

A photograph of a woman in a kitchen, wearing a white hairnet and a grey t-shirt, smiling as she cuts green vegetables on a white cutting board. The background shows kitchen equipment like a stove and metal racks.

# *Making Connections*



ALLIED CHURCHES OF ALAMANCE COUNTY INC.  
**2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT**

## A NOTE FROM ACAC'S BOARD CHAIR

First and foremost, thank you. Thank you so much. We appreciate your gifts and we are grateful for your support. Your donations of time and talents enable ACAC to impact the lives of those in our community that need a little help.

For more than 30 years, ACAC has provided critical services to our neighbors with dire needs. Our emergency shelter, community kitchen, food pantry, and resource center remain essential community assets for supporting and protecting individuals and families facing crisis and assisting them onto the path of independence. We are the largest provider of these services in our area. Our mission to prevent and end homelessness and food insecurity is critical to the well-being of Alamance County.

We have had a busy year! Our leadership and program efforts have positively impacted many lives. Our staff and volunteers make a difference every day.



The details are included in the following pages, but here are a few highlights:

- With ACAC's Rapid Rehousing program, 31 families were permanently housed in the past year, and 95% of all rapidly rehoused families remain stably housed today.
- An improved kitchen facility enabled ACAC to serve over 64,000 meals.
- Volunteers put in over 11,525 hours this year to make ACAC's work possible.
- Through Coordinated Intake, 274 individuals were diverted from entering the Emergency Shelter in the past year.
- Case management and other supportive services offered at ACAC ensured that only 6% of the 408 individuals who did enter the Emergency Shelter experienced a repeat episode of homelessness.

I ask you to join me in celebrating the success of lives impacted by ACAC, and to continue embracing the opportunity to provide a better future; the opportunity to move ACAC forward as we collectively give hope and the support that changes lives and family circumstances; the opportunity to bolster the community we live in, and to strengthen its health and well-being for us all.

*Laurie Lambert, Chair,  
ACAC Board of Directors*

## ACAC AT-A-GLANCE

**OUR MISSION:** The mission of ACAC is to prevent and end homelessness and food insecurity through providing direct service and leadership in collaborative community efforts.

The community members that we serve get connected... and stay connected to:

- EMERGENCY NEEDS
- HOUSING
- HEALTH & WELLNESS
- COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

### ACAC SERVES THOSE IN CRISIS WITH FOUR KEY PROGRAMS:



**SHELTER**- an emergency shelter that provides a safe place to stay for individuals and families



**MEALS AND FOOD**- lunch and dinner services for residents and community members as well as a food pantry open weekly



**MENTAL HEALTH** - A licensed therapist onsite and group meetings to address common mental health struggles



**JOB AND EDUCATION RELATED SERVICES**- a drop-in center available for assistance with job searches, housing referrals, and health services referrals

With community support, ACAC has taken the lead role in our county to serve people in need in the most efficient and sustainable way possible. One thing we know for sure is that if a person does not have the basic needs of food and shelter met, they are left unable to deal with critical issues such as health and financial stability. For thousands of people experiencing poverty in Alamance County, ACAC meets basic needs and further connects individuals and families with resources for continued self-sufficiency.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### COORDINATED INTAKE

In March 2015, ACAC began acting as the initial point of intake for all people in need of housing in Alamance County. By centralizing intake and program admissions decisions, a coordinated entry process makes it more likely that families will be served by the right housing intervention more quickly. In fiscal year 2015, ACAC's Coordinated Assessment Intake Specialist completed 864 Emergency Prescreens and diverted 274 individuals from having to enter the shelter. Coordinated Intake has truly made a difference for individuals and families here in Alamance County!



### A NEW KITCHEN!

ACAC houses the homeless and feeds the hungry in the most dignified and respectful way possible. In an effort to better demonstrate this during meal service, ACAC has opted for a restaurant-style seating area for meals. Commercial-grade equipment and updates to the kitchen space ensure that community members and shelter guests alike are served in a safe environment.

### MEET CAITLIN

With our new kitchen also came a new Kitchen Manager. Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson comes to Allied Churches after working with the community at Company Shops Market for 4+ years. She has been in the food service industry in one way or another for over 15 years. Coupled with her past experience in event planning, she brings a unique set of problem solving skills to the position of Kitchen Manager.



### "PORTRAITS OF HOPE" SPREADS AWARENESS

A longtime dream of ACAC's came true when the "Portraits of Hope" photo exhibit was made a reality. The exhibit, completed in December 2015, was a collaboration between the Voices of Welfare research project done by Elon University students/faculty, Alamance County community leaders and residents, and ACAC.

The statistics are bleak: almost 1 in 5 of all Alamance County residents live in poverty. But hearing the stories of real men and women in our community can remind us of the people behind the numbers, and seeing their faces can remind us that hope is not lost. The portraits and stories are now traveling to different community venues to spread awareness. You can also experience the exhibit on our website ([alliedchurches.org/portraits-hope](http://alliedchurches.org/portraits-hope)).



## TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

### FIRST ANNUAL FOUNDATION BUILDERS

It was our honor to recognize two very valuable partnerships that have influenced ACAC for the better in the last year. The first annual Foundation Builder Awards were presented in April to one set of individuals and one business.

**Jason DeBoer and Jeff Gabriel** of DeBoer & Gabriel Builders in Burlington have partnered with ACAC and United Way of Alamance County to provide affordable housing through ACAC's Rapid Rehousing program.

DeBoer and Gabriel offered one of their apartment properties for the program. As part of the Rapid Rehousing Program, each tenant has continued support in the form of case management and tenant education courses. The best part of all: each tenant has their own lease, and is guaranteed that their rent will not increase as long as they live there.

**John and Kim Love** of Burlington came to ACAC with a plan to celebrate the life of Frank Sinatra while raising money in the process. In partnership with Elon University, they orchestrated "A Century of Sinatra," an evening of music that raised over \$45,000 for ACAC's work. Tickets and sponsorships for the December concert were sold, and Elon's McCrary Theatre was packed. John Love and the Doug Burns Big Band put on a wonderful showcase of Sinatra's music that honored what would have been Frank's 100th birthday. Thank you and congratulations to our first annual Foundation Builder Award winners!



### VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

On the evening of April 21st, ACAC volunteers and staff joined together to celebrate the thousands of hours of service per year given in our kitchen, food pantry, shelter, and administrative offices. ACAC staff members who made nominations presented awards.

This year's Volunteer Group of the Year is **Peacehaven Community Farm**. Core members and resident assistants

from Peacehaven have been volunteering with ACAC for over a year. They come to ACAC's shelter weekly to help with laundry, and have also helped with mailings and food sorting. They have even coordinated several successful food drives for ACAC. Thank you Peacehaven!

This year's Volunteer of the Year is **Trina Holt**. Trina is a regular volunteer in ACAC's food pantry. This year, Trina went above and beyond in sharing her talent of photography for the Portraits of Hope exhibit. Trina spent countless hours taking photos, listening to stories, framing, and even hanging the final exhibit at Elon. This exhibit is invaluable for ACAC as it shares the true stories of our neighbors in need. Thank you Trina for your service!





This past year, our 12th annual sale of Honor Cards was a huge success! The cards provide a way to send holiday greetings while also contributing to the work of 'housing the homeless and feeding the hungry'. Money raised each year through the program goes directly where it is needed most here at ACAC. We are gearing up for the 2016 Honor Card season, with this year's card entitled "Hope In Front of Me."

For the upcoming holiday season, we are looking for special volunteers to be Honor Card Coordinators, helping to spread the word about Honor Cards and organize the program with businesses, congregations, and civic groups in Alamance County. Contact Brittany Graybeal (bgraybeal@alliedchurches.org or (336)229-0881 x. 111) to learn more about becoming an Honor Card Coordinator!

**STAFF SPOTLIGHT: LATANYA F.**

From candy striper to church ministry and now ACAC, LaTanya has a strong background of service. A Burlington native, LaTanya is the new Transition Housing Specialist. As ACAC's Rapid Rehousing Program gains success in moving more and more individuals and families into permanent housing, case management is a crucial need. LaTanya provides support to those who have been housed and are gaining stability.



Before stepping up as the Transition Housing Specialist, LaTanya had experience as both a Shelter Resident Advocate and as a Food Service Advocate at ACAC. Now in a new position, LaTanya's successes come from helping residents gain permanent housing and supporting them throughout the transitional process of leaving the shelter, letting them know they are not alone.

"I think I bring a personality and skill set to ACAC that shows our guests that the staff cares about them as a person and not as a project," LaTanya said, "For some it may seem that once a person becomes housed, all of their troubles have ended. But in reality, all of the barriers that were present before permanent housing are still there and must be addressed to ensure that a person is able to maintain their home."

She believes that her faith strengthens her to do this work every day. With her background of service and a strong faith foundation, LaTanya brings determination and passion to her new role.

**In fiscal year 2015...**

**408 PEOPLE** were provided shelter including **21 FAMILIES** and **47 CHILDREN**

**31 FAMILIES** were permanently housed through ACAC's Rapid Rehousing Program

Emergency food was distributed to an average of **1,521 individuals** monthly through the ACAC Food Pantry

**64,460 MEALS** were served in the ACAC Community Kitchen to hungry neighbors.

**\$108,536.55 IN FUNDS** were distributed for emergency assistance

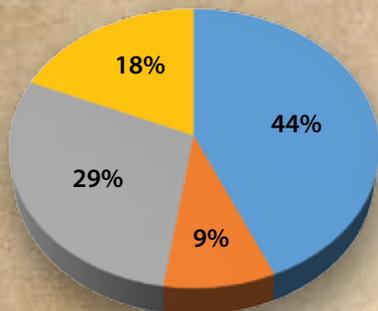
**224,177 POUNDS OF FOOD** were donated to ACAC by the community

**VOLUNTEERS PUT IN 11,525 HOURS** to make ACAC's work possible

**274 INDIVIDUALS** were diverted from having to come into the shelter using Coordinated Assessment

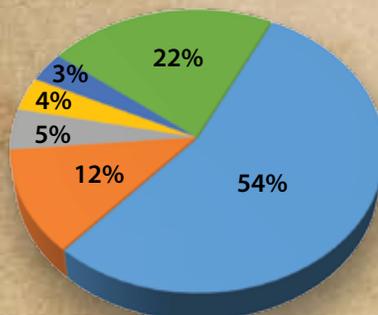
**122 ACAC SHELTER GUESTS** were provided vital mental health support by an onsite licensed therapist

YTD INCOME



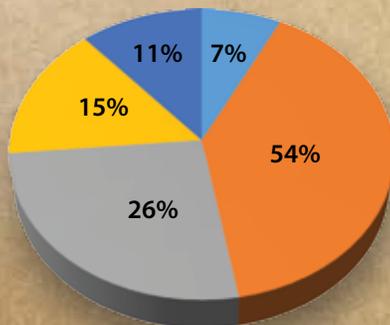
- Donations
- Government Grants - Restricted
- All Other Restricted Income
- All Other Unrestricted Income

YTD EXPENSES



- Payroll Expenses
- Other Restricted Expenses
- Administrative Expenses
- Building Repair and Renovation
- Utilities
- Other Operational Expenses

YTD EXPENSES by PROGRAM



- Administration
- Housing Services
- Supportive Services
- Food Services - Kitchen
- Food Services - Food Pantry

PUSHING PAST THE PAIN:  
SHERRY & LUCINDA

Undiagnosed diabetes left Lucinda as a double-amputee after 10 major surgeries. A natural caretaker, Lucinda's cousin Sherry offered to share her home. Chronic nerve pain in Sherry's arm forced her to choose her health above her work as a school bus driver. With setback after setback, the pair of cousins found themselves with no income and nowhere to go.

"Over time I thought, 'It will be my health or my job', I have to take care of myself first. I can always get on my feet. That left us homeless because at the time I was the only one paying the bills," said Sherry.

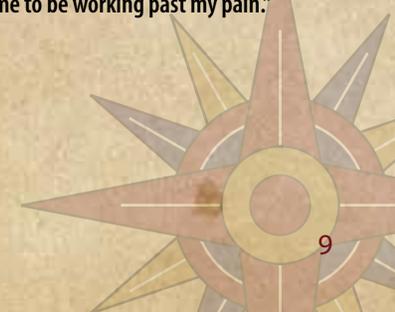
As a last resort, Sherry and Lucinda came to the ACAC Emergency Shelter. "It was stressful. I'm not used to sleeping in a dorm with so many other people," recalls Lucinda. Shortly after arriving, the two began to pitch in with laundry, sweeping, and wiping tables. Knowing her cousin's true passion and skill, Sherry suggested to ACAC staff, "Lucinda can cook!" It was true; Lucinda has years of experience catering and baking. The duo began volunteering more and more in ACAC's kitchen, even preparing weekend breakfasts for fellow shelter residents.

While Lucinda fed her passion by helping daily with food prep, Sherry kept busy looking for work that would allow the balance she needs to keep her health in good shape. "I don't look at being in the shelter as a downfall," she said, "it's just a setback. Everyone goes through trials and tribulations, and you're the only one that can do something about it."

ACAC's housing staff assisted Lucinda with getting the disability benefits she had been waiting for since 2013 and helped the pair find an apartment suitable for their needs. Both have found employment and can enjoy a home of their own while still giving back at ACAC. Lucinda can be found in the ACAC kitchen most days!



Sherry says she and Lucinda are both grateful to have moved past their setback with ACAC's help. "It feels good to just be able to be in your own home, to stick a key in your own door and to say 'you know what, I worked for this.' My dream is for us to continue to better ourselves, to not forget where we come from. We can't ask for anything more. We owe ACAC for encouraging us, pushing us... especially for me to be working past my pain."



## HAVE YOU GONE ALL-IN YET?

Allied Churches relies on the support of our community to provide life-giving help for the thousands that come to us in crisis each year. As major funding streams dwindle, we need your support now more than ever before.

With community support, ACAC has taken the lead role in our county to serve people in need in the most efficient and sustainable way possible. For thousands of people experiencing poverty in Alamance County, ACAC meets basic needs and further connects individuals and families with resources for continued self-sufficiency.

The difference made by investing in our programs is striking, and the challenge now is to join us on the next level as we face a critical time in the life of ACAC.

***Can you help? Your dollars go far in supporting our neighbors  
- men, women, and children who need a boost!***

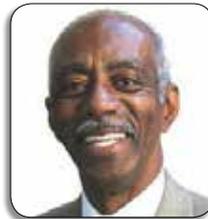


*"We're All-In because we see the value of helping to end homelessness and hunger in Alamance County. We have been and will continue to be supporters of the work that ACAC does."*

*-Fr. Paul Lininger, OFM CONV,  
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church*

*"No responsible person in Alamance County can deny the benefits of the goal and mission of ACAC. "Housing the homeless and feeding the hungry" is, however, more than a slogan. To be 'All-In' is the fulfillment of a desire to make a difference. It is realizing the opportunity of putting action behind a worthwhile goal. Being All-In sends the message that we are doing more than just recognizing a problem; we are involved in bringing about a solution."*

*-Tony Foriest, Former State Senator & ACAC Board Member*



*"Shortly after moving to Alamance County in 1993, I begin volunteering and have continued doing so for over 21 years. It is important that our community is ALL-IN to provide affordable housing for all income levels, to end food insecurity and homelessness, and to give employment opportunities to all. I am ALL-IN for making Alamance County the best place to live, work, and raise a family. I am ALL-IN with ACAC!"*

*-Lori Seiler, Board Chair, Alamance Chamber*

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ALL-IN?

*I believe* that no man, woman or child should go without a meal.

*I believe* that everyone deserves a safe place to sleep at night.

*I believe* that every resident in Alamance County has a stake in preventing homelessness and hunger, and supporting those that experience homelessness and hunger.

*I believe* that ACAC is a vital part of the solution and I am **ALL-IN!**

## THE IMPACT OF GOING ALL-IN?



**\$40** keeps the lights on in our shelter dorms for one day.



**\$100** provides 50 pounds of emergency food for 10 families in need.



**\$500** provides a hot meal for over 375 community members.

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Donate safely online via our website at [www.alliedchurches.org](http://www.alliedchurches.org), or mail your donation to us at P.O. Box 2581, Burlington, NC 27216

ACAC welcomes your in-kind donations of food, paper products, linens, etc. Watch our website for a list of current needs.

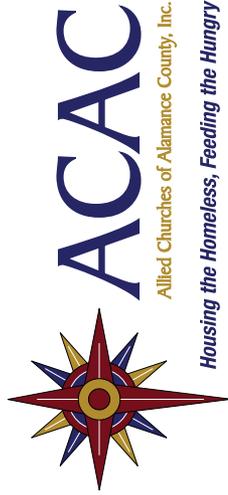
Interested in volunteering or hosting a food drive?

Contact Volunteer & Donor Coordinator Brittany Graybeal at (336)229-0881 ext. 111 or fill out a volunteer application on our website!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ACAC wishes to thank all of the funders, donors, partners, and volunteers that help create better lives for our vulnerable neighbors. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Your contributions of time, talent, and treasure create real change in the lives of our community's at-risk and homeless populations.



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