

# *2013 Annual Report*

## **Orange County**



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

**Orange**  
County

**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.



**Justice United In Community Effort**

*Justice United receives support from Metro IAF, an organization of IAF affiliates east of the Mississippi. 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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 Office: Midway Business Center  
 109 N. Graham Street  
 919-358-5828

<http://ocjusticeunited.org/>

**Strategy Team**

- Delores Bailey
- Minister Robert Campbell\*
- Rev. Peter Carman\*\*
- Molly DeMarco
- Rev. Richard Edens
- Tish Galu (Chair)
- Bonnie Hauser\*\*
- Joann Mitchell
- Stephanie Perry
- Devin Ross
- \*Joined 2014
- \*\* Departing 2014

## **2013 Annual Report Summary**

*In 2013 Justice United members developed relationships within and between congregations and neighborhoods across Orange County. Crossing lines of race, class, and faith, over 600 community members participated in listening sessions to identify/prioritize common concerns and develop plans for fixing them together.*

- Affordable Housing Team held three bilingual fair housing workshops and ran a successful campaign to have local governments endorse a tenants' rights bill. Over 100 JU members and area tenants were involved in these actions. As a result, tenants across the county have access to legal resources that require landlords to provide safe, habitable housing.
- Fair Jobs and Wages Team continued with their Task Force focused on finding a location for the Day Laborer Center and developing training for staff and laborers.
- Reconnecting Communities Team developed an action plan to begin organizing a Disaster Recovery Plan for the Efland community that can be adapted for communities throughout Orange County. They are working with businesses, congregations and communities in Efland as well as Habitat for Humanity International.
- Transportation Team explored how potential new money resources could improve transportation in transit-dependent communities. They have combined with the Affordable Housing Team and are working on focus groups in the community modeled after a successful program in the Efland community.
- Environmental Justice Team continues to monitor the progress of the Rogers Road mitigation plan.



Justice United leaders made affordable communities an election issue in the fall – securing the commitment of almost every candidate for office in Carrboro and Chapel Hill to take concrete steps to address the high cost of living in the area. 80 Justice United leaders filled the room at Binkley Baptist Church and engaged with the candidates in the reception that followed.

We look forward to a productive and exciting 2014 as we continue our work to make Orange County a better place to live, work and worship.  
Sincerely, *Tish Galu, Chair*

## BUDGET

Thanks to membership dues, the support of private foundations, and individual donations, Justice United enters 2014 on strong financial footing.

2013 Budget vs. Actual	Projected	Actual
Income	\$56,450	\$45,882
Expenses	\$56,450	34,677

### Checking and Savings

Beginning Balance	January 1, 2013	\$37,072
Ending Balance	December 31, 2013	\$48,277

## 2013 ACTION TEAMS HIGHLIGHTS

### Affordable Housing/Transportation Team

The Affordable Housing/Transportation Team, led by Tish Galu and Delores Bailey, made significant progress on issues of fair and affordable housing in 2013. The Team organized area tenants and held three bilingual Fair Housing Workshops.

With the UNC Civil Legal Assistance Clinic and the Orange County Human Relations Commission, the Team developed a Declaration of Tenants' Rights and Responsibilities. The Team led a successful campaign to persuade the Towns of Carrboro, Chapel Hill, and the Orange County Board of Commissioners to endorse the Declaration and will work toward endorsement by Hillsborough Commissioners in 2014.

The Team also helped form the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition, encompassing nearly every affordable housing service provider and advocate in Orange County. The Team is working closely to support affordable housing throughout Orange County via the Coalition. Team leaders have begun planning a series of transit discussions in transit-dependent communities across Orange County, with the goal of improving public transit for those who need it most.



### **Fair Jobs & Wages**

The Fair Jobs and Wages Team, led by Molly and Allison De Marco, continues to work with the Town of Carrboro, El Centro Hispano, and the Human Rights Commission to develop a Day Laborer Center. The Center will train workers, develop relationships with contractors, and work to eliminate wage theft. Thanks to Justice United's support, the Center has connected with the National Day Laborers Organizing Network, which will provide technical assistance in opening the Center according to best standards. Opening is anticipated in 2014 at 201 W. Weaver Street.



### **Environmental Justice**

The Environmental Justice Team remains in a monitoring mode as the mitigation plan is implemented. Five to ten Justice United leaders monitored the progress of every Rogers Road Task Force meeting from January – August. Justice United leaders continue to turn out to critical government meetings and provide reports regarding the plan.

### **Reconnecting Communities**

The Reconnecting Communities Team, led by Joann Mitchell, has begun organizing in the Efland area to develop a community-led disaster planning project. The Team has formed a close relationship with Habitat for Humanity and the United Voices of Efland to undertake this project. The Team will be working with local churches, businesses, and neighborhood residents to develop a disaster recovery plan that can be replicated in communities throughout Orange County.

### **Communications Team**

The Communication Team revamped the Justice United website, developed an electronic newsletter, and expanded JU's presence on social media. This work has been critical to ensuring that Justice United members, and the larger community, are able to stay up with all JU news and events.

## BEHIND THE SCENES

**501(c)(3) Status Approved:** Justice United has received 501(c)3 non-profit status from the IRS, thanks to leaders who began the lengthy application process in 2012.

**Full Time Organizer:** Justice United has hired Devin Ross as a full time organizer, after his part-time work since 2012. He is very excited to be working closely with Justice United members to make Orange County a better place to live work and worship.

**Metro IAF/Martin Trimble:** Gerald Taylor, our regional liaison to the Industrial Areas Foundation, has retired after a 35-year organizing career. Justice United is continuing our affiliation with the IAF through Metro IAF ([metro-iaf.org](http://metro-iaf.org)), under the supervision of Martin Trimble, lead organizer for Virginians Organized in Interfaith Community Effort.

**New Office:** Justice United now has office space in the EmPOWERment, Inc.'s Midway Business Center/ at 109 N Graham St, Chapel Hill, Ste. 202. This provides us space to meet, a conference room for our team and strategy team meetings, and reasonable printing costs.

**Strategy Team Changes:** Bonnie Hauser has decided to run for a County Commissioner at-large seat. Orange County Voice will continue to be a member of JU. Pastor Peter Carman will be leaving Olin T. Binkley Baptist Church in April 2014. We thank them both for their service



## JUSTICE UNITED 2014 PRIORITIES

### Community Action:

**Affordable Housing:** Connect affordable communities with needed transportation options; find new resources to provide affordable housing for those at <80% of median income; create a vision for new development of affordable communities throughout Orange County and continue to assist/educate tenants and landlords re: rights and responsibilities.

***Reconnecting Communities:*** Organize Efland leaders to research, develop, and implement a disaster plan for the Efland community.

***Fair Jobs and Wages:*** Open Workers Center, implement training programs, collaborate with day laborers to develop strategies to fight wage theft.

***Environmental Justice:*** Continue to monitor the mitigation plan for the Rogers Road community with the specific focus on funding for sewer service.



### **Building Power:**

- Create membership base in Hillsborough area.
- Train 50 new and existing leaders in fundamentals of broad based organizing.
- Launch Justice Academy seminar series to explore critical issues, educate ourselves and the community, and broaden our impact: how government works, systemic causes of poverty, how implicit bias impacts our relationships.

**2014 will be an important opportunity to build on our relationships and work together to make Orange County a better place to live, work, and worship. Let's look forward to it together!**

Sincerely, *Justice United Strategy Team*



**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**

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  
United Church of Chapel Hill

*Thank you for your support!  
We look forward to making Orange County a better  
place to live, work, and worship in 2014!*