



William and son Jacob – read their story on page 8



A NEW DIRECTION FOR LIFE

ALLIED CHURCHES OF ALAMANCE COUNTY INC.

2013-14 ANNUAL REPORT

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear ACAC Supporter:

Allied Churches of Alamance County (ACAC) is very grateful for the support from the surrounding community! During the 2013-2014 fiscal year, Allied Churches has had some pretty amazing accomplishments including:

- The opening of a food pantry, ensuring that those who visit the food pantry do not miss a month's provisions. Since opening in September 2013, to date the food pantry provides approximately **608** families (i.e. 1,423 individuals) with groceries each month.
- The opening and coordination of the Holly Hill Mall Food Collection Site, distributing over **250,000** pounds of food to individuals, families, and other community Food Pantries including: Salvation Army, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, The Healing Station, and SAFE (Southern Alamance Family Empowerment) in Saxapahaw.
- The addition of a second meal (dinner) to the services offered from our Community Kitchen. In the eight months of increased services, ACAC has served over **40,480** weekday meals to the community through the Community Kitchen.
- Providing a clean environment for our guests with the addition of commercial grade washers and dryers, giving us the ability to effectively and efficiently wash clothes, linens, and towels for an average of 70 nightly residents.



While we are thankful, there is still much to do. The United States Census Bureau has published that the per capita income in Burlington is **\$23,405**, which is below both North Carolina and US data (\$25,285 and \$28,051 respectively). Also, the percentage of Burlington residents who live in poverty is at **21.9%**, while the North Carolina rate is **16.8%** and US is **14.9%**. With your ongoing support, we can continue to house the homeless and feed the hungry.

Sincerely,

Kim Crawford, Executive Director

ACAC AT-A-GLANCE

MISSION:

Providing emergency services in a safe and healthy environment, while moving individuals toward self-sufficiency.

WHO WE ARE:

ACAC believes the safe and trusting space created by staff in our Basic Needs Center (Shelter, Food Pantry and Community Kitchen) and Resource Day Center enables the homeless to reach out and begin the healing process.

Equipped with the tools of self-knowledge and support, our residents CAN become healthy, productive members of our community.



Scott Muthersbaugh, Burlington Times News

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

- **EDUCATION** and **EMPLOYMENT**
- **CARING PEOPLE**
- **SAFE PLACES**
- **COMMUNITY**

CURRENT PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:

ACAC serves at-risk, homeless citizens by a variety of programs and activities including:

- **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 every weekday
- **Emergency Assistance** - a program to assist with documented emergency needs, such as overdue bills for both cooling and heating
- **Job and Education Related Services** - a drop-in center available for assistance with job searches, housing referrals, and health services referrals

BASIC PHILOSOPHY FOR SERVICE DELIVERY:

ACAC staff builds trusting relationships with the at-risk and homeless who utilize our services. This trusting relationship is at the heart of the work that is done with any individual or collectively as a group. Everything that happens in the Center can provide a teaching tool for conflict resolution, respect, etc.

ACAC OPENS FOOD PANTRY

During the last week of August 2013, the largest food pantry in Alamance County closed abruptly. The pantry served thousands of people in our community, all of which were left without a secure source of food. Alamance County is located in one of the largest regions of food insecurity in the nation, therefore this was an extreme emergency. Within 36 hours, members of the community drew together to address the problem. Allied Churches committed to increase our services to the community by establishing a food pantry on our campus, and in just nine days it became a reality.



Although this challenge could have never been anticipated, Allied Churches, with the help of an active community support system (i.e. superstar volunteers and donors), now operates the largest food pantry of its kind in Alamance County. A generous donation of space has also made possible a food collection site for our pantry at Holly Hill Mall in Burlington. Our pantry now helps to feed approximately 1,423 individuals each month.



The ACAC Food Pantry provides people like Lauren a chance to maintain their independence despite their personal struggles. Lauren comes to the food pantry each month using public transportation, as she is diabetic and has lost both legs. She has the ability to choose the food that she would like, and using one of the ACAC volunteer shopping assistants, can receive her monthly groceries without having to leave the van in her wheelchair. The freedom to make choices about which food she receives ensures that Lauren can maintain her health.

Our food pantry is a wonderful demonstration of the “Allied Community” that continually supports Allied Churches. The rapid pooling of resources and volunteers turned a true emergency for Alamance County families into a reliable source of food security.

CLIENT STORY - MARY

Mary and her two children have been coming to ACAC for several months now to eat in our Community Kitchen. “It’s a blessing because it’s good food, the people are very nice and give you what you need, and they have things that kids like,” says Mary.

Mary works for minimum wage and also has a very unreliable car. “I work as much as I can, but at the end of the month we just run out of money. I wouldn’t know what to do if I didn’t have Allied Churches.”

The money that Mary saves on groceries by eating at our Community Kitchen allows her to continue to pay her utilities, put gas in her car, and pay rent. Without the safety net that our free meals can provide, Mary and her two children would indeed be homeless. She no longer has to make the choice between feeding her children and paying her electric bill. Our Community Kitchen serves as homelessness prevention for Mary, her children, and many other community members that eat here regularly so that they can pay their bills.

ACAC PROGRAM UPDATES & EVENTS

HOUSING PROGRAM

Based on researched “best practices,” our Housing Program now provides:

- Enhanced case management services that build relationships between our residents and the community, that include:
 - o Increased engagement in developing and mastering real life skills
 - o Developing community partnerships
 - o Incorporating Housing First and Rapid Rehousing models



WEBSITE AND VIDEO

Our new, vibrant website is a must-see! With interactive features such as an online volunteer application and video interviews with staff and board members, the website has generated a significant increase in traffic, new volunteers, and donations this year. Visit www.alliedchurches.org to learn more about what’s happening at ACAC!



FACILITY UPDATES

We are working hard here at ACAC to update our facility aesthetically and functionally. Improvements to our family dorm bathrooms, administration offices, and food pantry are now underway. The installation of 18 security cameras will help to ensure that ACAC is a safe place for all who are served here.

We are happy to announce the relocation of our Resource Day Center (formerly off of Rauhut St.). All of ACAC is now housed under one roof at our Fisher St. facility!

HONOR CARD PROGRAM

Last year saw a huge rise in support for the Honor Card Program. There was a 160% increase in sales of Honor Cards from 2012 to 2013 - a major jump! We are so excited about the increased momentum and awareness for the Honor Card Program, and we look forward to 2014 being even more successful!



COOK OF THE MONTH

We are honored to have our own John Robinson, Kitchen and Facilities Director, be recognized as April 2014’s Cook of the Month! John was featured in *The Times-News* and shared recipes for his family classics such as BBQ Ribs, “Momma Kine’s Meatloaf,” and Macaroni and Cheese Casserole.

ACAC SERVICE REPORT

Emergency Shelter:

TOTAL: **638** individuals housed in shelter

Number provided overnight shelter:

Single Males: **349**

Single Females: **196**

Families: **32** (including **61** Children)

Drop-In Center:

Average daily number of participants:
32 / over **8,300** visits

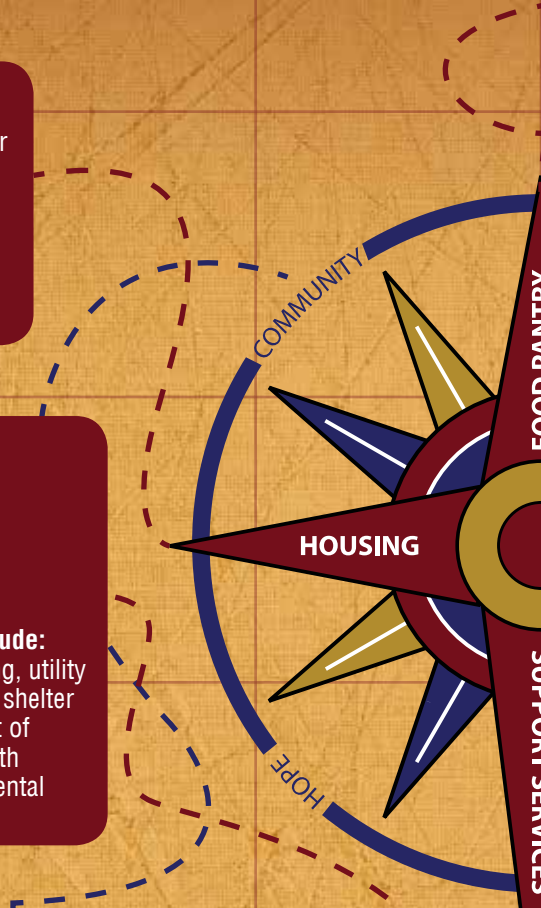
Over **\$158,000** in funds distributed for emergency assistance

Types of services currently offered include: computer lab, job search, resume' writing, utility and rental assistance to community and shelter guests, referrals to other agencies, point of connection for organizations working with residents on education, employment, mental health, etc.

Race/Ethnicity

Number of individuals served by race:

White	251
Black/African American	313
Hispanic - Latino	26
Asian	1
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	6
American Indian/Alaskan Native & White Asian & White	22
Other Multi-Racial	NA



ACAC SERVICE REPORT

Food Pantry

Operation Times:

3:30 – 6:00 p.m. for food distribution

Number of individuals served Sept. 9, 2013 – June 30, 2014: **13,278**

Pounds of food distributed: **663,900**

ACAC Community Kitchen:

Average number of meals per day:

Lunch - **158** / Dinner - **94**

Total number of individual lunches served: **43,421**

Total number of individual dinners served: **17,801**

Total number of meals served on weekends: **20,280**

Total meals served: **81,502**

ABOUT THE ACAC COMPASS ROSE/LOGO

The four main points (cardinal directions) of the compass were derived from the wind rose: North, East, South, and West. This is also where the four half points originated (ordinal directions). The compass rose is a navigational tool that functions much like we do here at Allied Churches. We don't do for others what they can do for themselves. We simply provide the guidance that they need to find *a new direction for life*.

NOTE: The above information covers the time period from July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

ACAC FINANCIAL REPORT

SUPPORT & REVENUE

FY 2012 - 2013*

FY 2013 - 2014**

SUPPORT:

Unrestricted Support and Revenue	\$ 473,924.00	\$ 744,578.00
Restricted Support and Revenue	\$ 350,108.00	\$ 518,608.00
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT	\$ 824,032.00	\$1,263,186.00

EXPENSES:

Program Services	\$ 668,929.00	\$ 1,014,981.00
Operating Expenses	\$ 180,332.00	\$ 115,363.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 849,262.00	\$ 1,130,344.00

* Audited Financial Statement

** Unaudited Financial Statement

CLIENT STORY- WILLIAM

Single father William, 31, and his son Jacob, 2, found themselves with nowhere to live after William lost his job in 2013. What William calls a “domino effect” landed the two at Allied Churches where they found a safe, stable environment and nourishment while seeking a home of their own.

“It was never my plan to end up in a homeless shelter,” says William, “It can happen to anyone. Anyone can hit rock bottom.”

After having been college educated and gaining personal success, William says he has been “on the outside looking in” and realizes the judgment he passed on others in his current situation. Right now, his number one priority is his son. He credits ACAC for providing a place where Jacob can learn and grow, but most importantly where William himself can be a great parent.

“I know he is healthy and happy- the only thing we are missing is a place of our own,” says William.

Working with an ACAC case manager has made all of the difference for William. He is now connected with resources for housing assistance and help obtaining a steady job that can support both he and his son long-term. The new family dorms at ACAC have given William and Jacob a more peaceful place to live, which helps with William’s challenge of watching a toddler while searching for work.

“I like to take initiative for myself,” William says, “My goal is to live greater than I did before I lost it all.”

William and son, Jacob are pictured on the front cover.

OUR LOOK FORWARD

SUSTAINERS PROGRAM - COMING SOON

The Sustainers Program will give our community an opportunity to support the programs and services provided by Allied Churches on an ongoing basis.

For as little as **\$25 a month**, you can “adopt” some of the needs of an ACAC client. Your monthly gift will help those we serve with necessities like hot meals, personal hygiene, job searching, and transportation.

- **\$25** provides 1 person with 3 free, hot meals for a month.
- **\$50** provides a safe place to stay, with the basic necessities of life.
- **\$100** gives the caring support our residents need to exit the streets for 3 months.

YOU can help House the Homeless and Feed the Hungry. Look for more information in early 2015.

VOLUNTEERS

ACAC relies on our volunteers to help with the many needs of people who come to us for help. We are always in need of volunteers for everything from filing papers and making phone calls to stocking shelves in our Food Pantry and serving meals in our Community Kitchen. To volunteer, go to www.AlliedChurches.org/volunteer-us or call **(336) 229-0881 ext. 113**.

FOOD DRIVES

Our Food Pantry and Community Kitchen meals are largely made possible by the generous donations of the community. If your congregation, business, team, club, or civic organization is interested in hosting a food drive for ACAC please contact Shannon Smith at **(336) 229-0881 ext. 113**.

CLIENT STORY - THOMAS

Thomas, 49, is from Brooklyn, New York and was a resident of the ACAC shelter for two months. His “old self” may have had trouble with peers in the shelter, but after spending 6 years in prison for an aggravated assault charge, he said it gave him just enough time to reflect on his life. He constantly thanks God that he was given a second chance to redeem himself. While serving his sentence, Thomas came to the conclusion that he could either be in his kids’ lives, or be a part of the “revolving door system that so many people get caught up in.” He makes a conscious decision every day to be a part of his children’s lives, having watched all four of them graduate from high school.

He most appreciates the ACAC staff. The supportive nature of the way they have guided him through struggles has helped Thomas better his circumstance. Thomas now maintains both a steady job and an apartment, and hopes to attend Alamance Community College to receive his culinary degree in the next several years.



THANK YOU DONORS

ACAC wishes to thank all of our funders, donors, partners, and volunteers that help create better lives for our vulnerable neighbors.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated. ACAC offers a variety of ways to donate and get involved to create real change in the lives of our community's at-risk and homeless.

DONATIONS

General donations are always greatly appreciated. ACAC makes it easy to donate with a variety of convenient options including:

- 1. ONLINE GIVING:** Visit www.alliedchurches.org and click “DONATE”
- 2. BY PHONE:** Please call 336-229-0881 ext. 109
- 3. CASH OR CHECK:** Checks can be made payable to Allied Churches of Alamance County. Donations may be mailed or delivered to 206 N. Fisher St., Burlington, NC 27216.
- 4. IN-KIND DONATIONS:** ACAC welcomes your food, paper products, linens, etc. Watch our website for a list of current needs.

ACAC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your generous gift is tax deductible.

For more information about ways to share your time, talent, and treasure (or all three!) with ACAC, please visit www.alliedchurches.org/volunteer-us.

CLIENT STORY - FRANK

Frank lost his job as a car salesman after a DWI charge left him without a license. Shortly thereafter, he lost his apartment as well. His three siblings each have families of their own, and had no place for Frank to stay. He sought help at Allied Churches.

“I know that I got myself into this situation, and Allied Churches has gone above and beyond what they could have done to advocate on my behalf and help me reach my goals,” Frank says.

With support of the ACAC staff Frank has obtained a job, stayed sober, and is on the way to getting his license back so that he can go back to selling cars, which he loves most. He has also been connected with the Homeless Veterans Association, which has been a huge help for his medical needs. The stable environment that ACAC provides enabled Frank to get back on his feet and turn his life around for the better.

“I couldn't have done anything without Allied Churches' help. I've had support with each step I needed to take,” says Frank.



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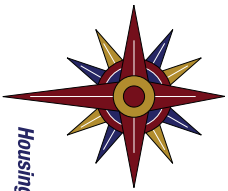
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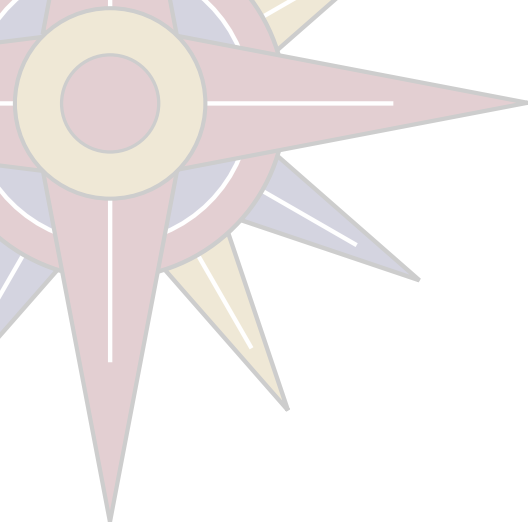
Allied Churches of Alamance County, Inc.

Housing the Homeless, Feeding the Hungry

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