

Orange County Justice United



2020 Annual Report

Orange County Justice United

P.O. Box 9484
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

919-328-3966
ocjusticeunited.org
facebook.com/ocjuice

Who We Are

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 composed of twenty local member institutions: religious congregations, neighborhood associations, and non-profits. 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.

Industrial Areas Foundation

JU is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation. Founded in 1940, the IAF is the nation's largest and longest-standing network of local faith and community-based organizations. There are IAF organizations active in over 60 counties and cities across every region of the United States.

The IAF created the modern model of broad-based organizing and is widely recognized as having the strongest track record in the nation for citizen leadership development and for helping congregations and other civic organizations act on their missions to achieve lasting change in the world.

More information about the IAF is available here:

www.industrialareasfoundation.org

Our Pre-COVID Photo Album



Neighborhood leaders hold house meetings and attend training in preparation for campaigns to improve their mobile home park communities



JU leaders celebrate the successful conclusion of our campaign to increase hiring of teachers of color within Orange County Schools



The Money Team hard at work preparing food for Justice United's breakfast fundraiser kickoff that helped to raise over \$20,000

Accomplishments

Orange County Schools Quadruples Hiring of Teachers of Color, Increases Bi-Lingual Outreach Coordinators

In March, Justice United met in the Fellowship Hall of Piney Grove Missionary Baptist Church to celebrate our successful, two year long campaign with the Orange County Board of Education which led to the district hiring four times more African American teachers from 2018/19 to 2019/2020.

In June, our organization also supported Latino parents who took the initiative to defeat a plan to suspend Elementary School Spanish programs — even though the Spanish teachers were often the only connection the parents had to the school. Instead, the Board of Education committed not only to preserve the Spanish programs, but also to hire half time bi-lingual family outreach coordinators in every Elementary School!

Mobile Home Park Owners Held Accountable by Residents, Invest Tens of Thousands in Repairs to Address Substandard Conditions

For the last year, Justice United has supported neighborhood leaders in three local mobile home parks in organizing their communities and holding the park owners accountable to address serious concerns including failing septic systems, failing wells, dangerous trees, and excessive rent hikes, fees, and fines.

This campaign has taken place in a broader context where hedge fund and private equity giants have piled massive investment

into purchasing local mobile home park communities. As part of a calculated profitability strategy for investors, these purchases come with rent hikes, increases in fines and fees, with no corresponding improvement in park conditions, exacerbating Orange County's serious affordable housing crisis.

With the support of JU member institutions, neighborhood residents have won significant commitments from the park owners. In the process, residents have overcome the risk of retaliation from management, months of unresponsiveness from the park ownership, all in the midst of worsening septic failures and well malfunctions that left residents without on-site water for days at a time.

This work is not yet over, and Justice United remains committed to monitoring this progress in the new year .



Counterclockwise from left: dangerous tree fallen on home, deep potholes in road, failing septic system.



MOBILE HOME PARK CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Progress Made Since September 24. Key:

Resolved Issues. Needs More Work. White = Not Applicable.

| ISSUES | PROGRESS - PARK A | PROGRESS - PARK B | PROGRESS - PARK C |
|---|--|---|--|
| Failing Septic | Repairs underway (slowly). Repair applications submitted to county for 2 of 17 sites. | - | Commitment to repair all failing septic systems |
| Water Shortages / Failing Wells | - | Confirmation that owners are siting a new well, as promised | Commitment to site a new well within 4 weeks. Malfunctioning pump on an existing well repaired. |
| Arrears + Excessive Fees and Fines | - | Confirmation that owner forgave over \$30,000, as promised. | Residents will not be charged for water leaks outside their home. |
| Maintenance Requests | Road partially repaired. 300 tons gravel spread, but not graded. More improvements to road, drainage ditches needed. | Commitment for property management to respond within 24 hours of request. Regional manager committed to regular meeting schedule. | Owners have instructed on-site manager to be more responsive, and have provided an after hours number for emergencies. |
| Dangerous Trees | Commitment to remove dangerous trees and inspect biannually. | Commitment to remove dangerous trees. | Commitment to inspect and remove dangerous trees |

www.ocjusticeunited.org

Friends of Justice United Campaign Exceeds Fundraising Goal

Over 100 Justice United supporters attended our breakfast fundraiser kickoff on March 10. Over the course of 2020, despite the pandemic, JU member institutions and our volunteer Money Team successfully reached, then exceeded, our fundraising goal of \$20,000.

Funds raised through this campaign will directly support the development of local leaders with the capacity to take effective public action to address their top concerns.



2020 DUES PAYING MEMBERSHIP

OLIN T. BINKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

CHAPEL OF THE CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHAPEL HILL/CARRBORO NAACP

CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY (EPISCOPAL)

CHURCH OF RECONCILIATION

EL CENTRO HISPANO

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ADVOCATE

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ORANGE COUNTY

HILLSBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

INTERFAITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

KEHILLAH SYNAGOGUE

LATTISVILLE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWMAN CATHOLIC STUDENT CENTER

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**