practices Committee included IFC Board and staff representatives, business and community representatives. From February 2007 – January 2009 the Best Practices Committee studied: multiple CSC centers across the U.S.; consolidation of food programs; centralization of food donation; consolidation of outreach services; IFC clientele, zoning, parking and design issues; safety considerations for clients, volunteers and the neighbors; varying cost scenarios, zoning, location and design; potential opposition to a combined food pantry and eat-in kitchen; and Carrboro’s text amendment process.

In 2008, interns from the UNC City and Regional Planning Department researched and compiled a study that helped IFC clarify CSC core values and goals. The interns collected data about hunger, best practices information and studied other community models. A plan for the CSC was outlined in the



“2008 UNC Center of Urban and Regional Studies Project”. Comprehensive studies and analyses marked the two years of the Best Practices Committee.

2009-2010: January 6, 2009, the Best Practices Committee held their last meeting. In April 2009 at the request of the head of the Carrboro Merchants Association, a committee formed to search for alternative sites for FoodFirst (alternative to 110 West Main.) Carrboro business and government representatives as well as IFC representatives formed the committee. The major search criteria included: access to and ease of use of, public transportation (the majority of FoodFirst clients would be reliant on public transportation); approximation to downtown Carrboro – or distance outside town; location in one jurisdiction only. The alternative site search concluded after one year but the alternative site option has always been kept open. Later in 2009, Ryan J. Winterberg-Lipp published her Master’s Thesis “Setting the Table Straight: A Profile of Food Assistance Users in Orange County, North Carolina.” Her extensive study and research was specific to IFC clientele and led her to this conclusion: *“One-stop access to groceries and hot meals with other supportive services may be the deciding factor that keeps an individual or family from becoming homeless.”*

In early 2010, IFC began conversations with Jim Spencer Architects for the purpose of discussing options to renovate or build a new building at 110 West Main Street in Carrboro. For the next five years IFC representatives, Carrboro residents, planning staff, and community leaders, conducted in-depth conversations about 110 West Main. Those conversations are reflected in the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the proposed, final design concept. From the side entry and unobtrusive drop-off location, to the outside enclosed courtyard, to the interior waiting spaces and a roof garden green space, the building design contributes to the real estate renaissance in downtown Carrboro and addresses Carrboro’s Vision 20/20 Plan. Added parking that would serve the building by day would serve to increase public parking at night.

2013-2015:

Between 2013 and 2015, IFC’s primary focus was completing the capital campaign, design and building of the IFC @ SECU Community House, (another of the Community Planning Group’s Guiding Principles.) March 2014, the IFC reached out to Carrboro to renew the process of moving FoodFirst forward. On May 27, 2015, the IFC sent the draft application for a text amendment. On October 13, 2015 a public hearing took place at the Carrboro Board of Aldermen meeting, a Land Use Amendment Request and “Questions Relating to Proposed New Community Kitchen Use for IFC” were filed and attached to the record and agenda notes.

2016: A public hearing on the Text Amendment is scheduled for March 22, 2015. IFC is working hard to move FoodFirst forward and to keep the campaign transparent, clear and responsive to the community.

FoodFirst information can be found on the FoodFirst website: ifcfoodfirst.org. In response to the business community’s request, a second alternative site search is in process and will be completed by March 22 if a viable alternative site is not found. The 2009 Community Kitchen and Pantry client surveys and data analyses are being repeated and will be completed in early March. Using the demographics from IFC’s holiday dinner giveaways, geographic mapping is being done of IFC’s pantry client base. “Meet Me at the Kitchen!” has provided community members a monthly opportunity to eat at, and learn more about the Community Kitchen. Ongoing conversations about food insecurity, hunger, poverty and homelessness are happening in Carrboro, (see page 3). Every day, the FoodFirst conversation continues.



Supporting Our Neighbors

Farmer Foodshare

By Gini Bell

Farmer Foodshare began in response to need. Families were struggling to put nutritious food on the table, while farmers struggled to make a living. When we took a step back, we had to ask why. Why does this problem exist? North Carolina is one of the largest agricultural producers in the country, yet it has one of the highest hunger rates, affecting 1 in 4 children. And the problem was about more than filling bellies. It's about more than access to calories. Highly processed, inexpensive foods are often available, while nutritious, wholesome foods are costly and out of reach for many.

So, Farmer Foodshare began to address the problem. It began at the Carrboro Farmers Market, and it began as it would continue- with talking to people to find out what they needed, what they wanted, and how we could help. Seeing that farmers often had food left over at the end of market, we asked what happened to the leftover food. We found that this top-quality, delicious produce often went back to the farm to a compost pile or to feed the animals. At the same time, less than a mile down the street from the market, the IFC food pantry had been faithfully serving thousands of families in need for 45 years, but never served any fresh produce, and Farmer Foodshare's role as a connector was born: donated food from the farmer's market became highly desired fresh produce at the IFC. One group's problem was another's solution. Win! Win!

Farmer Foodshare continued to listen. What did people want? What did people need? How could we help? We began to hone the donation station model to incorporate not only excess produce from farmers, but also charitable purchasing from shoppers. Volunteers from student groups and the community came out to run the station week in and week out. And at the IFC pantry, staff and clients helped us work through the kinks and uncertainties of incorporating perishable food into the pantry. Together, we looked for funding for refrigeration, learned what produce items were most popular, and saw a community of support grow around this innovative way to get fresh food into food pantries.



Listening. Responding. Innovating. Farmer Foodshare continued to evolve – for both farmers and eaters. In one case, a new farmer donated several cases of beautiful food at the end of a slow market. He didn't want the food to go to waste, but those cases also represented a big financial loss to him. At the same time, we were learning that in addition to receiving donations, food pantries also purchase food. Additionally, we saw how the seasonal variation in donations affected the IFC's ability to provide fresh food for the many thousands of families they serve. Learning from the needs of local farmers looking for markets and organizations like the IFC looking for more consistent access to fresh food, Farmer Foodshare saw another opportunity to serve as a connector to help address another problem. Our response to stated needs came to be known as the Pennies on the Pound, or the POP Market. Starting in 2012, Farmer Foodshare began working with dozens of family farms in NC to grow and sell food at a larger quantity and a lower price. The result benefitted all involved. Farmers had access to new markets that didn't require them to attend another farmers market, or compete with their other retail sales. And organizations like the IFC now had a reliable way to access fresh local produce at a price they could afford. The POP Market is still running strong today, purchasing food from family farms looking for new markets, and connecting those sales to food pantries, childcare centers, and a variety of social service agencies that had previously not used local produce. The IFC is still a regular supporter, purchasing local produce year round to complete the meal for the clients they serve. Thanks to the efforts of so many, the donation station model is thriving at more than 30 farmers markets, helping organizations, like the IFC, serve communities in need across the state, and that has an impact on real people. It had an impact on Tommy. Tommy is eight years old. He had come to Student U Family Night with his mom, and she had selected food for the family, food provided by Farmer Foodshare and Student U. As she went to checkout, a volunteer noticed that Tommy kept looking longingly at four remaining red peppers. When the volunteer asked if he would like the peppers as a gift, he ran to ask his mom. She came back with him, tears in her eyes, and said, "Thank you! Tommy wanted those peppers because we have such a large family. He was afraid the peppers we had would not be enough. Now there will be peppers for everyone. " At eight years old, Tommy already knows about scarcity, but he also knows about the joy of sharing. Everybody eats. Food is fundamental. And eating should be joyful. We know that there is enough food to go around, if we listen to each other and work together to make access to fresh, local, nutritious food equitable for all.

and my highest priority to serve the people who need it. I have been "unofficially" promoted to lead volunteer at my Donation Station, as the previous one has taken over the role as our Market Manager. Working with Farmer Foodshare is a humbling experience. I have learned responsibility and I have discovered how nice it feels to help people. If I could, I would share all of my experience with everybody in the world. Working with this organization has opened my eyes to the problems of our world, problems that I want to fix. And now that I'm helping prevent and deal with hunger, other world problems don't seem so far off.



The Children Give: Callie and Farmer Foodshare

By Callie Williamson



For Farmer Foodshare, I collect donations in the form of food and money at the Eno River Farmer's Market. With the monetary donations, I go to the farmers with my fellow volunteers (three wonderful boys around my age) and buy produce that I think would suit the families we serve best. At

the end of each market, we weigh and box up the food we've collected, record the number of pounds, and give the food to the social worker at Central Elementary School in Orange County, who takes it to the families that very same day. Right now I am thirteen years old in the seventh grade. I have been with Farmer Foodshare since I was around nine. I initially began working with the Foodshare because I was friends with the lead volunteer at the time. As I have aged and taken on more responsibility, I see it as my duty

Supporting Our Neighbors: Support Circles

Trina: "Don't Judge A Book By Its Cover"

Trina Williams is finishing up the task at hand, delaying lunch for a few minutes until she is done. The job comes first. When you meet her she is striking in her warmth, humor and openness. You ask about her story and she begins it matter-of-factly. "I was a drug user from the age of 14. I had one son early, he is 11 now and my parents have raised him, he still lives with them. In 2012 I went to prison and while I was there found out I was pregnant. When I got got out I had the baby and immediately CPS (Child Protective Services) showed up because of my history of drug use. The only way I could keep my child was to live with another adult who could monitor the baby and so in April 2013 I moved in with my aunt in High Point. I was not allowed to leave the hospital until the CPS person could drive me directly to my aunt's. My background defined me as an 'unfit' mother." "While I was living at my aunt's an outreach person at the Department of Health told me about the UNC Horizons program. Being accepted into the Horizons program meant that life would be structured very specifically with a focus on treatment. Some women have never lived alone, don't know how to pay bills, have never known cleanliness." When Trina arrived at Horizons she was given a 2 bedroom fully furnished apartment and all her bills were paid. Program staff had keys to her apartment and did rounds of the rooms every thirty minutes. Every day there were group treatment and support meetings and the residents who were just starting out went everywhere by van, staff accompanying them. Months into the program the meetings were 3 times a week and after six to nine months, residents took the bus and looked for work. Trina applied for a transitional apartment with Horizons, a difficult process that included a written essay, progress evaluations and a Horizons Board review. Trina made it in. "In my second year at Horizons because I was working I paid a small amount of each check as 'rent' which they put into a savings account for me so that when I left I'd have money to start my new life with." Trina was eleven months into the Horizons program when she was connected with Support Circles. She was one of many applicants. Thirteen months into the Horizons program Trina met her Support Circle team. The first thing her Support Circle did was help her work on, and prioritize goals. She already had a job, getting a driver's license came next. They loaned her a car to take the driver's test, they helped her with parenting skills and took her fun family places that were free: concerts at Saxapahaw, church picnics, the Recreation center in Hillsborough. Together they started looking for her new apartment. Trina made a list of everything she needed and her needs were put on a tree at Holy Trinity Lutheran where church members picked cards and donated the items for the new apartment. Jane Hathaway of The Furniture Project visited Trina, and asked her about her personal tastes and as Trina says, "got a feeling for her personality." Jane left her with these words, "Don't worry about this, we will take care of it." Support circle members spent three days helping her pack and between The Furniture Project, Support Circle members and their families, Trina walked into a fully furnished, completely "done" apartment. One of the "support" housewarming gifts to Trina was the gift of three pairs of work shoes to make her work life, easier. Trina's Support Circle program ended last July but 2-3 times a week she is at lunch with her "supporters" and for her son's birthday they picked the family up and took them to Wet and Wild for a birthday celebration. **If you ask her what Support Circles mean to her, she says** "They are a support system when you need to build one. They taught me I could have healthy relationships. And, they taught me to not judge a book by its cover. We can't judge people by things that are material and all people have someone in their family with addictions and problems."

If you ask Trina Williams if she is the "working poor" she laughs. "That's me."

And then she lays it out. "They evaluate you for benefits based on your gross income. I take home about \$350.00 a week. I work in Chapel Hill and currently commute from High Point. My rent is \$500 but now I'm looking in Mebane. I was kicked off Medicaid but Silas is still on Medicaid. My childcare costs over my subsidy are \$200. Gas is \$220 a month. I pay \$170 in utilities, \$90 a month for full coverage car insurance, \$50 for cell phone. The last \$200 is what has to cover everything including food."

Success Looks Very Different For the Working Poor

By Shannon Gigliotti

The Cliff Effect is a term used to describe the process of what often happens when people who are not making a living wage try to climb the ladder of upward mobility. It sums up the real problem when a parent with one child, for instance, gets a wage increase and then learns that his/her child's Medicaid is discontinued because she no longer qualifies. Ultimately, she has less spending power than before her raise. This is the pattern for the working poor. Let's say the following year, the same parent receives a significant pay increase and learns that she will now lose her child care subsidy. With the cost of childcare, her total spending power decreases a bit further.

Six months later, she is promoted to assistant manager and now earns a salary. She is expected to work 60 hours per week with a fairly small pay increase. When she calculates it, her hourly pay is now actually less than before. Meanwhile, her expenses have increased because she needs to pay for longer hours of daycare.

She is starting to feel hopeless and disillusioned by the fact that her situation seems to get worse the harder she works. Getting out of the bed in the morning has started to feel like a big accomplishment. Saving \$15 to take her child to McDonalds' for his birthday is a significant success. She would like to go back to school but she cannot afford to quit her job. She could try to work and go to school, but then she would rarely be able to spend time with her son. She is always stressed, and she sees the effects it is having on him. Her neighbor, who started working two jobs in order to support his family, was recently suspected of child neglect. She worries often, and it is starting to affect her own health.

She needs to keep a doctor's appointment for her child in a couple weeks but if she leaves work early to do so, she will lose her job. Her son's father is a hard worker as well but earns little over minimum wage. He can only contribute very minimally in support and that has taken a toll on his sense of self-worth.

As the mother nears her payday, she is completely broke. When her child suddenly falls ill and she needs a \$10 co-pay for a medication, she does what she needs to do and winds up with a \$25 overdraft fee from the bank. *When you are the working poor, success can look very different.* Success can be defined by remembering your self worth, finding time to help your child with his/her homework, getting the medications you need, figuring out reliable transportation, finding a place to live that you can afford in your own community, paying your electric bill instead of buying your child the toy he longs for. *It involves making difficult decisions every day and navigating a world of endless advertisements and consumerism with miraculous self control and denial. It involves giving up your privacy when you ask for help. It involves losing some of your pride when charity makes you feel inadequate as a parent. It involves a lot of judgment by those who have enough and by others who don't but --- need desperately to feel better about themselves.*

When you are the working poor, success can look very different.

We Are IFC

Life Choices

Volunteering has in many ways been life itself for Irene Briggaman. The values that drive her to do what she does come in great part from the lessons of early life. “I was the 4th born of 6 children and I learned to share at a very early age. My sister, my oldest sibling, was assigned to be our mother’s helper. One brother was the family handyman. I worked in my father’s grocery store and butcher shop with my other 3 brothers. My father taught us things we didn’t learn in school; his version of marketing and salesmanship. After a quick snack and a change out of our “good school clothes”, we had to be in the store to stock shelves, change window displays and redo the window signs for weekend specials, *but attention to the customer was to be our priority*. We were expected to be on time and looking presentable. In the summer months we went door-to-door in our neighborhood with fresh vegetables which were brought to Dad’s store from a nearby farm.” It was the lessons of her father along with her deep faith and belief that in life we take care of others, that she says, “has shaped her life choices.” As a nurse and during the years her children were in school, Irene took care of others and did what she could to make a difference. In 1986, when her kids left for college she gave a good bit of thought to what and where she should devote her time. She thought of IFC. Irene and her husband had and continue to be financial donors to IFC. (They have also supported other important and worthwhile organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Triangle Land Conservancy, Friends of Mountain to the Sea Trail.) “Maybe” she thought, she could volunteer a little for IFC. It did not take her long to realize that, “Volunteering a *little* for IFC is like being a *little* bit pregnant!” As soon as she saw all the need around her, she educated herself on what “the needs of her fellow citizens were: food, shelter, help with rent, heating and cooling bills, etc. “I thought about how



“People make a difference when they bring their individual compassion and talent to a worthwhile endeavor. ”
—Irene Briggaman

blessed our family was and about how many ways I could possibly help this wonderful agency meet its mission goals.” From 1986 to present day 2016, Irene has worn many hats and served in many volunteer positions for IFC: Alternate Congregation Delegate; member of the IFC Board; Chair of the first CROP Hunger Walk (the success of this event earned her the nickname “Our Lady of Perpetual Fund-raising.”) In 1986 Irene represented IFC at a Food Bank meeting in Raleigh where RSVVP (Restaurants Sharing V/5 & V/5 Percent) was presented as a Food Bank to Food Bank idea exchange level. There can be little doubt that Irene knew at that time how RSVVP would evolve, and how much RSVVP would impact her life and the lives of people in her community. It would take three years from 1986-1989 to go from the seed of the idea to the first RSVVP event in November of 1989. From establishing format and timing, to researching publicity, to recording public service announcements, to visiting the Orange County Health Department to make a list of restaurants, she did nearly everything. As she says, “ I remember typing the participating restaurant list on an old fashioned typewriter (with a correction cartridge) that only took up a half of an 8½ X 11 sheet of paper. I could

get 2 flyers out of 1 sheet of paper!” She carried the flyers “wherever she went from real estate offices to church congregations, to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber, to the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs and to retired UNC faculty meetings.” For the next 10 years with the exception of mailing the invitations and the financial record keeping, Irene single-handedly moved RSVVP to greater recognition and participation. From the first year and the participation of 43 restaurants and proceeds of \$6,200, RSVVP has continued to grow and is an event that is supported by many in the community. About 10 years into the event Irene felt that she needed to do something to recognize the restaurants for their continued participation. Each year the RSVVP Awards Ceremony recognizes restaurants who have participated 10, 15, 20 and now 25 years. Irene believes RSVVP’s success is primarily because “it is for a worthwhile and much needed cause; the hunger-relief programs of the IFC; the Community Kitchen and the FoodFirst Emergency Food Pantry.” **This year the cumulative total for 27 years of RSVVP events is \$479, 961.88.** If you ask Irene what the greatest gifts are that giving has brought her she responds this way, “Three things come to mind when measuring “the greatest gifts”. First, is the satisfaction of knowing someone is helped through a problem situation by the IFC, whether it be a financial loan, help in paying bills, having a warm, safe place for the homeless, providing nourishing meals at the Community Kitchen or picking up groceries at the Food Pantry. Another intangible, but important “gift” to me is the gift I was given when I was told that I inspired others to do for those in need. Thirdly, the gift of pride...I am proud of the community in which I live and I am proud of the community spirit that is Chapel Hill and Carrboro.”

National Homeless Memorial Day

On December 21, 2015 the IFC, University Presbyterian, United Church of Chapel Hill, Kehillah Synagogue and Amity United Methodist Church remembered our neighbors who died homeless in the last year. The Reverend Richard Edens, Rabbi Jennifer Feldman, Reverend Anna Pinckney Straight and IFC Director, Michael Reinke participated in the service. Anna Pinckney Straight spoke these words:

“We have gathered today to grieve. To grieve the deaths that have happened among those who are experiencing homelessness in this community in the last year. To grieve the loss of their lives, and to acknowledge that the world is not a better place because they are not in it. We have gathered to grieve, and to lament. To repent. For the part we have in allowing a world in which homelessness exists. Continues in the midst of abundance. For the places in which we are complicit. And we do so on the Winter Solstice- the longest night. There is a line in the Psalms that goes: “My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.” In the time when this was written people waited for the morning because the night was not safe. The night was when opposing forces could gather. The night was when the enemy could approach, unseen. And the same is true for those who are not in a secure home- night is not a safe place. The elements. The cold. The unknown intent of people. And this is the longest night. For that we grieve. We lament. We repent. But, what we also know is that the darkness is where things can happen.

Continued on Page 9.

Our Neighbor’s Voices

Where Jacob wrestles with an angel. Where the angels greet the shepherds. Dreams, hopes are born in the dark. And on this longest night, we are invited, as we grieve and lament and repent, to consider how this darkness might give birth to something different. Something different. That this year might be different. This year, how we might have hope. Not blind hope, but stubborn-per-sistent-relentless hope that refuses to stand down or stand aside or stand by.”

The Blessing of Hope

Jan Richardson

So may we know the hope that is not just for someday but for this day here, now, in this moment that opens to us hope not made of wishes but of substance hope made of sinew and muscle and bone hope that has breath and a beating heart hope that will not keep quiet and be polite hope that knows how to holler when it is called for hope that knows how to sing when there seems little cause hope that raises us from the dead not someday but this day, every day, again and again and again

Poem read by Anna Pinckney Straight at the Homeless Memorial Service December 21, 2015.



Bryan

Bryan Alston used substances for a period of time and when he quit he came to Community House to “get back on track.” He began by working under the table jobs, and then as soon as he got a legitimate job he saved for a car. He is now working full time and planning to move out in March. His pride in how hard he has worked is clear when talking with him. He stated, “I don’t let people deter me, because I know what I want to do. I don’t hang around with bad people no more.” He is grateful for the help Community House has provided and shared that he is not sure where he would be without this support system. When talking with Bryan he characterized the staff here as “some of the nicest people I’ve met in my life,” and in closing he says simply, “all I can say is thanks.”

Community House has three levels of transitional housing. Bryan was in Stage 2 when IFC @ SECU Community House opened. When it was clear that he was consistently working full time and offering support to newer residents, everyone agreed that he was a great Stage 3 candidate! Bryan now has a “key and a room with a desk.”

Excerpts from Orange Literacy’s Creative Writing Classes at Community House and HomeStart. Kali Abu-Sharr conducts the Community House class and Willis Brooks the HomeSart class.

“Ten years from today I am going to laugh about all of the trials and tribulations I have been through to get me to this point. I can’t predict the future but I know I will have learned from my mistakes and I am on the constant goal to leave out of this world, to be happy regardless of my situation, and to fulfill my destiny!”
Anonymous

• • •
“I miss school. I never took the time to think about the importance that schooling then would dictate my future possibilities. If I had it to do over again, I would take every opportunity to study and do what it took to prepare for college, and maybe I wouldn’t be where I am now.”
Anonymous

• • •
“I hope Ms. Charlotte returns home and resumes living a very productive life. I hope God who is powerful and almighty gives her the strength to pull through this complicated time she is experiencing. I also hope Gloria regains her necessary strength, also through God’s will. I hope too that every woman present and not present makes it through and overcomes storms that we may encounter.”

Tracy Harris
HomeStart
• • •
The creative writing class unanimously chose Tracy’s writing to represent the class and let it “speak” for all of their hopes.

On Hope

“Hope. Wow this is something I have been thinking about a lot lately. Just a short while ago I had none. Now I seem to have it in abundance. I think the fact that my children at least have started to see a change in me. I have been able to start to reform my relationships with all but one of them and I believe that will come in time. I have also started to see the good in things around me. Take this shelter for instance. We are not owed this chance. We are lucky to have this chance that has been provided to us by people that we don’t know and more than likely will never know. If there are people in this world that kind and caring, how could we not have Hope!”

Dale Moore
Community House

In Memoriam

Phyllis Atkinson
Mike Atwater
David Bowen
Bobby Rae Brown
Isaih Burnett
James Carr
Joffre “Jay” Coe
John Faes
Jerry Farrington
Consuelo French
Angela Gilmore
Edna Heath
Elizabeth Royster James
Joyce Kanze
Janet Liegl
Dorothy Mullen
Jason Myrick
John Fulton Pendergrass
Justin Riley
Mark Sheldon
Willie Simon

“Do all that you can, with what you have, in the time you have, in the place you are.”
—Nkosi Johnson, African AIDS activist

You Are IFC

IFC Events

CALENDAR

MARCH 21, 2016

7:00 pm

Carrboro Conversations
—Affordable Housing
Carrboro Century Center

MARCH 22, 2016

7:00 pm

Text Amendment Hearing
Carrboro Town Hall
Please attend and show your support for FoodFirst.

APRIL 10, 2016

1:30 pm

CROP Hunger Walk
Carrboro Town Commons

MAY 22, 2016

3:00 pm

Rishi Salon & Spa's
HomeStart Benefit Fashion Show
Village Green in Southern Village

APRIL-MAY

Mother's Day for HomeStart



Mother's Day for HomeStart

For the second year in a row, from April 1 to Mother's Day you can make a donation to HomeStart through the purchase of a Mother's Day card for someone you love. "Mother's Day for HomeStart" was a great success in its first year thanks to the Melet family and to A Better Image for their generous donation of design and printing. The cards will be sold through many local churches and synagogues, retail outlets, and can be purchased online: www.ifcweb.org/mother If you would like to help with sales, please contact Michele Melet via email: michelemelet@yahoo.com



10

27 Years of RSVVP Success !!

\$479,961.00 is the cumulative total raised to date over the last 27 years through RSVVP and in great measure through the work of one woman, Irene Briggaman.

IFC gratefully thanks Irene for her tireless and inspired work. This year 110 restaurants, 17 sponsors along with more diners than we can estimate participated in the 27th Annual RSVVP Day on November 10, 2015. The proceeds continue to arrive at IFC but the current tally for this year is: **\$22,575.88**. The proceeds from RSVVP support IFC's FoodFirst: Community Pantry and FoodFirst:Community Kitchen. The RSVVP Awards Ceremony held before this year's event honored the following restaurants: **Jade Palace Chinese and Seafood Restaurant and Thai Palace for 25 years of participation; Bandido's Mexican Café of Chapel Hill and Carolina Coffee Shop for 20 years of participation; Vespa Ristorante for 15 years of participation; The Bagel Bar, Orange County Social Club, Merlion, and City Kitchen for 10 years of participation.** Irene has asked that we thank her RSVVP team: recruiters and poster distributors Susan Friedman, Connie Kang and Monica Severino, The Poster Guys; Pat and John Dorward for poster and table tent deliveries; The UNC HOPE Committee (Homeless Outreach Poverty Eradication) for distribution of flyers and the IFC Staff particularly Elizabeth Garfunkel and Frances Jackson.



Rishi Salon & Spa's HomeStart Benefit Fashion Show

Many years ago Katy O'Leary went to HomeStart as a student from Aveda and it made a deep impression on her. She says that when she started her own business giving back was an important component of what she wanted to do. At Christmas time, her company Rishi Salon and Spa did a giving tree for the children of HomeStart. As she says, "the response from our clients was overwhelming. I decided that I wanted to continue our support for HomeStart and do something later in the year that had nothing to do with the holidays. I asked my staff how they would feel about adopting HomeStart as the charity that we primarily focus on going forward, and they said yes. And then it hit me: A benefit fashion show where we charge an admission with proceeds going to HomeStart seemed like the perfect match for us! Hopefully this will be the start of an annual event. We are still in the early stages of planning, but we hope to feature the women who live at HomeStart in the benefit." **The benefit will be held May 22, 2016 at:**

3:00 pm on the Village Green in Southern Village

Ticket price will be \$20.00 and tickets can be purchased through

Rishi Salon and Spa. 919-928-0028

"Send Jackie to Star Wars for Charity!!"

Thank you Andy and Jackie Morrison for a fundraiser that made everyone smile and raised \$1,100 for IFC. (110% over the \$1,000 Goal!)



**ANDY MORRISON'S FUNDRAISER:
SEND JACKIE TO STAR WARS FOR CHARITY!!**



BENEFITING: Inter-Faith Council for Social Service
EVENT DATE: DEC 17, 2015
THE STORY: My wife, Jackie, agreed to attend the opening showing of Star Wars Episode VII in Princess Leia's snow gear from the ice planet Hoth if I could raise awareness and \$500 for IFC and HomeStart.

Since meeting this goal, Jackie has now agreed to additionally attend a public viewing of the original Star Wars trilogy in costume. While this won't be as formal an event as the Episode VII premier, it WILL be an opportunity for any of our local friends to join us in a very public venue and help Jackie celebrate the liberation from her own rigid lack of humor and imagination.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far, and please read on to learn more!

UPDATE (11/5):

CROP Hunger Walk

The 30th Annual Chapel Hill/Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk is on Sunday, April 10, 2016!

It will kick off at the Carrboro Town Commons with registration at 1:30. The Chapel Hill/Carrboro CROP Hunger Walk supports hunger-relief efforts globally and locally. Church World Service distributes 75% of the money to hunger programs, refugees, disaster relief, and self-help projects in more than 80 countries. The remaining 25% supports IFC's food programs. Many Carrboro and Chapel Hill area religious communities, businesses, schools, non-profit agencies, and other organizations organize groups of walkers who invite their friends, family and colleagues to sponsor them.

To sign up to walk, please visit
www.crophungerwalk.org/chapelhillnc.com



Post Turkey Day Jam!

Thank you Six String Presents, David Sardinha, and Jon Shain for the Post Turkey Day Jam that raised \$1,150.00 for IFC.

IFC

Fiscal 2014-2015

- Provided 19,140 nights of safe shelter for 323 men through the Community House and 14,685 nights of safe shelter to 129 women and 43 children through HomeStart
- Served 85,560 hot, nutritious meals through FoodFirst: Community Kitchen and HomeStart
- Distributed 15, 338 bags of groceries through the FoodFirst: Food Pantry
- Provided 289 residents with free health care and 72 residents with free mental health care
- Dispensed 778 prescriptions at the free clinic
- Provided 796 families with holiday meals
- Distributed \$178,266 to 723 households through our Crisis Unit to prevent homelessness

You Are IFC

Ways to Give

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.

IFC was a top-rated 2014 GREATNONPROFITS and is a GuideStar Exchange Gold Participant. IFC is a public charity eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our EIN is 59-1224041.

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.

Gift Card Giving

The IFC offers an array of gift cards. 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. From April 1 to Mother's Day 2016, you can purchase "Mother's Day for HomeStart" cards. The newsletter remittance envelope includes a box for Mother's Day for HomeStart cards.



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. In Fiscal 2014-2015 Care to Share provided \$4,586 to IFC clients in need.

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. In Fiscal 2014-2015 \$21,942 was made available to the IFC for heating and cooling assistance to IFC clients.

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 \$6,565.00! Visit give.indyweek.com.

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.

Other items

To donate other items, please contact Elizabeth Garfunkel, Executive Assistant, at 919-929-6380, ext. 15 or assistant@ifcmailbox.org.

Grateful Thanks

Chapel Hill Christian Church for collecting 200 pairs of socks and 100 pairs of underwear that were delivered when the men moved into Community House and for the 30 snacks per child for the beginning of the school year.

Wells Fargo Financial Advisors for your entire office effort to provide two weeks of meals for HomeStart, diapers, pillows and the entire wish list.

Becky Cicale's family for grilling turkeys for Thanksgiving for Community House.

"Jackolantern Pies" for collecting pumpkins and making pies for Community House.

Judea Reform and Friends of John Dorward for providing an additional 60 turkeys for the holiday dinner giveaway.

Mt. Carmel Baptist and the LDS church for helping with the turkey distribution.

UNC School of Business for packing holiday dinner bags.

Trader Joe's not only for your holiday turkey donations but also for the weekly donations you make throughout the year.

Church of the Advocate for the carols and cookies at Community House as well as the large donation for the men's gift bags.

Cat's Cradle, University Florist and Shared Visions for offering incentives for INDY Week's Give!Guide giving.

To the MANY who provided gifts and made HomeStart "Santa's workshop!" and who brought gifts for the men at Community House.

Jan Bolick and your team of supporters for Blanket Orange County!

Charlotta Sjoelin and crew for your continuing efforts at HomeStart through "A Lotta Love."

Won-Buddhism Meditation Temple for the series of meditation classes you offered IFC clients, volunteers, and staff.

Bill Kreiter and Summit Church for the purchase of \$500 of mulch for HomeStart's upper playground. And thank you for your efforts along with Mike McKee's and the current UNC baseball team for spreading mulch, mowing the lawn, cleaning the gutters, trimming the trees, power washing the buildings. The 40 of you were amazing!

Linda Kreiter for the wonderful baby shower for our HomeStart resident.

Perry Kersh and The Giving Party (all 21 of you!) who generously donated \$2,401.00 to IFC, the majority of these funds were eligible for The Stewards Fund match.

Chapel Hill Tire for their food drive that raised over 2,000 cans of food for CORA Food Pantry and IFC.

The Bradshaw Quartet and the United Church of Chapel Hill for hosting the wonderful New Year's Eve Concert.

Thank you to Matt Holway for your free, and invaluable professional IT services. Your leadership will move IFC through the selection and implementation of a **much-needed**, new, agency-wide computer database to manage information on clients, donors, and volunteers across all our programs.

This means everything for IFC's future.

The Children Give

Rashawn

For a few months last year Rashawn and his grandmother Elinor lived at HomeStart. HomeStart gave Elinor a chance to find a permanent full-time job, a home and transportation. When asked, Rashawn says he often thinks about the kids and life at HomeStart. He thinks that sometimes there wasn't much food, he thinks about the curfew but he also remembers the friends he made. He speaks thoughtfully and softly. Right before Halloween, Rashawn had the HomeStart kids on his mind. He was thinking about how his Halloween would be different if he were still there, how there might not be much to eat and how the kids would have to be in their bedroom by 8. He thought a lot about them. "I wished he I could do something to make them happy. Not even happy, ecstatic." Rashawn continued to think about it and decided that a lot of Halloween candy, would be the answer. He asked his grandmother if there was a way, that they could take candy to the HomeStart children. Elinor swung into action, talking with co-workers and customers. In short order Rashawn had an abundance of Halloween candy he could deliver to the kids of HomeStart. He made them happy and that made him happy. "It felt great."



Sophie

Sophie was 8 years old when she made her first donation to IFC. She had learned about IFC through her beloved Pop Pop and Gigi and wanted to help the organization they cared so much about. (Pop Pop and Gigi are Jeff and Jane Hathaway, long-time supporters of IFC and founders of The Furniture Project). She and her sister had a lemonade stand and donated the profits to IFC with a note that is framed and in Frances Jackson's office at IFC. To Sophie, it is important to support the IFC because "it gives back to people who have lost their homes and the money given to IFC goes back into the community." This year Sophie turned 11. Rather than receive gifts for herself she asked her friends to make a donation to IFC. Twelve girls participated and raised \$210.00. The timing of "Sophie and friends" gift was perfect; it was given just in time to be matched 100% by The Stewards Fund.



On a regular basis, books arrive at HomeStart. These books are written and illustrated by children who do not know the HomeStart children but hope to give them laughter and strength.

Ava

When Ava was 7, it was not the Avett Brothers concert in Charlottesville she remembers most, but the walk to it. That was the first time Ava saw a homeless person. Her parents were talking and didn't notice. Ava managed to get their attention and helped them "see." Ava asked her Mom about the person sitting with a sign by the side of the road. It made a big impact on her and it didn't leave her. In the days that followed it seemed to her that everywhere she looked she saw homeless people by the road. It hurt her to look at them because "it really wasn't good." She began to notice that many people found it easier to pretend that the homeless aren't there. Ava thought about what she could do, how her heart could lead the way. She made a plan. Every week she did chores and when her chores were done, she got an allowance. For one year Ava saved a part of her weekly allowance and a part of her birthday money for the homeless. "I felt better because I was helping people who didn't have much. I thought if I thought it was a little, then a homeless person would think it was a lot. And if people with a lot of money donated money it would make a giant impact." Ava donated her yearlong savings to IFC. Her \$28.00 made a difference for the homeless and the hungry.



Eli

Eli began volunteering at HomeStart when he was 9 years old. This year for his Mitzvah project, "Make Your Mark," he will continue volunteering with the children of HomeStart as well as raise funds for HomeStart. At HomeStart he does age-appropriate art projects: drawing, painting, fused glass and clay. He is fundraising in two ways. His involvement in "Mother's Day for HomeStart" continues a fundraising effort begun last year by his sister Sydney and his mother. In its first year the project raised over \$4,000. Eli hopes to raise more. This year's "Mother's Day for HomeStart" is well on its way to Eli's goal thanks to Whole Food's 5% for HomeStart day. Last year's application was approved late for Mother's Day but just in time to be eligible for The Stewards Fund match. Eli is also raising money through art sales. In November and December of 2015 he had his first art show at Joe Van Gogh Coffee Shop in Chapel Hill. 10% of the art sales proceeds went to HomeStart. Eli sold 8 paintings and donated \$56.00 to HomeStart. You can purchase art from Eli at: www.EliMelet.com



Anonymous

An envelope was mailed to IFC, inside . . . a donation of fifty cents and a note in a child's handwriting, "Please give to the Capital Campaign."

The Children Give

Sivan

Rabbi Jen of Kehillah stresses the importance of "face to face service projects" for her Bar/Bat Mitzvah kids. When Sivan thought about what she wanted to do for her mitzvah project and where she might be able to do it, she thought about HomeStart. She liked spending time with children and it was a place that would allow someone her age to help out. For three months Sivan spent time each week "playing games, doing crafts, and reading to the children of HomeStart." When asked why the project and the experience were important to her she responds, "I wanted to build relationships with the children living there and to bring them joy. I'm grateful to have had this opportunity and I cherish the connection I've made with the children. They were always so happy to see me each time I came and it was nice to know they enjoyed spending time together." When asked how the project has changed her, she replies, "This project made me aware of how important it is to help others, especially children, who are going through a difficult time, whatever that may be."



Montessori Children's House of Durham

Thanksgiving a year ago, the children of Montessori Children's House 1st-3rd grade class spent a few days making pies. They made enough pumpkin and pecan pies to give to all to all the women and children of HomeStart. This year the pre-school, kindergarten and elementary classes are making sandwiches and compiling lunches for Durham's Urban Ministries. The children worked hard making 300 lunches a week for several weeks last fall and a spring food drive will soon begin. The older children make the sandwiches and do quality control, the younger children compile the bags. They are learning that unlike when they are hungry and know they will eat, there are children who live in homes where they cannot cook, children whose families do not have money for food and children who do not know when they will eat next. They are doing their part to support "a wonderful organization that provides food for hungry folk."

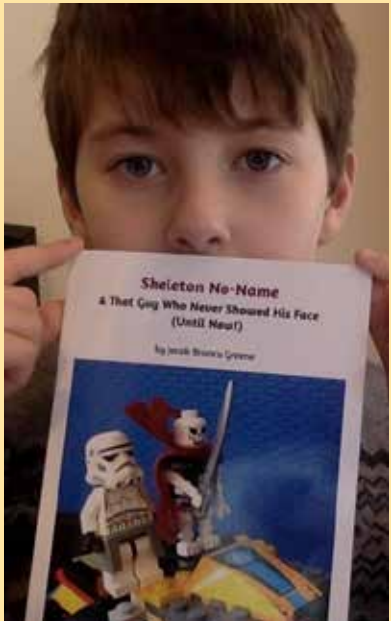
The Second Grade Class:

One day a large grocery bag was left inside the IFC doorway. It was packed with groceries, and tucked inside the groceries was a plastic jar. It was filled with money and one more treasure, a child's treasured bee sticker. The note was from "The Second Grade Class."



Jacob

When you ask Jacob how he came to write his book (at age 8, he is 9 now), he explains that his mother encouraged him to write it in order "to work on his writing" and that when he didn't want to do that, she suggested "putting pictures of his Legos in the story." And then she told him, "if we could sell it (if it was a good book) then the money would go to a charity of my choice and she would match it in my allowance. And that got me motivated." His book is called, "Skeleton No-Name" and can be purchased on Amazon. ("Skeleton No-Name" by Jacob Brancu Greene.) (Editor's note: all five star reviews!) His sales to date have raised \$70.00 for HomeStart. He and his friend Tristan are now writing a second book, "The Unveiling of Skeletora McWig" and profits from this book will also be donated to HomeStart. How did he pick HomeStart as his charity? He researched charities on the Internet and HomeStart inspired him "because it didn't only give food to people but also a home and I definitely wanted to make that home a better place for them."



University Presbyterian Preschool


In January the preschool students of University Presbyterian and their parents participated in the "Fox in Socks (and Mittens)" campaign. Every day, mittens, hats, gloves and socks would make their way to school. "The grand total? Twenty-four hats, 65 pair of gloves/mittens, and 181 pair of socks (and two coats) donated to IFC." As Libby Fosso describes the goal, "Our hope was that parents would take their children to the store -- and rather than buying something for themselves, to spend a little money on someone they didn't even know. What better way to teach kindness and caring for our brothers and sisters than to share the warmth that is needed during these bitterly cold months?"



Donnavynne

At 3 years old Donnavynne is learning from her family the importance of giving. Her family was an active participant in the Chapel Hill Christian Church's drive to provide all of the men at Community House with new socks and underwear. When it was time to deliver more than 100 pairs of socks and underwear she was proud to deliver what she could carry.





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Dear IFC Friends,

As I reflect on 2015 it amazes me how consistently our requests are answered when we ask for support. It reminds me of a book subtitle, “How the Universe is Conspiring to Shower us with Blessings.” The following lists reflect our donors who have blessed IFC with time, food, clothing, blankets, furniture, energy and money to support our mission. In turn we are proud to be able to use these gifts to help our staff and volunteers provide the critical services of housing, food, medical and financial assistance to those in our community in need.

Dynamic change has also been a constant for IFC in 2015. We have incorporated Support Circles into our array of programs. Our Board of Directors has hired an energetic new Executive Director to lead us in our mission. We have opened and begun operating our men's residential program at the SECU Community House, including the partnership with Piedmont Health Services to operate our residential clinic. We have started laying the groundwork for our next capital endeavor to consolidate our food programs into one facility.

Thank you for continuing to answer our appeals and support our growth and change. I hope you will excuse any inaccuracies in these lists. I trust each year that these are as accurate as I can make them, so please contact me at (919) 929-6380 ext. 12 with any errors or omissions.

With gratitude for an abundant year!

Frances Jackson
Finance Director

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Advent Lutheran Church
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Amity United Methodist Church
The Anointed Christian Church
Antioch Baptist Church
Apostolic House of Prayer
Beth El Synagogue
Carrboro United Methodist Church
Chapel Hill Bible Church
Chapel Hill Christian Church
Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship
Chapel Hill Zen Center
Chapel Hill-Carrboro Church Women United
Chapel of the Cross
Christ United Methodist Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Church of Reconciliation
Church of the Holy Family (Episcopal)
Community Church of Chapel Hill UU
Damascus Congregational Christian Church
Eno River Unitarian Universalist
Ephesus Baptist Church
Episcopal Church of the Advocate

Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle
Faith Tabernacle Oasis of Love International Church
First Baptist Church of Chapel Hill
First Church of Christ, Scientist
The Gathering Church
Greenleaf Vineyard Church
Holland's Chapel
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Judea Reform Congregation
Kehillah Synagogue
Love Chapel Hill
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
NC Hillel
New Hope Church
Newman Catholic Student Center Parish
Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church
Orange Chapel United Methodist Church
Orange United Methodist Church
Refuge Temple Church
St. Joseph CME Church
St.Luke's Evenagelical Christian Church
St. Paul AME Church
St. Thomas More Catholic Church
Summit Church
Union Grove United Methodist Church
University Baptist Church
University Presbyterian Church
University Presbyterian Church Youth
University United Methodist Church
White Rock Church
Won-Buddhism of North Carolina

Foundations, Schools, Government & Civic Organizations

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Anonymous Fund of Triangle
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Bertsch Family Charitable Foundation
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National Association of Letter Carriers
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North Carolina Hillel Foundation
Northern Durham High School
Oak Foundation
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Orange County Literacy Council
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Cooking Groups

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
Amity United Methodist Church
The Anointed Christian Church
Arnold Air Society - UNC - ROTC - Air Force
Beth El Synagogue
Carolina R.O.C.T.S.
Chapel Hill Bible Church
Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Chapel Hill High School - Student Government
Chapel Hill High School Student Group
Chapel Hill Service League
Chapel Hill Sunrise Rotary Club
Chapel Hill Zen Center
Chapel Hill/Carrboro Jaycees
Chapel of the Cross
Christ United Methodist Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Church of Reconciliation
Church of the Holy Family (Episcopal)
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Claudia Krachenfels
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Community Church of Chapel Hill UU
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Connie Kang
Cub Scout Pack #825
Dana Clark Family
Dawn & Troy Phillips Family
Desperate Housewives Group
Dr. Nick Shakeen's Cub Scout Group
Durham Academy - Senior Culinary Group
Durham-Chapel Hill Jewish Federation
Eastern Star Group
Ephesus Baptist Church
Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle
Faith Tabernacle Oasis of Love International Church
First Baptist Church of Chapel Hill
The Gathering Church
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Julie Grill
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Marie Weiden
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Michael Goy Group
Newman Catholic Student Center Parish
Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church
Orange United Methodist Church
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Renu Dass Group
Rob's Boys - New Hope Church
Ruth Baker & Friends
SAI Center Raleigh
Shanna & Friends
Spring Crest Group
St. Joseph Church & Friends
St. Thomas More Catholic Church
St. Thomas More Thursday Group
St. Thomas No More
Stan Koziol Group
Summit Church
Susan Anderson Group
The Misfits
Timberlyne/North Chapel Hill Group
UNC - Alpha Epsilon Phi
UNC - Alpha Omega Christian Fellowship
UNC - Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship
UNC - Dental School
UNC - Law School
UNC - Medical School
UNC - NAACP
UNC - Phi Beta Chi
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UNC - Public Scholars
UNC - School of Pharmacy
UNC - School of Public Health
Union Grove United Methodist Church
United Church of Chapel Hill
Unity Center of Peace
University Baptist Church
University Presbyterian Church
University Presbyterian Church Youth
University United Methodist Church
White Rock Church

RSVVP Restaurants 2015

2nd Wind
411 West Italian Café
Acme Food & Beverage
Akai Hana
Alfredo's Pizza Villa
Al's Burger Shack
Amante Gourmet Pizza - Carrboro
Amante Gourmet Pizza - Falconbridge
Armadillo Grill
The Bagel Bar
Bandido's Mexican Café - Chapel Hill
Bandido's Mexican Café - Hillsborough
Bin Fifty-Four Steak & Cellar
Blue Horn Lounge
Bread & Butter Bakery & Café

Breadmen's
Café Parizade
Café Symmetry
Caffe Driade
Calamaki Greek Street Food
Captain John's Dockside Fish & Crab House
The Carolina Club
Carolina Coffee Shop
Carrboro Pizza Oven
Carrburritos
Chick-fil-A at University Mall
City Kitchen
Crook's Corner
Crossroads at the Carolina Inn
Daily Grind Espresso Café
Dickey's Barbecue Pit
Domino's Pizza - Banks Drive
Domino's Pizza - Carrboro
Domino's Pizza - Fordham Blvd.
Elaine's on Franklin
Elmo's Diner
Fiesta Grill
Fitzgerald's Irish Pub
The Franklin Hotel
Friends Café
Glasshalfull
Gourmet Kingdom
Guanajuato Mexican Grill
Hickory Tavern
Hunam Chinese
Il Palio at the Siena
Jade Palace Chinese & Seafood Restaurant
Jersey Mike's Subs - Chapel Hill North
Jersey Mike's Subs - Elliott Road
Joe Van Gogh - Chapel Hill
Joe Van Gogh - Durham
K & W Cafeteria
Kipos Greek Taverna
Kitchen
La Hacienda
La Residence
La Vita Dolce Espresso & Gelato Café
Lantern
Linda's Bar and Grill
Local 22
The Loop Pizza Grill
Lucha Tigre
Mama Dip's Kitchen
Margaret's Cantina
Mediterranean Deli
Mellow Mushroom
Mint Indian Cuisine
Mixed Casual Korean Bistro
Nantucket Grill - Farrington Road
Nantucket Grill - Sutton Station
Nasher Museum Café - Durham
Neal's Deli
Neo-China - Durham
Oasis in Carr Mill
Oishii Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar
Open Eye Café
Orange County Social Club
Pantana Bob's
Pazzo
The Pita Grill

Provence
Queen of Sheba's
Red Bowl Asian Bistro
The Root Cellar
Sage Café
Sal's Pizza & Italian Restaurant
SANDWHICH
Spotted Dog Restaurant
Squid's
Steel String Craft Brewery
Subway - Franklin Street
Subway - Glenwood Square
Subway - Timberlyne
Sunrise Biscuit Kitchen
Sup Dogs
Tarantini
Thai Palace
The Egg & I
The Pig
Top of the Hill
Town Hall Grill
Tru Deli & Wine
Tyler's Restaurant & Taproom
Vespa Ristorante
Village Burgers
Vimala's Curryblossom Café
Weathervane at Southern Season
Weaver Street Market - Carrboro
Weaver Street Market - Hillsborough
Weaver Street Market - Southern Village
Ye Olde Waffle Shoppe

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• Community Development Block Grant
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Congregations

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Barbee's Chapel Baptist Church
Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church
Carboro United Methodist Church
The Catholic Community of St. Thomas More
Chapel Hill Bible Church
Chapel Hill Christian Church
Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship
Chapel Hill Zen Center
Chapel of the Cross
Christ United Methodist Church
Church of Reconciliation
Church of the Holy Family
Community Church of Chapel Hill
Unitarian Universalist
The Episcopal Church of the Advocate
First Church of Christ Scientist
The Gathering Church
Grace Church
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Kehillah Synagogue
Love Chapel Hill
Lutheran Campus Ministry
The Newman Catholic Student Center Parish
St. Paul AME Church
United Church of Chapel Hill
University Presbyterian Church
University United Methodist Church
Won Buddhism Meditation Temple

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IFC @ SECU Community House Ribbon Cutting

After nearly 30 years without a permanent facility, on September 21, 2015, IFC @ SECU Community House had its celebratory ribbon cutting. Speakers for the Grand Opening celebration included: U.S. Representative, David Price; UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor, Carol Folt; NC State Representative, Valerie Foushee; Mayor of Carrboro Lydia Lavelle; Mayor of Chapel Hill Mark Kleinschmidt; McKinley Wooten, SECU Foundation Board Chairman; the Reverend Richard Edens, Senior Pastor of United Church of Chapel Hill; Earl McKee, Chair Orange County Board of Commissioners; Anthony Sharp, Former Resident of Community House; Stephani Kilpatric, IFC Residential Services Director. "It brings me great joy to help celebrate the opening of the new IFC @ SECU Community House," said Congressman Price. "For fifty years, IFC has provided shelter, food, direct services, and other support to members of our community living in poverty, and I am pleased that this new facility will advance their important work." Many thanks to all of the people who worked so hard to make IFC @ SECU Community House a reality. And a special, belated thank you to the people that ensured that this beautiful and purpose-driven facility was built on-time and on budget: Rob Brisley and Paul Rigsbee of Wilson Construction; George Retschle and Dave Ballentine of Ballentine & Associates; Gus Neville of Neville Engineering; Ben Johnson of Edmondson Engineering; Josh Gurlitz, GGA Architects; Charlie Wilson; United Church (for the use of their entrance and for allowing their water, sewer, driveway and parking lot to be torn up and blown up) UNC for the use of their parking lots throughout the building process; Peter Kamel and John Dorward.

Photos Courtesy of Jack Benjamin.

