

Orange County Justice United



2017 Annual Report

Orange County Justice United

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Who is Justice United?



Orange County Justice United (JU) is a broad-based community power organization dedicated to developing institutional leaders to organize their communities and take effective public action on the social justice issues that affect the lives of those who live, work, and worship in Orange County, NC.

JU is comprised of twenty local member institutions: religious congregations, neighborhood associations, and non-profits with a grassroots base. JU is a vehicle for these institutions to build the collective power necessary to realize our shared vision for Orange County.



Justice United's vision has been developed at the grassroots level, through hundreds of one-on-one and small group conversations that take place throughout our member institutions and the communities that surround them.

JU is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, the nation's first and largest network of broad-based citizen organizations. The IAF has seven decades of experience winning tough battles on housing, health care, education, and other issues across the nation (industrialareasfoundation.org).



Leadership

Strategy Team

Strategy Team members are nominated by member institutions and guide the general strategy of the organization, as well as oversee the day-to-day operations.

County Wide Leaders Caucus

The Leaders Caucus is formed by teams of leaders from every dues-paying member institution who meet publicly to approve major actions, ratify the Strategy Team slate and the annual strategic plan. The Caucus is the primary decision making body of Justice United.

Research Action Teams

Action Teams are formed by 8 - 25 members from diverse institutions interested in turning deeply felt problems into actionable priorities. Teams perform research and power analysis around specific Justice United priorities and make recommendations for action to the Countywide Leaders Caucus. Current Action Teams include the Housing Team, Immigration Team, and the Jobs Team.



Accomplishments

District Attorney Commits to Deferral Program to Support Safe Drivers, Increase Public Safety

On March 28 Orange County Justice United leaders delivered an organized constituency of over 600 community members and made a deal with District Attorney James Woodall that has the potential to reduce tens of thousands of dollars in fees and fines paid by unlicensed yet otherwise safe drivers.

Drivers who complete eight hours of rigorous driver's education, as well as four hours of related civic courses, will be eligible to participate.

Since a state policy change in 2006, drivers without a social security number have been unable to apply for or renew their driver's licenses. From 2008 - 2015, drivers in Orange and Chatham County have paid over \$1.8 million in fees and fines for driving without a license.



Countywide Listening Sessions Lead to New Grassroots Agenda

In the summer of 2017 Justice United leaders organized house meetings that engaged 547 members of their institutions in a process to identify the top concerns of their community.

On September 10, 88 leaders gathered at Lattisville Grove Missionary Baptist Church to review results and vote to prioritize three areas of concern for action: Housing, Immigration, and Jobs.

The training and development of leaders was key to the success of this campaign. 61 JU leaders participated in House Meeting Training in May 2017 which equipped them with the tools necessary to drive the creation of a new grassroots agenda for the organization.



Leadership 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.

Over the course of 2017 Justice United leaders delivered 105 members to classroom training to learn universals of broad based organizing, developing a new cohort of leaders with the ability to act and win on our shared agenda.

300% Increase in Individual Donations

A record 152 individual donors contributed to the Friends of Justice United fundraising campaign in 2017, for a total of \$14,405.

Justice United is funded by dues from member organizations and donations from individuals, religious institutions, businesses, and foundations. JU does not accept government funding. JU completes an audit and files IRS Form 990 annually, copies of which are available to members upon request.

2017 DUES PAYING MEMBERSHIP

OLIN T. BINKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

CHAPEL OF THE CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHAPEL HILL UU

CHAPEL HILL/CARRBORO NAACP

CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY (EPISCOPAL)

CHURCH OF RECONCILIATION

EL CENTRO HISPANO

EMPOWERMENT, INC.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVOCATE

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ORANGE COUNTY

INTERFAITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

KEHILLAH SYNAGOGUE

LATTISVILLE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

ROGERS/EUBANKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. THOMAS MORE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHAPEL HILL

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF HILLSBOROUGH**