

# *2012 Annual Report*

## **Orange County**



**J**ustice **U**nited **I**n **C**ommunity **E**ffort

# Justice United's Mission

We are a multi-faith, multi-racial, strictly non-partisan countywide citizens organization dedicated to engaging members of our community to fully participate in decision-making processes on issues that affect the lives, families and communities of Orange County.

## This is done through

- ◆ Institution-based leadership development;
- ◆ Building relationships within and between institutions;
- ◆ Identification of and research on issues of mutual self-interest; and
- ◆ Disciplined, organized action.

Orange County



Justice United In Community Effort

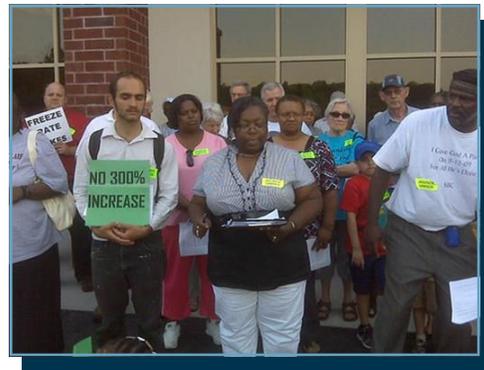
*Justice United receives support from North Carolina United Power, a statewide organization of our IAF affiliates. The Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) is the oldest and largest national organizing and leadership development network in the United States.*



## Orange County Justice United

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<http://ocjusticeunited.org/>



## 2012 Annual Report Summary

The leaders and action teams of Justice United are proud of the impressive progress and success that we have seen this year. Drawing on our relationships and training, every Action Team reports major victories. We are also pleased with improvements to Justice United's operations, communications, and infrastructure, which have increased our capacity to serve our member institutions and actions teams – as we collaborate to improve the common good of Orange County.

In 2012, we joined together as Justice United to address the issues that affect us where we live, work, and worship. Countless one-on-one conversations and relational meetings, expanding community alliances, and critical self-reflection have guided our work. We have a lot to show for it! This year we:

- Secured a firm closing date for the Orange County landfill, along with commitments from the County and Town governments to fulfill promises to the Rogers Road Community for a community center, water service, and other amenities. We will continue to support efforts to provide sewer service, which is the most complex and expensive part of the mitigation plan;
- Convinced the Town of Carrboro to adopt a Housing Wage Policy;
- Worked with the Mayor and others to end discriminatory housing practices in the affordable housing development known as the Landings at Winmore; and
- Persuaded the Town of Carrboro to fund a staff position for the Day Laborers Worker Center;

In addition to these hard fought victories, Orange County Justice United is becoming a standalone 501(c)(3) with a working leadership team and infrastructure for alliance building, communications, and networking.

We begin 2013 with a fresh perspective and the satisfaction of knowing that our work and our relationships are making a difference.



Sincerely,  
*Tish Galu,*  
*Chair*

### **Strategy Team**

Delores Bailey  
Molly DeMarco  
Rev. Mark Davidson  
Tish Galu (Chair)  
Bonnie Hauser  
Rev. Maj-Britt Johnson  
Joann Mitchell  
Stephanie Perry  
Devin Ross

## **ACTION TEAM AGENDA**

### **Affordable Housing**

The Affordable Housing Team, led by Delores Bailey, Tish Galu, and Stephanie Perry, organized alongside tenants from Winmore, to help address issues of housing discrimination at that development. The tenants and the Team worked closely with Carrboro Mayor Chilton and the CEO of Crosland Properties to resolve those issues.

To support the tenants going forward, the Team is developing a Tenants Bill of Rights along with the Orange County Human Relations Commission. The Team is planning a Fair Housing Workshop in April of 2013, which will be produced in collaboration with EmPOWERment, Inc. and the UNC Law Clinic.

### **Environmental Justice**



The Environmental Justice Team, led by Bonnie Hauser and Minister Robert Campbell, worked with RENA (Rogers Eubanks Neighborhood Association) to write a mitigation plan that was adopted by the County Commissioners.

The landfill will close in June 2013. The Commissioners set aside money and began providing water to houses that do not have hook-ups, cleaned up a number of the illegal dump sites surrounding the community, and provided barriers for vermin and visual barriers to create better air quality.

The County has also set aside up to \$700,000 for a community center and created the Rogers Road Task Force to finalize the features of the center and develop plans and funding for sewer lines – which are likely to cost millions of dollars. County and town managers and lawyers are working out the details. We will continue to support the effort as needed, and expect that the Task Force will complete its work, including funding sewer service, in 2013.

### **Fair Jobs & Wages**

The Fair Jobs and Wages Team, led by Molly and Allison De Marco, in partnership with El Centro Hispano and the Human Rights Center, collaborated with the

Mayor of Carrboro, several members of the Board of Alderpersons, and town staff to place funding in the Town of Carrboro's budget to hire a day laborer outreach worker to work with workers, employers, neighbors, and town staff, including the police department. The Carrboro Board of Alderpersons unanimously approved the contract between the Town of Carrboro and El Centro Hispano for El Centro to hire the day labor outreach worker. Former Alderperson Dan Coleman made sure that the position would be paid a wage equal to the living wage floor that the town of Carrboro currently uses - and it should include benefits.

The Town of Carrboro passed a Housing Wage Policy during the year as well, which provides a better indexing feature based on housing costs rather than the poverty level.

### **Foreclosure Team**

The Foreclosure Team, led by Devin Ross, has been working with NC United Power on a statewide campaign for foreclosure reform since auditing all the foreclosures that took place in Orange County during 2009 and 2010.



While NC UP continues to pursue statewide action, the Team will be working with the Centre for Homeownership and Economic Development (a housing counseling agency in Hillsborough), and Professor Collins-Britton, who heads up the Civil Clinic at the UNC School of Law, to hold a series of foreclosure prevention workshops in North Carolina, beginning with workshops in Orange, Durham, and Forsyth counties, which will take place in the first part of 2013.

### **Communications Team**

Based on member feedback, the Communications Team, led by Devin Ross, has revamped Justice United's communication system. This effort included everything from cleaning up our member contact information to creating and regularly distributing newsletters and action alerts to our members and action teams. We even have a presence on social media!

The Team is continuing to work on a website overhaul, and is currently selecting and testing various themes and styles for JU's new site. In the meantime, the Team will make an effort to update content on our existing site. We especially urge you to regard the Calendar section as a resource in the months ahead as we transition from one site to another.

## **.ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND FUTURE WORK**

### **History of Accomplishments**

Our Action Teams have advanced their work this year, following a history of accomplishments in their issue areas. Additional accomplishments include:

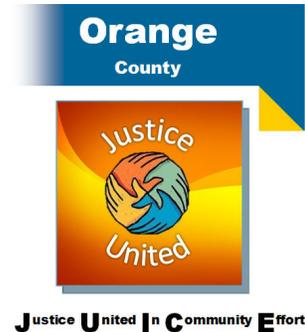
- Worked with the Town of Chapel Hill to develop and implement an Affordable Housing Strategy. (2010-2011)
- Conducted an audit of health and safety issues in the Pine Knolls and Northside Communities. The Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro made changes/improvements as recommended by JU. (2010)
- Worked with Chapel Hill staff and Mayor to gain reversal of unfair treatment by new owners toward an apartment complex's residents. (2011)
- Encouraged by JU, Town of Chapel Hill – Adopted a Living Wage policy. Agreed to review salaries during the budget process. (2010)
- Town of Carrboro raised floor for full-time, hourly employees and agreed to a wage policy review. (2010)
- JU recommended the housing wage policy adopted by the town. (2012)
- Supported successful effort to provide education and economic development funds through passage of Orange County Sales Tax. (2011)



- Blocked the siting of a Waste Transfer Station in Rogers Road Community. (2010)
- Secured commitment to close landfill and provide water service, landfill buffers, and other mitigation items in the Rogers Road Community. (2011)
- Overturned 300% sewer rate increase in the Efland Community. (2010)
- Groundbreaking for new sewer lines in Efland. (2011)

## A New Agenda

At our Countywide Leaders Meeting on November 12, 2012, the JU membership made it clear that it is time to identify new priorities to pursue together. With our organization's new infrastructure in place and some of our Action Teams winding down, we look forward to new listening sessions in 2013. JU members are excited about listening session training and identifying shared priorities throughout the community.



## **BEHIND THE SCENES**

### Reorganized Structure

The Justice United infrastructure has restructured to improve our capacity and responsiveness to our member institutions and the community leaders that work with us every day. We have improved communication from and between our action teams and are more effectively using our newsletter, social media and other tools to keep members engaged and informed.

Once a project of Triangle CAN, Justice United is now an independent organization working directly with NC United Power. We have filed for our own non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt status and expect final approval soon. JU's internal team, thanks to the receipt of membership dues and some grant funds, will have the available resources to hire a part-time organizer for 2013, along with a part-time professional team for finances, communications, and fundraising. Thank you to all of our members that have paid their dues for the year. Dues are essential to keeping us solvent throughout the year.



**In its simplest form,  
JU is a coalition of  
LOCAL groups who  
*together* decide,  
research, and propose  
solutions for LOCAL  
issues to LOCAL  
elected and civic  
decision-makers.**



**“Never do for  
others what they  
can do for  
themselves.”**

## **DUES PAYING MEMBERS**

Amity United Methodist Church  
Olin T. Binkley Baptist Church  
Chapel Hill Friends  
Chapel of the Cross Episcopal Church  
Church of Reconciliation  
Community Church of Chapel Hill UU  
El Centro Hispano  
EmPOWERment, Inc.  
Episcopal Church of the Advocate  
Habitat for Humanity of Orange County  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Interfaith Council for Social Services  
Kehillah Synagogue  
Newman Catholic Student Center Parish  
Neighborhoods for Responsible Growth  
Orange County Voice  
Pine Knolls Community  
Rogers/Eubanks Neighborhood Association  
St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church  
The Catholic Community of St. Thomas More  
The Apprend Foundation  
United Church of Chapel Hill

*The future of Justice United is bright! We look forward to working with all our members, new members and our community to reach our goals in the coming year!*