



Board of Directors

Susan Anderson
President

Ann Henley
Vice-President

Tricia Daisley
Secretary

Rick Allen
Treasurer

Natalie Ammarell

Gloria Brown

Lucia Casabo

James L. Copeland

Caroline Craig

David Hood

Leslie Mackowiak

Ada Rey

Miriam Slifkin

Hugh Tilson

Susan Worley

**Honorary Life
Board Members**

Robert Seymour

Geraldine Gourley

Executive Director

Chris Moran

April 14, 2005

Mayor Kevin Foy and Town Council Members
306 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Mayor Foy and Council Members:

The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC) is extremely grateful to the Chapel Hill Town Council for your continued support and partnership with us over the years. IFC is asking the Town Council again for an annual allocation to carry on our residential services, food programs and community planning process. This year we are asking the Town for \$20,000 and have attached a two-page narrative outlining our request and some of IFC's plans for next year.

Sustainability of local financial resources from governments, foundations and congregations is a well-established principle that was affirmed during community planning discussions about homelessness and IFC's future plans. Since state and federal "safety net" programs are rapidly disappearing, IFC depends on strong support from the Town of Chapel Hill and other stakeholders to sustain core services, maintain strong ties with congregations and attract community volunteers.

Your financial support also safeguards our present collaborative to reduce homelessness and hunger—and insures the process that was begun to establish new facilities such as a Men's Residential Facility. Our mutual goal is successfully providing a continuum of services for homeless individuals that leads to self-sufficiency.

We, as always, are available to answer your questions about our request. IFC leaders are willing to make a presentation to the Chapel Hill Town Council as soon as you would like it scheduled.

Sincerely,

Susan Anderson, President
Inter-Faith Council for Social Service



Giving help and hope to those in need

TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL REQUEST

Background Information

The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service has been meeting the basic needs of individuals and households in Chapel Hill since 1963. IFC provides food; direct services; advocacy; community education; and a continuum of housing services for homeless men, women and children in Chapel Hill. We accomplish this through strong partnerships with volunteers, congregations and the Town of Chapel Hill.

The Town of Chapel Hill/IFC partnership functions and has prospered in the following ways:

- ❑ Town support of a no-cost lease on the Old Municipal Building for IFC *Community House* operations since January of 1985
- ❑ Inter-cooperation between the Town, IFC and host congregations/groups made the recent 5 and ½ month OMB renovation and relocation of Community House services successful
- ❑ Sustaining IFC services and plans with \$30,000 Town allocations during the last two years
- ❑ Mayor Foy and IFC's immediate past-President, Natalie Ammarell, co-facilitated a community-wide Planning Process to strengthen ownership and participation of the issue of homelessness and IFC's plans for the future

IFC Programs, Goals and Objectives

Now in its 42nd year, the Inter-Faith Council provided nearly 73,000 meals in 2003-2004, provided groceries to 3,111 households, and offered over 1,500 people a place to sleep through its Community House and HomeStart programs. Our modest Community Services staff and hundreds of volunteers served 4,166 households with housing, food and utility assistance and advocacy. Throughout the agency, volunteers and student interns worked slightly over 33,000 hours last year. As you know, IFC operates these essential services through a strong staff/volunteer partnership:

- ❑ **Community House** - provides a safe residential facility to homeless men in downtown Chapel Hill.
- ❑ **Community Services** - delivers crisis intervention services including information, referrals and financial support in downtown Carrboro.
- ❑ **Food Programs**
 - **Food Pantry** - supplies groceries to individual households.
 - **Community Kitchen** - offers three hot, nutritious meals per day, 365 days a year, free of charge to Community House residents and other community members.
- ❑ **HomeStart** - offers emergency and longer-term housing and supportive services to homeless women and children, in collaboration with other community organizations.

In the next program year, the IFC must identify the resources it needs to sustain these core services by requesting allocations from new and long-term benefactors, including the Town of Chapel Hill; provide community education through the Community involvement Committee; increase the number of agency stakeholders; and plan for new facilities in partnership with the Town of Chapel Hill and community planning representatives. Some of our specific objectives for next year include:

- ❑ Rebuilding the HomeStart building severely damaged by the recent fire
- ❑ Expanding Community House daytime hours for residents and homeless persons until 2pm
- ❑ Increasing training opportunities for IFC volunteers and staff

- ❑ Developing a client structure to facilitate more active involvement, leadership, participation and even self-governance in residential and agency programs
- ❑ Implementing an evaluation of the Crisis Intervention Program in conjunction with congregations, the NC Hillel Foundation and the UNC Institute for Public Health
- ❑ Developing an agency Building Fund to adequately address IFC property needs
- ❑ Increasing the number agency volunteers at Community House and other facilities to augment decreased employee numbers

2005-2006 Request

Prior Town allocations have been used to continue men and women residential programs, and to provide food and crisis intervention services for growing numbers of individuals and households affected by reduced wages, unemployment and cutbacks in essential services at state and federal levels. The IFC Board and staff are fully cognizant about current Town budget realities and the unstable economy. IFC budget planners are equally concerned about the possibility of seeing further reductions in state and federal resources at our agency for next year. Nevertheless, *Planning For The Future* dialogues and discussions have placed a strong focus on “sustainability”. A wider number of private and public funding groups must sustain IFC services if they are to be continued at the same basic levels. IFC budget reductions in recent years, primarily due to significant cutbacks in federal dollars, have reduced revenues in our agency by approximately \$600,000. The following factors also affect the IFC’s operating budget.

- ❑ \$14,000 in NC McKinney grant funds were lost due to a reduction in the number of sheltered men during the OMB renovation
- ❑ The recent HomeStart fire will have the same effect in McKinney grant funding next year due to a reduction of 15 beds for women and children
- ❑ Unexpected expenses resulting from major relocations (HomeStart fire and the OMB renovation), and IFC’s current plans for new facilities naturally result in unexpected expenses that must be covered

The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service requests a \$20,000 allocation from the Town of Chapel Hill to continue services next year. With diminishing dollars from federal and state sources, the IFC must maintain the support of existing stakeholders among local governments, foundations, individuals and congregations. The IFC works continually to increase the number of agency benefactors. We also strive to broaden services for clients with minimum costs by developing a larger volunteer base to support evening programs, mentoring efforts and special activities for HomeStart children. We will continue to encourage in-kind contributions to extend our cash budget and to support our different programs. Last year alone, \$1,357,700 (food, Town/County space, volunteer hours etc.) was contributed to the IFC. In-kind gifts this year should exceed last year’s totals by approximately \$300,000.

The Town of Chapel Hill has been a steadfast partner with the IFC, and we hope you will continue to support our different endeavors especially sustaining the essential services of shelter, housing, food and crisis intervention offered everyday to Chapel Hill citizens in need.