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. 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).
Accomplishments

Candidates Commit to Increase Teacher Diversity, Bi-Lingual Staff at Orange County Schools

On April 10 Orange County Justice United delivered 253 diverse community members to meet publicly with candidates for the Orange County Board of Education at Lattisville Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

Board of Education candidates Brenda Stephens, Sarah Smylie, Hillary MacKenzie, and Will Atherton committed to increase teacher diversity to match the diversity of the student body; to hire bilingual office staff in every school; and to increase resources to help immigrant students navigate higher education.

All four candidates won their race on May 8 and represent a new majority on the seven member Board. Justice United will continue this campaign to ensure the new Board meets these important goals.
Grubb Properties CEO Commits 10 Glen Lennox Apartments to Pilot Affordable Housing Program

Clay Grubb attended Justice United’s Assembly on April 10 to announce his support for our master leasing program, committing up to 10 Glen Lennox housing units to be leased by non-profit partner Community Home Trust and sublet to qualified tenants at an affordable, subsidized rate.

In Orange County there are zero units affordable to tenants earning less than 30% of the area median income. In addition to income, extremely low income tenants can face other barriers to housing, such as bad credit or unpaid utility bills. JU developed the master leasing program alongside community partners to deliver more affordable housing, faster to address this issue.

Following the Assembly, teams of JU leaders met in small groups with Chapel Hill Town Council members and County Commissioners over the summer and the fall, laying the groundwork to request funding for the program in the winter of 2018/19.
Justice United Joins Allies to Pass $10 Million Affordable Housing Bond

JU leaders played a key role in passing a non-partisan, $10 million bond for affordable housing in Chapel Hill. JU and the Orange County Affordable Housing Coalition delivered 83 members to a rally at Peace and Justice Plaza on October 21, raising the profile of the bond in local media during the mid-term elections. The bond passed with 72% of the vote—a clear mandate for more affordable housing! The bond will help build or preserve over 700 affordable homes in Chapel Hill.
Leadership Development

Justice United's member institutions are committed to developing new leaders through cycles of training and action.

Over the course of 2018 JU leaders delivered 112 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.

Over 100 Drivers Participate in First Year of New Deferral Program

Over the course of 2016 and 2017 Justice United negotiated with District Attorney Jim Woodall to develop a new deferral program to dismiss court fines and fees for safe, yet unlicensed migrant drivers barred by the General Assembly from applying for or renewing their drivers licenses. Over 100 drivers have participated in the program since it was launched in September 2017. The program has the potential to save working families over $100,000 per year in fees and fines, and recently served as the model for a similar program in Durham.
2018 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
EmPOWERment, Inc.
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
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

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