

Inter-Faith Council Committee
Annual Report
May 19, 2018

The Inter-Faith Council (IFC) was formed in 1963 when seven local women, including members of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, united to coordinate volunteer efforts to address poverty in our community. Fifty-six years later, the IFC continues to work to provide nutritious food, dignified and affordable housing, and meaningful social connections for the most vulnerable families and individuals. The meeting's IFC committee works to keep the meeting apprised of IFC concerns, to publicize ways for Friends to contribute, and to remain informed of other congregations' work to support this legacy organization. Members of the committee are the following: James Bartow, Emiie Condon, Asta Crowe, Ann Drake, Max Drake, Gwyn Hein, Dottie Heninger and Carolyn Stuart (clerk).

Committee members volunteer regularly in IFC programs. Asta completes data entry in the administrative office. Asta, Carolyn, Dottie, Gwyn, Ann and Max cook on first Thursdays at the Community Kitchen. Carolyn attends IFC Liaison Committee meetings, in which she learns how other congregations support the work of IFC and shares the meeting's efforts in this regard.

Ongoing activities

Friends are asked to contribute food for the IFC Pantry and to support the IFC through financial contributions. Asta, Carolyn and Max check the food and financial contributions in the foyer weekly. Food is taken to the pantry and checks are delivered to the administrative office.

The meeting is responsible for cooking lunch on the first Thursday of each month. Friends enjoy this opportunity to create healthy meals from the kitchen's larder, to fellowship with each other, and to converse and eat with those we serve. Friends who regularly cook at the first Thursday lunches are Asta Crowe, Ann Drake, Max Drake, Dottie Heninger, Nancy Martin, Paul Munk, Bonnie Raphael, Carolyn Stuart and Carolyn White. We are grateful to Paul Munk who brings men from Orange Correctional Center. We invite others to join us from 9:00 until 12:30, or for any portion of that time.

In November and December of each year, the committee publicizes and encourages Friends to donate money for Holiday meals. This past year, the IFC contributed 824 Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to families in need. Friends were also encouraged to participate in RSVVP program on November 13, 2018, a program in which many local restaurants donate 10 percent of proceeds on that day to the IFC. Friends have been generous in both supporting Holiday meals and the RSVVP program.

We are grateful for the assistance the IFC offers returning citizens from Orange Correctional Center by providing shelter at the Community House (men's residential shelter). Approximately 30 men from OCC have been served by IFC over the past few years. Currently, five returning citizens from OCC live in the IFC Community House.

Special Events

Food First forum: Jackie Jenks, Executive Director of the IFC presented a forum on October 28, 2018 on the topic, "How can we help IFC feed vulnerable families in our community?" Jackie described progress on the Food First Project, a \$5.3 million campaign to construct a new building at 110 West Main Street, which has long housed the administrative offices, Food Pantry and Emergency Financial Services. Plans are to move into the new building in the spring or summer of 2019. At that time, the Community Kitchen, which for more than 30 years has operated at the Rosemary Street facility, will join the other programs in the new facility. The Community Kitchen will be expanded, enabling the program to serve 67 percent more clients. The Food Pantry will be enlarged, providing space for more fresh food. The new facility will be more welcoming for clients and provide improved space for client counseling for Emergency Financial Services and administrative space for the staff. Substantial progress has been made on reaching the capital campaign goal, but there remains a gap. Jackie looks forward to being able to house all IFC programs in one location.

Note: Currently all IFC programs are being provided at the Rosemary Street location. While this is a challenge for IFC staff and volunteers, we're grateful to the town of Chapel Hill for continuing to offer the facility. Better days are coming.

Crop Walk: The Crop walk, an annual fund raising event, raises money for international hunger relief (75 percent of money raised) and supports IFC efforts (25 percent) to feed those in need. Crop Walk was held on March 24, 2019 this year. The meeting raised \$1,305.00. Eight meeting walkers enjoyed the sunshine, exercise and opportunities to visit as we participated in the walk. The committee thanks Dave Curtin, who enrolled the meeting on the IFC website to facilitate online contributions.

Next year, we plan to publicize and encourage purchase of Mother's Day cards created by the children at Homestart, the women's shelter.

Our quarterly meetings are open. We welcome Friends to join us.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bartow, Asta Crowe, Emilie Condon, Ann Drake, Max Drake, Gwyn Hein, Dottie Heninger and Carolyn Stuart (clerk)

