

2014 Annual Report

Orange County

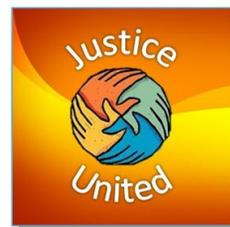


Justice **U**nited **I**n **C**ommunity **E**ffort

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.



Justice **U**nited **I**n **C**ommunity **E**ffort



JU is a vehicle for institutions to build the collective power necessary to realize our shared vision for Orange County.

Justice United (JU) is a broad-based, community power organization dedicated to training local leaders to effectively organize their communities and make change on social justice issues that affect the lives of those who live, work, and worship in Orange County.

JU's vision has been developed at the grassroots level, through hundreds of individual and small group conversations that take place throughout our member institutions every two years.

Our biggest victories come from our ability to listen to what is needed, to find like-minded people to work with us for change, and to engage with leaders that have the power to make those changes happen.

INDUSTRIAL AREAS FOUNDATION

Justice United is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, the nation's first and largest network of multi-faith broad-based citizen organizations, which has seven decades of experience winning tough battles on housing, health care, education, living wages, immigration rights, and other issues across the nation. JU works most closely with Metro IAF affiliates in the East, Midwest, and Southeast. In 2014, Metro IAF organizations had great success!

- Winning more than \$1 billion for school construction and renovation in Baltimore. It will be the largest investment in Baltimore's neighborhoods in more than 30 years. The effort will result in 15 new schools and more than 30 renovated schools across the city. Nearly 140 of Baltimore City's 162 school facilities are in poor or very poor condition;
- Creating a non-profit health care cooperative in SE Wisconsin. The cooperative has already signed up 27,000 Wisconsinites in the Milwaukee area for health care and began offering care in January 2014

To learn more about IAF visit www.metro-iaf.org or www.industrialareasfoundation.org



LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

Justice United is governed by 1) a Strategy Team of clergy and lay leaders, which sets the strategic direction for the organization; 2) the Countywide Leaders Caucus, comprised of leaders from each JU member institution, that discusses, ratifies, and implements all JU's major campaigns and actions.; and 3) the Clergy Caucus, which keeps JU's work theologically grounded

Justice United's 2014 Strategy Team Members

Delores Bailey, EmPOWERment, Inc.
 Joann Mitchell, Orange County Habitat for Humanity
 Minister Robert Campbell, Rogers Road Eubanks Neighborhood Association
 Molly DeMarco
 Rev. Richard Edens, United Church of Chapel Hill
 Stephanie Perry, St. Paul AME
 Tish Galu*, St. Thomas More Catholic Church
 *Denotes Chair of the Board

Justice United Staff

Devin Ross, Organizer Michelle Osborne, Intern Organizer

Budget

Thanks to membership dues, the support of private foundations, and individual donations, Justice United enters 2015 on strong financial footing.

2014 Budget vs. Actual	Projected	Actual
Income	\$68,850	\$74,287
Expenses	\$68,850	60,078

Bank Accounts		Checkings	Savings
Beginning Balance	January 1, 2014	\$47,028	\$5,000
Ending Balance	December 31, 2014	\$50,026	\$5,005

2014 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

In 2014 Justice United leaders developed powerful relationships between congregations, civic organizations, and neighborhoods across every municipality of Orange County. Building bridges across divides of race, class, faith, and the I-40 split between Northern and Southern Orange, Justice United organized and trained hundreds of local citizens to take effective public action and win on important community issues, including: affordable housing, public transportation, disaster planning, and workers rights.

- Collaborated with Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition to win \$689,000 in local funding for affordable housing.
- Canvassed 150 + households to build power to address health, safety, and management issues in four low-income housing developments in Orange County.
- Organized transit listening sessions, engaging over 100 transit riders to improve bus service in Chapel Hill / Carrboro.
- Kicked off a community-led disaster planning initiative in Efland with 50 community leaders; canvassed 104 households; organized quarterly disaster planning workshops reaching combined total of 90 residents.
- Helped raise over \$15,000 to complete construction of Day Laborer Workers Center in Carrboro.

We look forward to taking new action together in 2015 to make Orange County a better place to live, work, and worship.

Sincerely,

Tish Galu
Strategy Team Chair

Orange County Justice United

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Chapel Hill, 27515

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919-358-5828

<http://ocjusticeunited.org/>

2014 ISSUE CAMPAIGNS

Issue campaigns are the public expression of our work. Campaigns emerge from a process that begins with conversations with leaders in our institutions and communities. Energized by a desire to improve the community, leaders organize to research the causes and impact of the problem. In time, the cohesive and expanded group knows the background, defines the issue, and takes action.

\$689,000 in Local Funding for Affordable Housing

Justice United leaders, led by Tish Galu and Delores Bailey, made significant progress on securing local funding for Affordable Housing. In the spring of 2014, Justice United collaborated with the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition to help pass the Penny for Housing Initiative, which is expected to generate an annual fund of \$689,000 for affordable housing in Chapel Hill.

Low Income Tenant Organizing

Angela Clapp (Gateway Resident): "Hillsborough and Orange County need to know how we live...Don't shut us down. Don't disown us."

Brandi Hunter (Landings Resident): "I honestly feel as though our own management looks down on us because we are in affordable housing."

Nashawnda Wilson (Gateway Resident):

"Something has to be done. We've got to step up and take care of our babies."



In the fall of 2014, Justice United kicked off a tenant organizing campaign in Orange County. Clergy and lay leaders canvassed 150 households alongside low income residents, and held a series of community meetings to build relationships with tenants in a number of affordable housing developments. Tenants identified mold, crumbling infrastructure, violence, and management as top issues, and in each development created a list of demands to address those concerns.



Residents of the Landings at Winmore (Carrboro) built power with JU leaders to compel managers and owners into negotiations to commit to tenant demands. With the strong support of Carrboro Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Landings management (WRH Realty) and owners (Crosland LLC) committed to meeting each demand.

Residents of Gateway Village (Hillsborough) developed relationships with lay leaders and pastors from four Hillsborough churches and JU. With the strong support of Congressman Price, residents and leaders held HUD accountable in compelling management (Preservation Management) and owners (Preservation Housing Partners) to commit to resolve tenant demands.

Public Transportation

Justice United leaders organized community residents to meet directly with Chapel Hill Transit Director Brian Litchfield in a series of meetings, to discuss how transit could be improved in their community. 117 transit riders were engaged in listening sessions that spanned Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Additionally, Efland residents and Justice United leaders worked together to secure the community's request for an Orange/Durham Express bus (ODX) connecting Mebane, Efland, Hillsborough, and Durham.

Reconnecting Communities through Disaster Planning



Low-income rural communities in Orange County are at heightened risk of displacement due to disasters – several, including the Efland community, do not have official disaster plans to protect their communities from displacement. JU leaders in the Efland community have identified disaster planning as a priority issue for the area.

On March 29, 2014, 50 community leaders pledged to support this effort. 22 leaders sign up to form core planning committees. Together, this core group held four quarterly disaster planning workshops with a combined attendance of 90 residents, and canvassed 64 households in October to engage area residents in the planning process.

Fair Jobs & Wages

The Fair Jobs and Wages Team, led by Molly and Allison De Marco, assisted El Centro Hispano in the organization’s move to 201 W. Weaver Street, the future site of the Workers Center for area day laborers. In 2014, JU leaders and community allies helped progress the Center through the Town of Carrboro’s permitting process, and helped to raise over \$15,000 towards the construction costs. The Center is anticipated to open in April 2015.



TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Justice United's member institutions are committed to developing new leaders through cycles of training and action. Potential leaders are engaged with top-flight training from the Industrial Areas Foundation (through regional and national three, five, and ten day trainings), and a pedagogy of action and reflection that prepares them to identify issues of importance to their local communities and to take effective public action to resolve those issues.

In the spring of 2014, Justice United launched a successful two-part seminar series. 77 leaders attended the first seminar, "Who Governs? A Seminar on ALEC, the NC Legislature, and Their Effect on Local Governance." 75 leaders attended the second, "Why Are People Poor? Understanding Poverty in America."

In addition to the seminars, JU engaged a combined total of 71 leaders with a top flight IAF curriculum, including: "Organizing 101," "How to Build a Core Team for Action," and "Leadership and Congregational Development."



Are you interested in hosting an introductory training for your institution?

Contact Justice United staff to learn more!

MEMBERSHIP

Justice United is an organization of organizations. Membership is open to congregations, temples, mosques, business groups, schools, health centers, and other institutions that support JU's mission to organize for the common good of those who live, work, and worship in Orange County.

JU member institutions are the source of the leaders who create and shape our issue campaigns. Each member entity has a Core Team of people who are invested in doing justice. Core Team members participate in JU activities in a variety of ways depending on their interests, talents and passions.

Benefits of Joining Justice United

- Vehicle thru which you can relate to government and private power
- Access to collective power to make change on local and state issues
- Ability to reach beyond own experience, traditions, culture
- Training to develop leaders and your institution

Responsibilities of Joining Justice United

- Build a team of lay leaders with clergy support
- Dues – so we can be politically independent and support organizers to work with your leaders
- Send leaders to training
- Initiate local action and participate in county-wide or state wide action



Justice United promises to provide training and other assistance to member institutions, helping them to build a team of leaders, identify community issues for action, and implement an action plan. The member institutions promise to identify their leaders and participate in training and major Justice United actions.

The member institution also commits to pay dues. Dues are used to pay salaries for Justice United organizers and Justice United's operating expenses. A strong dues base means that the members own the organization, and the staff works for the members.

For more information, or to begin the membership process, contact:

Devin Ross
Justice United Organizer
ross.devin@gmail.com

DISCERNING MEMBERSHIP 2015

Dickerson's Chapel AME

First Baptist Hillsborough

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

St. Matthews Episcopal Church



2014 DUES PAYING MEMBERSHIP

**OLIN T. BINKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
CHAPEL OF THE CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHAPEL HILL UU
CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS
CHURCH OF RECONCILIATION
EL CENTRO HISPANO
EMPOWERMENT, INC.
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVOCATE
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ORANGE COUNTY
INTERFAITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICES
NEWMAN CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER PARISH
KEHILLAH SYNAGOGUE
ORANGE COUNTY VOICE
ROGERS/EUBANKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
ST. PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. THOMAS MORE**

Thank you for your support!

*We look forward to making Orange County
a better place to live, work, and worship in 2015!*